THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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INTERESTING FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE AMERICA'S MAILS.

OUR RELATIONS WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

The Conciliatory Tone of the English Press.

Several Gunboats and Other Vessels Ordered to the American Coast.

THE EFFECT ON THE FUNDS.

THE INUNDATIONS IN FRANCE, &c., &c., &c.

The America's mails arrived here last evening. We are thus enabled to give the details of the interesting news from Europe:—

The London *Times*, of June 7th, says:—The screw steam frigate Impérieuse, 51, Capt. R. B. Watson, with five despatch gunboats, are ordered to cruise off Falmouth, *after which they will proceed to the coast of America.*

Her Majesty's ship Cossack, 21, Captain Farnham, and the Mohawk, 6, steam despatch gunvessel, Commander Francis Close, were officially inspected, and their crews mustered yesterday at Spithead by Vice-Admiral Sir George Seymour, K. C. B., the Port Admiral, prior to their being despatched on foreign service.

The 17th regiment arrived at Gibraltar from Balaklava, on 1st of June, and were shipped on board the Vulcan *for conveyance to Quebec.*

A despatch from Plymouth, (Eng.) on June 4, says:—

Orders have been received here to despatch the Archer, 14, Captain Heathecote, to Halifax, with all possible speed. The Esk, 11, Captain Sir Robert McClure, which has been fitted for the South American station, has had her destination changed, and is now also to proceed to Halifax. *It is also stated that the squadron of screw despatch boats is, after their trial trip, to proceed to the same destination.*

A Copenhagen correspondent of the London Globe, writes on June 2d:—

An ominous silence prevails at this moment on the question of the Sound Dues, and a painful state of excitement and expectation pervades all classes, it being perfectly comprehended that England's refusal to accept the Danish proposals is founded on her desire to see first what the Americans will do after the expiration of the treaty. In the meantime the important 14th of June is rapidly approaching, and it will then be seen what steps the American government are prepared to take. It is stated here on good authority, that the United States minister at Copenhagen has issued instructions to the consuls in the Sound and Belts to advise American captains passing those channels after the expiration of the treaty, to pay the duties that may be leyied on their ships and cargoes by the Danish authorities, but under written protests, to be forwarded to the government at Washington.

Two days ago, writes the Paris correspondent of *Le Nord*, on June 5, there died at Versailles, in complete obscurity, a personage who has a name in history—Count de Bombelles, who, after Napoleon I. and the Count de Niepperg, was the third husband of Marie Louise.

Sixteen thousand three hundred and sixty-one emigrants quitted Liverpool during the last month, 1,337 proceeding to Australia, 13,252 to the United States, 1,674 to Canada, and 98 to New Brunswick. Of these emigrants 148 were cabin, and 16,213 steerage passengers. 5,319 of them were English, 717 Scotch, 9,453 Irish, and 724 natives of various foreign countries. These emigrants went out in vessels under government inspection. Of the emigrants by the Short Ships, 683 went to the United States, 183 to Canada, 36 to Port Philip, 6 to Tasmania, 30 to Sydney, 7 to South America, 5 to the West Indies.

The London *Times* of June 7 says:—

A new line of steamers is about to be established between Liverpool *and America, a company having been* formed under the law of Limited Liability, in Canada and this country, with a capital of £250,000, to run to Portland, Maine, in United States, calling at Newfoundland and Halifax, to land freight and passengers. The inhabitants of Newfoundland have memorialized government to grant sufficient aid to enable the establishment of direct communication with England both ways, and the present undertaking is calculated opportunely to supply the requirement. It is intended to commence with two powerful vessels of about 2,000 tons measurement, possessing, besides large cargo space, accommodation for three classes of passengers. The first is intended to leave Liverpool about the first of August.

In the debate on Irish tenants rights, in the House of Commons, on June 4th, Mr. Moore said:—

The industrious man, in bitterness of heart but unbroken spirit, conveyed himself and his family, with whatever savings his thrift and toil had accumulated, to America, where he became the deadliest foe to the interests of England on earth's surface. The sluggard emigrated to the poor house; and the same law that allowed the landlord to despoil the improving tenant compelled him to pay for the maintenance of the unprofitable hind who had wasted his property. (Hear, hear.) Such were the social relations between landlord and tenant in Ireland.

The London *Post*, of June 5, says the French merchant steamship Alma came up to Spithead at noon to-day, in tow of a steamtug, disabled. She is from Havre and bound to New York, but has suffered some injury to her machinery and propeller, and has come here for repairs.

The *Risorgimento* of Turin, of the 30th ultimo, states that Mazzini has issued a circular to his agents declaring his intention of withdrawing entirely from politics, and leaving London for New York, or some other city of the United States. His agent at Turin, advocate Bottini, has been instructed to sell the property he possesses in Piedmont.

We read in the Brussels *Indépendence*, Russia taking into consideration the daily increasing importance of its relations with China, has determined—the court of Pekin having given its consent—to appoint a charge d'affairs at the government of the Celestial Empire, in the place of a simple consul at Canton. Baron Solvinski, a celebrated Chinese scholar, has been chosen for this post. He will reside one part of the year at Macao, and the other at Canton.

Madame Ristori made her first appearance in London on the 4th instant, in an Italian translation of M. Ernest Legouvé's tragedy of "Medea." She was received with unbounded applause, and voted as having a full right to her pre-eminent European rank.

The Paris correspondent of the London *Chronicle*, writing on June 5th, says:—It is reported that France and England will make a joint protest against the recognition of General Walker's government by the United States.

Our London Correspondence.

LONDON, June 6, 1856.

England and the United States.

It is almost needless to say that the absorbing topic here in political and commercial circles is the state of our relations with America, and the probabilities of a war with the United States. The news that Mr. Crampton had actually received his passports created a feeling of alarm, but I am happy to say that feeling has greatly subsided. So averse are men in England to a war with the United States, which would result only in terrific damage to both parties, that they will not admit its possibility. You will be surprised at the tone of the leading articles in the London journals of this morning. Palmerston's organ, the *Morning Post*, has two leaders. They are both pacific. The first points out the losses that would ensue to both countries from a war. "America," it says, "would lose in England her great customer, and would find it difficult to supply the market taken from her."

The second article demonstrates that, supposing both Ministers get their passports, war need not necessarily come. It alludes to Bulwer's dismissal from Spain by Sotomayor, which was followed by Isturitz being sent from London.

"We never heard," says the *Post*, "that in either country any serious inconvenience was experienced by the subjects of the two crowns."

The article concludes as follows:—

If, on consideration, Mr. Dallas be permitted by the British government to remain in this country, it must not be imagined that England is adopting a pusillanimous or cowardly course. Let the odium of completely separating the ties of friendship between the two countries be incurred by the hand of Mr. Pierce alone.

The above will, I think, suffice to prove to you that a war with the United States is anything but popular here.

The *Times* of this morning has a leader in reply to Mr. Pierce's last message, and to the article in the NEW YORK HERALD. It concludes with expressing the hope that this threatening storm will blow over.

The money market has, of course, been affected by the news, though the official notification of Crampton's dismissal has not been received.

There have been terrible inundations in the south of France. The Emperor has personally visited the scene of these disasters, and thereby acquired an immense popularity. He has asked for a credit of ten millions of francs for the sufferers.

The Paris papers have not yet taken up the affair of the American officers and Marshal Vaillant.

Montalembert has made a speech respecting the liberty, or rather no liberty, of the press of France not overpleasing to the Emperor, and which does honor to the moral courage of Montalembert.

I enclose you the full text of the Austrian circulars in reply to Count Cavour.

Private bands play in the parks on Sundays.

Our Paris Correspondence.

PARIS, June 4, 1856.

The Inundations in France—The Emperor's Visit to Lyons—Affecting Scene with the Sufferers—Noble Speech of His Majesty—His Visit to Valence and Avignon—Fearful Devastation by Floods—Whole Cities Submerged—The Imperial Visit to Dijon—Address of the Italian Refugees to Count Cavour—The Differences Between England and the United States—Anxiety of French Politicians in Regard to Them.

The distressing cries which pierce the capital from the central departments, would grate harshly on the ear in the midst of the chimes which the great metropolitan cathedral is sounding in honor of the imperial baptism but for the wise, prudent and humane efforts the Emperor is making to soften the consequences of, if he cannot stay, the plague of inundation which is spreading throughout its borders an amount of destitution and appalling misery such as the country has not witnessed for half a century.

On arriving at Lyons, his Majesty personally visited every part of the city where the river had made its fearful inroads. He rode on horseback, dressed in a general's uniform, surrounded by his staff, and followed by an escort of Cent Gardes. The whole population were on foot. The poor sufferers, especially, leaving the miserable tenements which had been thrown up as a temporary shelter for their houseless heads, threw themselves down at his horse's feet, mingling prayers for succor in the midst of their loyal salutations. The police in vain attempted to restrain them. The Emperor himself was the first to command that there should be no impediment offered to their approach. Marshal de Castellane, riding by his side, carried a bag of gold, into which his Majesty repeatedly plunged his hand, and distributed its contents whenever the sight of abject distress met his eye. "My dear friends," said he, "your sufferings wring my heart. I come on purpose to succor you. Your immediate necessities shall be provided for, and I trust by means of the advice and skill of some of the ablest of your townsmen, to take such measures as that never again shall you be brought into a like affliction." After having made the tour of the town, he proceeded at once to the Hotel de Ville, where a council was held on the necessary measures to be taken. After reviewing the troops at the camp of Sathony, and distributing several crosses and medals of honor, the next morning his Majesty set out for Valence and Avignon. The last named place was in such a state that he was obliged to make his entry in a boat, by the Boulevard St. Roch. Two-thirds of the town was in fact under water, and all communications take place by water.

Truth to tell, it is not only the poor who are sufferers, but numerous and important manufactories, which have within the last few years been erected by the side of the Guillotiere, have been utterly annihilated. The aspect of all the territory of La Villette and the Charpennes is also lamentable. From the moment when the breach was made in the embankment at the Tête d'Or, a foaming torrent rushed over the Grande Rue and adjoining streets, and then rejoined the principal course of the river by the low lands. Houses undermined, keep falling every day, and in many cases whole families have been buried under the ruins. Thousands are obliged to establish themselves under tents and sheds formed of planks and other articles, on the quays and other parts, out of the reach of the water. Some of the very poorest among the sufferers hold out plates to the passers by, soliciting charity. At Orleans, during the whole of Sunday, great numbers of cattle, flocks of sheep, carts laden with furniture and whole families, arrived constantly in the city from La Val, flying from the inundation. "I see the melancholy faces," writes an eye witness, "of these poor people as they paraded the streets, dragging their animals after them, and with their children perched on their wretched furniture, was a piteous spectacle indeed."

The *Moniteur* of this morning has the following announcement on the subject:—

Between Lyons and Valencethe Emperor stopped at the towns which had most suffered. His Majesty has remitted to the victims of the inundation:—to Vienna 10,000 fr., to Roches de Condrieu, 2,000 fr.; to Tain 5,000 fr.; to Tournon, 2,000 fr., to Valence, 20,000 fr. and to this last town a supplementary sum of 20,000 fr. Everywhere his Majesty has been hailed with enthusiastic acclamations. From Valence to Avignon there was the same enthusiasm. To Montelemar the Emperor, remitted a sum of 4,000 francs; to La Palud where the ravages had been very considerable. His majesty sent also, 4,000 francs. The Emperor is now at Arles, (June 3, 7 P. M.,) after having visitedall the inundations of Avignon and those of Tariscon."

The official journal likewise adds: "While the Emperor is hastening to convey assistance and consolation to these sufferers, the Empress, profoundly affected at so much misery, has expressed to the Minister of the Interior, a desire that a general subscription should be immediately opened *pour les sohlager*, and in the name of herself and son, has remitted to them a double offering."

In accordance with this request, the walls of Paris are covered with an invitation to the populace to associate itself in the good work, and to bring contributions to the different mayoralties. Several thousand francs have already been subscribed, and there is no doubt that the sympathy of the capital will exhibit itself in the most practical manner. The French, whatever may be their shortcomings, are second to none when a real work of charity is placed before them.

All the accounts which have been received concur in stating that the weather continues fine, but that from the torrents of rain which have fallen, the rush of waters into the Rhone, the Saone and the Loire is so great, that in many places the rise is not stopped. Despatches from Lyons, received in Paris yesterday, state that during the night of the 2d, the Rhone had fallen about a foot and a half, but was still nearly ten feet above the ordinary level.

The *Union Bourguignonre*, of Dijon, speaks in the following terms of the Emperor's stay at Dijon, on his way to Lyons. It will give your readers some idea of the Imperial popularity in the provinces:—"It has been proved on many occasions that wherever there are great misfortunes to be alleviated, and an affrighted population to be tranquilized, there the Emperor is sure to be found."

The Spanish Minister in Paris has decided, on the occasion of the baptism of the Prince Imperial, he will anticipate the quarterly payments to all those who, having belonged to the French legion which fought in defence of the throne of Queen Isabella should receive a pension from the Spanish government. All the members of that legion, therefore, will receive a double pension in the month of June.

The Italian refugees residing in Paris have addressed a letter to Count Cavour, expressive of their sympathy and gratitude for his noble endeavors at the Paris Conference in favor of Italy. Prince Oscar, of Sweden, arrived on Monday evening at Havre, whence he will embark on a cruise to visit the provincial French ports along the coast. The Princess Charlotte of Belgium will have completed her sixteenth year on the 7th of the present month, having been born at Laecken in 1840. The Archduke Maximilian arrived on Sunday at Brussels, at 12:30, by the railway, accompanied by the Duke of Brabant, who had gone to Ghent to meet his Imperial Highness. The Count de Flandre was at the terminus at Brussels to receive the august traveller, as were a considerable number of the officers of the garrison and of the principal authorities. King Leopold came forward at the head of the staircase to meet him, and breakfast was immediately served. In the evening the Austrian Prince and the two Belgian Princes dressed in plain clothes, walked out and visited some of the principal buildings. In the evening there was a grand dinner of ceremony at the Palace.

In the way of politics, perhaps, the most important communication I have to make is this—that society, in the best informed circles, is considerably affrighted by a warlike article or two which has appeared in the HERALD, *as regard the relations between the United States and* England. The HERALD of all other journals is that which have above all comparison the greatest weight with public opinion in France. The fine philosophic patriotism which pervades its remarks is precisely such as suits the more refined taste of a country like this. Hither to it has been observed that the HERALD has kept aloof from any thing like extreme opinions, notwithstanding a peculiar tone, of independence. Now, however, with its large circulation and its undoubted power in every country in Europe, whose journals are filled with quotations from its columns, that it seems to look on war, as a matter of course, between America and the mother country, some of the gravest thinkers have a presentiment that the thing is becoming serious.

PARIS, June 5, 1856.

Return of the Emperor from the Provinces—Further Details of the Inundations—Tragic Incidents Connected with Them—The Relations Between France and the United States—The Causes which have Affected their Cordiality, &c., &c.

The Emperor passed before my windows down the avenue de l'Imperatrice, *en route* to St. Cloud, at 7 o'clock this morning. His Majesty must, therefore, have travelled during the night from Lyons.

The accounts from the south continue to be of the most heartrending nature, though it is stated that the subsidence of the swollen rivers is so great that, in many instances, they are now not beyond their ordinary height. Unhappily, however, the weather which, yesterday, was hot with a suffocating heat, has again resumed that *flavious* character which has proved the cause of so much devastation and misery. The rain is now descending in torrents, and has been doing so throughout the night, and it is to be feared that the sum of two millions of francs, voted *a la minute* by the Legislative body, will go but a very small way towards alleviating the distress, which this rain is calculated to augment in a fearful ratio.

The Lyons journals and private letters which I have just seen are filled with different incidents connected with the casualties and hairbreadth escapes of several of the inhabitants of the inundated quarters. A boat containing six soldiers was upset in the Plaine de Grnad Camp, three of the men being drowned. A man residing at La Pain Dieu, whose house fell down and buried his young wife, to whom he had been but recently married, threw himself in despair into the Rhone. A woman living on the Quay d'Albret, who saw her husband drowned, while rendering assistance to some sufferers, threw herself out of a window in the fourth story, and was killed on the spot. A young woman who had been confined two days before, was taken out of her bed with her child and conveyed in a boat to a place of safety. The boat had just arrived as the house was beginning to give way. The mother threw her child into the arms of one of the boatmen, and in a moment after, sank herself with the ruins. Three children were found buried beneath the ruins of one house after the waters had retired. The zeal and humanity of the inhabitants amid these distressing circumstances appears to be above all praise. Hundreds of persons are seen carrying provisions of every kind to the churches, which have been thrown open for the reception of the houseless sufferers.

A subscription for the victims was opened yesterday, at the Cour des Comptes, and produced upwards of 3,000f. The Chamber of Notaries has subscribed 4,000f., and all the Notaries of the department of the Seine have consented to receive subscriptions. At Lyons, excluding the Emperor's donation of 100,000f., the sum amounts to upwards of 192,000f. General Lamoriere has authorised the opening of a subscription among the National Guards of the Seine. The various theatres are to give representations in aid. Every journal has given notice that its bureau is open for subscriptions, each setting the example by its own liberal contribution. The *Union*, the organ of the Legitimists, often hotly occupied in polemics, has a touching article, and no greater proof can be cited of the profound nature of the suffering than the sentiment he expresses:—

"Providence, (it says,) is inflicting new disasters on us. After the scourge of the cholera, the privations of scarcity, the sufferings of war, we now see our finest provinces ravaged by inundations. Let us incline our heads before these cruel trials. Let us appreciate the lesson and support the burden with humility and with courage. Numbers of the present evils can be repaired. In the face of such a duty all party considerations disappear. There is only place for one common anguish and for one united action of commiseration and assistance. The public authorities already distribute abundant succor—two millions of francs have been voted by the Legislative Corps, and the most urgent measures have been adopted by the administration. But in this instance the charity and patriotism of all reclaim their rights. Subscriptions are organized, to which the press owes its support and its appeal. The *Siecle*, to its honor be it said, has given the signal. The *Union* likewise addresses itself to its friends. If it can say with a certain pride that, like the Bearnais, it is not rich, but that it gives what it possesses with hearty good will, it also knows that it has never solicited in vain the generosity of its friends in favor of public calamity."

The attention of Parisian society has been forcibly drawn to that article in the HERALD which speaks with some distrust of the relations between France and the United States. "It ought not to be concealed," says the HERALD, "that of late the tone and attitude of the French towards the United States have been far from worthy of the ancient alliance between the two countries." My well known relations to this journal, and the more than usual opportunities I have of consulting the opinions of the best classes, have naturally given me the desire to ascertain what degree of foundation there might be in this observation, and I have taken some pains on the subject. After mingling in conversation with some of the leading members of diplomatic circles, I have dived down into the large middle class, which is separated from it by an almost imperceptible gradation. The sum and substance of all I have heard may be thus told, *en bref*:—It is very true, as regards individuals, that the citizens of America have not of late taken the same rank with us as formerly, and that in several of our publications they have been dealt with very roughly. This was not the case formerly. But let the truth be told. Steam navigation has flooded Paris with a very different class of Americans to that which visited our city formerly. An upstart race now comes among us, bearing us down by its profuse expenditure; assuming airs of self importance neither justified by its manners or general enlightenment; or its ephemeral wealth, for it often turns out that the lavish outlay is *not* the consistent expenditure of legitimate income, but a capital accumulated by industry at home. Conceit, presumption and vulgarity are the attributes of such a class. It is, also, emphatically represented by the kind of men diplomatically impersonating the dignity of the republic—men who are utterly out of their element in such positions—who, before their introduction to our capital, lived "hale fellows well met" with *backwoodsmen—who are offensive in their* manners—who are as ignorant of civilized customs as they are of our language—who are too obtuse to learn, is so disposed, how to win and secure good will, and whose *private conduct*, often reckless and dishonest, degrade the country they are sent forth to honor. For the American nation we have the deepest respect. We look upto her as the stronghold of freedom; many of us sigh for the day when we may follow her in that glorious path of liberty where she so proudly leads. Many of her citizens are among the noblest foreigners that visit our capital. Her women are the especial favorites of our society. They dress better than the English; in fact, it is quite impossible to distinguish them from the best dressed French women. They are often found to speak the French language with the utmost purity and without accent. With such we can have no quarrel; but we do pray the United States to send us gentlemen and men of honor to diplomatically represent her. The election of a fresh President is surely an opportunity.

The above is, of bourse, simply the social view of the question. If there are any political differences I have not heard of them.

PARIS, June 5, 1856.

Anticipated Crisis in Spain—Another Coup d'Etat Close at Hand—The Spanish Game of Louis Quatorze about to be Played Again—Significance of the Spanish Demonstration Against Mexico—French and English Designs in that Quarter—Necessity for the United States to be Vigilant.

You may rely upon it that matters in Spain are hurrying to a crisis, and that a *coup d'etat*, in which O'Donnell will probably act an important (though secondary) part, is daily becoming more and more probable. When that *coup d'etat* is to let off, is probably better known in certain circles in this metropolis than in Madrid; Mr. Calderon de la Barca, the former Spanish Minister to the United States, seems to be waiting for it, to return to Washington. Espartero is very old, parties in Spain are violent and new, and there is not a particle of sincerity in any of the members of the Royal family. When you reflect that ever since Louis XIV., Spain was taken under special French protection, and that the position of Protector of Spain is, at this moment, peculiarly inviting, you will readily understand that it becomes the United States to watch events in that quarter.

The protection of Spain implies, to a certain extent, at least, the protection of her colonies, and the relation which these may bear to the neighboring continent. It is, perhaps, not insignificant that Spain should, at this moment, send a large fleet to the Antilles and the Gulf of Mexico, to ask "satisfaction for the claims of her citizens or subjects," from the weak government of Mexico. Such an expedition, backed by the influence of France and England, may overthrow the government of General Comonfort—perhaps the most energetic and reformatory which that *unfortunate* country has enjoyed for the last ten years. Whether the sending of such a large fleet by Spain, aided and abetted, perhaps, by France and England, may interfere with the Monroe doctrine, I must leave to the decision of the government in Washington. Mexico is a rich country, and at the same time a weak one, where things may be had for the asking of them; and if she is to be dismembered, Spain, her old stepmother, may as well claim a share of her. If territory in that quarter is to be had for money, Spain has a large unsettled claim, which may be liquidated in that way, or the territory may be held temporarily until the claims are satisfied. The presence of a Spanish fleet in the Gulf of Mexico may induce the presence of a similar fleet from England and France to watch her, and thereby materially influence the position of things in Central America, unless Walker and his friends terminate the campaign before Spain has taken her position.

The five small States of Central America—Nicaragua Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and San Salvador—never threw off the yoke of Spain by revolution, as Mexico and the Spanish provinces of South America had done The Spaniards withdrew from Central America after they had been defeated north and south, and the Central American States, being left to themselves, were obliged to form one or more independent governments. What if Spain were now to attempt to take possession of her own, without reference to the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, and in direct violation of the Monroe doctrine? The profound secresy with which all political questions are managed here—a secresy which hardly enables ministers to know what is going on, or what will be done to-morrow—renders prudence on our part the more necessary, as France has, at this moment, a larger force than she can profitably employ in Europe. A military enterprise in Africa would hardly sufficiently employ the French navy, and would exhaust the finances of the country, without the most distant hope of an adequate return; while a small force employed on the Atlantic and in the Pacific might accomplish great things merely by its presence, and but little to the ordinary expenses of the army and navy, and, perhaps, add to, instead of diminishing, the available means of the treasury. I have, in several of my previous letters, alluded to the intimate relations existing between Spain and France, and the danger with which that intimacy may be fraught to the United States. In this case it is not a ministry looking to popular support, which may adopt a peaceful or warlike policy, but a single man, who needs only to will to be implicitly obeyed by thirty-five millions of people.

OUR RELATIONS WITH ENGLAND.

The Retirement of the British Minister from the United States—Speech of Lord Palmerston.

In the House of Lords on June 5,

The Earl of HARDWICKE said he wished to ask a question of the noble duke on the Treasury bench (the Duke of Argyll was the only member of the government present,) and hoped he would put the House in possession of any information the government had received in reference to the very important subject of the report which had been circulated that morning.

The Duke of ARGYLL replied that he had been attending a committee since three o'clock, and had not seen any of his colleagues.

Earl Granville and some other members of the government then entered the House.

The Earl of HARDWICKE said he would then put his question. Their lordships were aware that a public journal which was supposed to possess the confidence of government, had stated that Mr. Crampton, her Majesty's Minister at Washington, had been summarily dismissed from the country to which he was accredited. He was sure the government could not for a moment suppose that such an announcement would be heard in this country without affecting the minds of every one. He begged to ask whether her Majesty's government would confirm the statement that Mr. Crampton was on his passage home?

Earl GRANVILLE—My lords, in reply to the noble Earl I can only say that I have not seen the statement in the papers to which he refers; and I am not aware that any official announcement has reached her Majesty's government.

Lord OVERSTONE presented petitions from South Lancashire against the Limited Liability bill, and urged that the bill in question would give an unwholesome stimulus to speculation.

In the House of Commons, on June 5,

Mr. DISRAELI wished to ask the noble lord at the head of the government whether it was true that her Majesty's Minister at Washington had quitted that capital at the request of the President of the United States, and whether it was the intention of her Majesty's government to make any statement as to the relations between the two countries?

Lord PALMERSTON said he had received information indirectly of the fact to which the right honorable gentleman referred. He believed that Mr. Crampton had received his passports, and had quitted Washington for Toronto. There had been nothing received from him as yet, and he (the noble lord) had no further statement at present to make.

Sir E. B. LYTTON gave notice that to-morrow, upon the motion for the adjournment of the House, he should put a question to the noble lord as the head of her Majesty's government with respect to our present relations with the United States.

When the House met on June 6,

Sir E. B. LYTTON said—I rise to put a question to the noble lord at the head of the government, upon a subject the importance of which justifies one or two brief observations, which shall be strictly of an explanatory character. The House will recollect that I postponed a motion in regard to Central America, in order that an answer might be received from the United States government to a proposal to submit that dispute to abitration, which had been made by her Majesty's government. Since then very grave events have occurred; and although I would fain believe, in the absence of official information, that our Minister has not been dismissed from Washington, yet it is clear that the government of which General Walker is the representative and the dictator has been formally recognized by the President of the United States, and, also, that General Walker had previously, by an edict, annexed the Territory of Mosquito to the Territory of Nicaragua, the former of which our government holds itself pledged to protect from external attacks. I hear also upon good authority that the government of the United States has sent a vessel of war to Greytown, I hope for the purposes of observation only, and not to aid and abet the adventurers who, since the recognition of General Walker, will no doubtflock by hundreds and thousands to his standard to assist him in his threatened invasion of the Mosquito Territory. Under these circumstances, seeing the heavy responsibility resting upon the governments of two nations, war between whom would be the greatest conceivable calamity, except, indeed, loss of honor (hear, hear), certainly by no act of mine would I bring on a discussion that might be considered premature or indiscreet; and thereby add to the elements of existing irritation. I am therefore quite content to continue to postpone my motion upon a question which has now unhappily been extended and aggravated. The question which I wish now to put to the noble lord is this:—Seeing that Parliamentary discussion has been delayed for the express purpose of obtaining an answer from the American government to the conciliatory proposition made by her Majesty's administration, and as at the time I urged the expediency of procuring that reply as speedily as possible, because I foresaw—as all men foresaw—the possibility of a suspension of diplomatic negotiations, I would ask whether, in the interval of four or five weeks which have elapsed, any steps have been taken by the government to press for and obtain that reply?

Mr. ROEBUCK—I would beg leave to interpose before the noble lord answers the question. I believe it is of the utmost possible importance upon the present occasion that the people, not only of England, but of America, should understand what really are the feelings of this House and of the country.

Mr. DISRAELI—I rise to order, sir. (Hear, hear.) I understand my honorable friend, the member for Hertfordshire, to ask a simple question of the government, without intending to raise a discussion. If there is to be a debate upon the subject, many honorable gentlemen would wish to address the House, and I myself should desire to say a few words.

Mr. ROEBUCK—I beg pardon. I was not aware that there was no question before the House. I thought there had been a motion for the adjournment.

Lord PALMERSTON—I am unable to give a definite answer to the particular question which the honorable baronet has put to me as to what particular steps have been taken during the last three weeks to obtain from the American government an answer to the proposition of her Majesty's government for arbitration in respect to the Central American matter, but I can say this, that the American government have been made fully aware that the offer is made and pressed on them to accept or decline, as they may think best. I do not know, in that short period, that my noble friend at the head of the Foreign Department has thought it necessary to press specially for an answer upon that particular subject, as another question of more practical moment was pending between the two governments. As to the general tenor of what has fallen from the honorable baronet, I may say that in the present state of things between the two governments, I do think, if my opinion is asked for, or if it be deemed desirable that the opinion of the government should be expressed—I say, without hesitation, that I think the interests of the country and the prospect of maintaining permanent amicable relations between this country and the United States would be promoted by a continuance of that forbearance—that judicious forbearance—which the House has hitherto exhibited in regard to these questions. Upon other occasions of a somewhat similar nature, when questions of importance were pending in relation to the last war—both at the commencement of the war and when negotiations were pending which finally led to its conclusion—I think the House acted in a manner most honorable to itself and creditable to its judgment in abstaining from throwing any possible difficulty in the way of the government by provoking premature discussion upon the subjects of dispute. The questions now pending are certainly of a very grave character; but I hope, and sincerely hope—and I hope not without good reason—that those discussions may terminate without any interruption of the peaceful relations of the two countries. (Cheers.) Where there is no cause for collision, it is to be hoped that good sense on both sides of the water may prevent any unnecessary collision; but, certainly, discussion in this house, which must be productive of a conflict of opinions—some too much on one side and some too much on the other—cannot, in my opinion, fail to tend to injurious results. As I am quite sure the hon. baronet, in putting his question, had in mind the answer which I gave to a question yesterday, I might be permitted to allude to it. In reply to a question, whether Mr. Crampton had retired from Washington, I stated yesterday, that we had, indirectly, information that such had been the case. I find from my noble friend at the head of the Foreign Department that the information came by a Cunard packet, which sailed from Halifax on the 22d. Since that—yesterday evening—a packet has arrived from New York, which left that place on the 24th, and which does not bring any confirmation of the report brought by the former packet. We are, therefore, not in possession of any official information on that subject. (Hear.)

[From the London Post, June 5.]

We said, in an article in which we treated of the relative position of America and England, a few days ago, that as Christians and friends of social progress we earnestly deprecated the outbreak of war, or even the cessation of peaceful relations, between two populations who, in their language, their mercantile transactions, and their relations of every day life, are so interlaced as are the representatives of the Anglo Saxon race upon this and the other side of the Atlantic.

We deeply regret to have to announce that since the publication of that article a course has been taken by the American government which, although it is in no way equivalent to a declaration of war, evidently tends to diminish in a very serious degree the chances of preserving peace between the two nations. Our readers are aware that the government of England, having first freely tendered to the United States, in the most candid and unreserved manner, a frank and full apology for any infraction of the American neutrality laws which might, wittingly or unwittingly, have been committed by British agents during the late war, have not considered it consistent with justice to Mr. Crampton, or with a due regard for the position of this kingdom, to accede to the further demand preferred by President Pierce for the recall of our Minister.

The Cabinet of Lord Palmerston at this point, however unwillingly, felt themselves constrained by justice, and therefore by their duty, to stop short in the path of concession; and the United States government, on the receipt of this, the *ultimatum* of England, has directed Mr. Crampton to withdraw from the territory of the Union.

That this is a most rash and intemperate step, at the present juncture, be the original merits of the questions at issue what they may, cannot, and we are convinced will not, be denied by the better and more considerate even of the people who live under the government that have taken it. It is not easy in a country where public policy is swayed by such singular agglomerations of parties, and determined by such exceptional circumstances, as it is in America, to say what is the precise bent of public opinion; but, as far as it can be inferred, upon the present occasion, from the tone of the most influential of the journals of the United States, it is with us, opposed to the violent and provocative policy to which the Executive government—somewhat mysteriously, as it seems to us—seeks to commit the American people. Irritating as that policy unquestionably is, *we shall, we doubt not, continue to maintain that conciliatory conduct, and, at the same time, firm and dignified attitude*, which we have throughout this untoward affair exhibited, in the hope that we may yet be able to prevent a further development of the apparently hostile disposition of the government of the United States; nor is it unreasonable to expect that the other great nations of the civilized world will bring the influence of their opinion to bear upon the mind of the American population in such a manner as to check any further progress in these ill-judged demonstrations of aggression and of tendencies to war.

[From the Same Paper same evening.]

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In England there is no more desire to go to war with the United States than there is a wish to commence hostilities with Mexico or any other power in the Old or New World. In the United States, the feeling of a portion of the people may coincide with that of Mr. Pierce's cabinet; for it can scarcely be conceived that public opinion is so dead amongst a great and intelligent people as to permit an administration to assume this intemperate and defiant tone without the support of some section of the people. It is in vain to seek any index in the writings of American journalists. One day they are all for war, and the next they ridicule a rupture as an utter impossibility. The people of Canada, who have not a distant, but an immediate interest in the question, are unaffected by the slightest feeling of alarm or disquiet. They know that they can hold their own, as they before have done; and being nearer the spot, and being more intimately acquainted than we in England can be with the blustering propensities of their neighbors, they are content to abide the result. But whatever Mr. Baillie says, is sure to produce a false impression in America. To prove the wisdom of his party as well as his own, he may succeed in showing that the prophecies which he and his friends uttered in December, 1854, have been justified by the occurrence of one dispute arising out of the Foreign Enlistment Act. But this measure of self-laudation will be gratified at the expense of his country. The people of the United States will learn with delight that British public men, for the purpose of subserving the objects of party, are willing to embarrass the progress of negotiations by endorsing the American view of the question. They will observe, also, that there is the strongest possible similarity in the present position of Mr. Pierce and of Mr. Baillie. The former, with a view to his reelection, seeks to embroil his country in a war, to vindicate a point of national punctilio for which ample apology has been repeatedly tendered. He rests his case upon the most worthless evidence—upon the evidence of common informers and upon that of disappointed and unauthorised agents, and altogether ignores the solemn asseverations of honorable English gentlemen. The latter, in the vain hope of gaining a party triumph, must endorse *in extenso* the American view of the question, must contend that Mr. Crampton and other British officers are unworthy of belief, and that Hertz and Strobel are persons of unimpeachable veracity, and that the British government knowingly and deliberately formed a plan which they were aware could not be carried into execution without giving offence to a great and influential sovereign power, whose amity it was eminently the interest of this country to preserve. The discussion, we believe, will answer no good purpose, except to cover the abettors of American intemperance in the British House of Commons with the unpopularity which their conduct deserves. The Geylon inquiry, for which Mr. Baillie was responsible, cost this country £25,000. Does the honorable gentleman wish to add to this load of national obligation the countless expenditure of blood and money which a war between England and the United States would unquestionably cost?

[From the London Evening Star, (Democratic,) June 5.]

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That a young country like America should have keen susceptibilities as to its own dignity in presence of the ancient monarchies of Europe is surely most natural. And we put it to our readers whether it was an unreasonable demand that, after all that had happened, the individual who, whether intending it or not, had undeniably infringed their neutrality laws, and thereby outraged their national independence, should be recalled from a country where his presence could no longer be acceptable to the people, pleasant to himself, or advantageous to the interests of the nation he represented?

We have dealt at some length with this subject, not because we apprehend any danger of war from the dismissal of Mr. Crampton, if it stood alone; but there is a systematic attempt to inflame popular prejudice, and so to predispose the public mind for war, by representing the conduct of America, on the enlistment question, as wilfully irritating and arrogant, taking umbrage without cause, and exacting reparation without reason. We affirm that the American government had ample ground for offence in the conduct of our Minister, who, fully aware of the extreme sensitiveness with which that people guarded its rights of neutrality, and at the very moment when he was allaying suspicion by hypocritical apologies and assurances, did enter into a conspiracy for evading the laws of the country to which he was accredited as a peaceful ambassador. We maintain that the recall of Mr. Crampton was no more than they were entitled to demand, and no more than our government was bound, both in justice and in prudence, to concede.

[From the London Post (semi-official), June 6.]

Mr. Crampton has, as we announced yesterday, been desired by the government of the United States to quit the territory where he held the post of Minister to that body on the part of England. Lord Palmerston declared last night, in answer to Mr. Disraeli, that the British government had received, indirectly, an intimation to that effect; that they had learned that Mr. Crampton had quitted Washington for Toronto; that they had received, as yet, nothing from him, and that they had, at present, no further statement to make. There is therefore no doubt of the fact that the diplomatic relations between the two countries have, for the time at least, been rudely discontinued by the American government. It remains to be seen whether, on the circumstances which accompanied the retirement of Mr. Crampton being more fully known, it will be thought advisable to resent the absurdity of the measure, not by playing with the same cards which they have thrown on the board, but intimating to Mr. Dallas our regret that his government has made impossible his stay here in an official capacity. We do not know whether this will be the case. We do not know whether it will be thought right at once to meet, by a similar measure, the affront which has been put upon us, or whether it will be deemed better to endure, as we can well afford to do, the insult offered as the climax of a long series of bitterness and wrong—*whether it will be thought better to fit our consciousness of strength, that we should make, from motives which will nowhere be misunderstood, this sacrifice also to our sincere desire to keep the peace.* We are, without doubt, strong enough at this moment to do so. We can be moved by no false shame, by no foolish vanity in the matter. Whichever course we take will be taken, not because we are angry, or because we are alarmed, but because it is the right course.

If the immediate conduct of our government, if the direct step to be taken by this country may still be doubtful, there is no doubt of its pacific spirit. There is no doubt that England, strong and powerful as she now is, with a navy which could do incalculable damage to any commercial and maritime country in the world—with an army at the height of perfection, just released from a war which has trained its energies to the utmost—with Canada brave, rich and loyal—has no conceivable reason to fear that she could be suspected of dreading the results of a war with America. Her ministry could gain no popularity, even were it vicious enough to do so, by rushing into a conflict of which no man may trace the course, and prophesy the result, but of which no man can fortell the the cost to this country. That is more than can be said with safety of the American Government. We have become tolerably familiar with the lengths to which a President may be carried by the hope of re-election. We know to what extravagant pretences the faintest and most distant shadow of popularity can entice the min