being that it is Hamburg that keeps up the lighthouses, buoys, &c., at her own expense.

Some years ago, when Mr. Hutt, M. P., called the attention of Parliament to the Stade grievance, the annual produce of the tolls was estimated (evidently too high) at £70,000, which, in consequence of the alterations and reductions introduced by the treaty of 1844 fell considerably, so that of late years Hanover has seldom realized more than £35,000 from this source; of this amount English commerce pays the half. In the financial estimates lately laid before the Hanoverian Diet, for the two financial years 1856-8, the annual gross revenue from the Stade toll is taken at £38,760, and, deducting the expenses of collection at £27,750 net. Supposing we take the actual or prospective revenue at the ample and round sum of £30,000 per annum, and at 16 years purchase (which is about the rate conceded to Denmark for the Sound dues,) Hanover would have to receive from all the States interested £480,000, and according to the proposition in which Great Britain is interested the latter would have to pay the highest, £240,000, or more probably, when the figures come to be carefully, about £200,000, for the relief of British commerce with the north of Germany.

The treaty of 1844 with Hanover is determinable at any time upon twelve months notice, and it is perfectly open to our government to strive after better terms. The said treaty put an end, it is true, to several vexatious proceedings connected with the toll—for instance, it not only reduced the rates of charge, but it simplified the tariff by condensing the rates under twenty seven heads only; whereas under the previous tariff there were not only 2,368 articles specifically taxed, but each of these articles was subject to a number of different duties, so that the real number of particular rates to be levied amounted to 6,688! All might the merchants of Hull and Newcastle indignantly protest against our commerce with Germany being subjected to such vexatious restrictions, and well might Mr. Hutt, as their organ, demand the interference of the government to protect the British trade to the Elbe against one of the most oppressive tariffs that the world did ever see.

The treaty of 1844 was undoubtedly an improvement on the previous monstrous state of things; but it is also true that it was Lord Palmerston's intention at one time to compel Hanover to revise the Stade tariff still more favorably than took place in that arrangement. A fixed commission, appointed by Great Britain and Hanover, sat at Hamburg for some time in the year 1841, and on this occasion the British Commissioner, Mr. Ward, insisted on reducing the entire tariff to the basis of 1-16th per cent *ad valorem*, which was the maximum levied upon in a treaty concluded between Sweden and Hamburg in 1691, at the time when Sweden was still in possession of Bremen and Werden. But, on Hanover's refusing all compliance with this demand, the negotiations were broken off and afterwards removed to London, where they finally resulted in the existing convention of 1844, bearing the signatures of Lord Aberdeen and Mr. Gladstone, and which convention is based upon the previous act of the Navigation Commissioners regulating the Stade tolls whenever duly within their jurisdiction. The weak side of this arrangement consists, however, in that, in consideration of Hanover's reducing by one-half the duties hitherto levied on British manufacture or produce, England agreed for the future to submit to a toll as a river toll, to be regulated by the riverain states of the Elbe, according to the stipulations of the Congress of Vienna, while from 1819 to 1841 the Stade toll had been a sea toll, and not subjected to the cognizance of the Elbe Navigation Commissioners. The result of this alteration in the nature of the toll is, that its amount can only be altered with the consent of the said commission, and, whatever ground there may be for contending that, in conformity with the ancient treaties, Hanover is entitled to no more than one-sixteenth per cent *ad valorem* duties, the riverine bordering States have not adopted that opinion, but in some of the articles of the Elbe Navigation Convention have sanctioned ¼ per cent as the rate on non-enumerated goods. Under these circumstances it is useless to give the twelve months notice of the deterioration of the treaty, seeing that no better terms are likely to be obtained.

The only way, therefore, to get rid of the Stade grievance at the mouth of the Elbe is to negotiate with Hanover for an entire cessation of those tolls on her receiving compensation. The very best precedent for so doing would be the successful close of the present negotiation by Denmark for the repeal of the Sound dues, and if John Bull is putting his hand into his pocket for upwards of £1,200,000 for the King of Denmark, it would be more than folly for him to vote another £200,000 to get rid of the Stadt tolls. The other dues levied on the Elbe and on the Rhine are purely German imposts, which we can have no direct part in abolishing; at the same time in resuming our own commerce from the Stade tolls, we shall be contributing powerfully, though indirectly, towards the liberation of general commerce from the other fluvial tolls. One step the Germans have already taken in the right direction, viz., in consequence of the union effected between the Zollverein and the Steuerverein, a treaty has been brought about between them and Bremen, which has already effected the cessation of the tolls on the Weser.

Mr. Cobden's Second Letter on Maritime Law.

A letter was published some weeks ago from Mr. J. E. Thomson, of the Bradford "Committee for Investigating Naval Affairs," to Mr. Cobden, M. P., on the changes in maritime law agreed to at the Congress of Paris. Mr. Cobden has replied to this letter. The letter of Mr. Henkinsen is too long for our space. We give an extract:—

The English government is to possess the power of laying aside the maritime law without consulting either the rest of Parliament, then those honorable houses become superfluous; and the government will be, not only the executors, but the makers of the laws. Thus the government by this usurpation, would become a despot.

If the Convention of Paris is illegal; and, if England does not proclaim its avowal, it will be patent to the world that the British Parliament has surrendered its legislative and that the constitutional prerogatives of the sovereign have been usurped by her Ministers, the sole defenders and administrators of its laws.

If the resolutions of the Paris Congress receive the sanction of both houses of Parliament; and become the law of the land, we would ask, what means of physical force can we possess against a maritime power? You say that France—by "the new maritime code"—could, in time of war with a superior maritime power, "use the flags of Belgium, Holland, or Germany." Then what relative power would England possess in case of a future war with France? We never keep an army strong enough to operate against her on her own territory. The war with Russia has proved that the nation attacked by a fleet may place her own ships in security behind their fortresses. This rule applies with still greater force to Russia; as our only means of coercing her lie in the interruption of her trade. In her own territory, she is invulnerable to the military forces of England; on the other hand, England possesses the most absolute control over Russia in her trade. It appears to us that no wrongs could have been undertaken by Russia, that would not receive the fullest assurance that in such an event her trade would pass free. If England is to give her thesis to the armed neutrality, in consequence of the "greesive civilization," then we shall be in the advanced state of civilization that Russia was in the time of the Impress Catherine.

MR. COBDEN'S REPLY.

GLEN GARTH, near Bangor, Dec. 8, 1856.

—The whole of the argument in your letter is founded on the assumption that we surrendered our belligerent rights in the late war from feelings of forbearance to the Czar. I would have thought our maritime operations in the Sea of Azoff and the Gulf of Bothnia would have convinced my one from falling into such an error. It was the attitude assumed by the United States which led to the change. Those who were in a position to observe the manifestations of public opinion in the press of that country, and through the speeches at Washington, on the subject of the Russian war; and, still more, they who knew what was passing between the United States Minister in London and our Foreign Office, need not be told that any attempt on our part to uphold the right of search, as you truly say, is essential to the maintenance of our ancient belligerent rights, would not have been tolerated by that country. It may be all very true that our position was opposed to the pretensions of the Russians and even that, as you state, their own most recent judges had confirmed the decisions of our Admiralty Court. But this did not touch the facts of the case when we were presented to our government in 1854, when it was unmistakably evident that the American people were determined that their merchant ships should not be searched by our cruisers; and that any attempt to carry the proceedings which led to the rupture of peace would lead to bloodshed, and in all probability, end in a war between the two countries. Our government, therefore, very wisely gave up the point, and, in doing so, met the wishes, not only of America, but of every nation of Europe.

I am prepared to attach some importance to the mode of effecting this change in our policy, and to be of opinion that before any alteration can be made in the "law of nations" a corresponding change must be effected in our municipal law. I am afraid the law of nations has been but little more than the will of the strongest, modified and only controlled by the progress of civilization. I have no objection, however, to an act of Parliament passed, confirming the decision of the Congress of Paris, but, after this explanation of the meaning of my phrase "imperious necessity," I need not add that I should look upon such an act as a mere matter of form. The question which Parliament will still have to decide, arising from the sentiments put forward by those in the press supposed to be connected with the government, is whether, having of necessity gone so far, for our interest, beyond that of any other nation, since the offer made to us by Mr. Marcy, to exempt private property afloat from capture during war. I have the least doubt, when this proposal is discussed in the House of Commons—taking for the starting point of the argument the *status quo* as settled in the Congress of Paris, which no sane man will dream of disturbing—there will be all but a unanimous decision in its favor.

I can foresee great benefits to the cause of mankind and humanity, in a variety of ways, from this, but as it seems to be offensive in some quarters to hear the aspiration that the intercourse of nations as well as individuals, may some day be brought into harmony with the precepts of the New Testament, I will forbear saying more upon the subject.

Your obedient servant, RICHARD CORDEN.

J. E. THOMSON, Esq., Secretary, &c.

Prince Imperial of France Introduced to the Military Companions.

No doubt we be remembered, says the *Moniteur*, the Prince Imperial, shortly after his birth, was inscribed as an *enfant de troupe* of the 1st regiment of the Guards of the Guard. The day before yesterday a deputation of officers, sub officers, soldiers, and *enfants de troupe* of that regiment proceeded to the Tuileries to present to the Emperor the proces verbal of the council of administration, stating the inscription of the Prince Imperial on the muster roll. To the document are affixed the signatures of all the persons in the regiment, and its magnificent binding, ornamented with the arms of the Empire in relief, most beautifully executed, was paid for by a voluntary subscription raised in the regiment. The Emperor having been introduced into the apartments of his infant son, their Majesties soon after presented themselves with the young prince and introduced to the depositaries of their new comrade. The Colonel then addressed the Emperor as follows:—

"Your Majesty has confided to your subjects the Prince Imperial has given you. He bears the appellation of Prince of France, and every arm is open to receive him. You now say to your soldiers—'Take this well beloved child under your glorious protection; let him grow up with ideas of abnegation of life, of devotedness to the country of, and obedience to the laws, of which your heart is the sanctuary; when the hour shall arrive for him to reign, he will know how to command, because he has known how to obey. The whole army grateful and honored, in counting the Prince Imperial in its ranks, will behold him with delight increase in virtue. But how particularly happy and proud are we to see his name inscribed amongst ours! Permit, sire, the 1st regiment of the Grenadiers of your Guard to testify to your Majesty all the delight which it feels, and to renew before the cradle of Prince Napoleon Eugene the expression of its sentiments of love and fidelity."

The reply of the Emperor, inspired by the touching circumstances of the meeting, produced a very lively impression on the deputation.

Ultimate Destiny of the Central American States—The Filibustero System of Absorption of Territory Approved.

[From the London Post, Dec. 4.]

There is no portion of the globe to which the attention of the public, not only in this but in other countries, is directed with more earnestness and anxiety than to Central America and the magnificent and not far-distant island of Cuba. Many of the people of the United States have long regarded that valuable island as an acquisition which would consolidate their power in the Southern States and give extension and permanency to the frightful curse of slavery. The marauding expedition of Walker, and the feeble and disorganised condition of most of the Central American States, have attracted in the great republic that species of interested sympathy which is one of the worst features of the American character. The Panama Railway and the threatened occupation of this important line by the United States—the projected ship canal through Honduras—the settlement and subsequent rendition by England of the colony of the Bay Islands—the rendition of the Mosquito territory—and, lastly, a difference between this country and New Granada—are all matters which have recently excited deep and equal attention on both sides of the Atlantic. The clamor which has been raised in America against this country has produced its fruits. The Bay Islands have been restored or transferred to the State of Honduras; and, by another convention concluded in August last, the question of the Mosquito Protectorate has been extinguished. Commissioners are to be appointed to fix the boundary between Honduras and the territory of the Mosquito Indians, and the former also engages not to molest British subjects in the enjoyment of any property which they may possess in the Bay Islands group. The king of Mosquito Indians is to receive from the republic of Honduras "some reasonable sum by way of annuity for a limited period," as an indemnity and compensation for the extinction of his and their interest in the said territory. The amount of this annuity is to be settled by the Commissioners. This may be a very just and equitable arrangement as far as this country, the Mosquito Indians, and the State of Honduras are concerned. We do not pretend to assert that any better could be suggested. But is it impossible not to see that agencies have been at work extending to a much larger sphere than the benefit of the native tribes, or even the welfare of the people of Honduras. These agencies, though not avowed, may by their results easily be traced. There are certain classes of persons in America who hold that slavery is the normal condition of a vast proportion of the human race, and who advocate the restoration of the most detestable traffic that ever disgraced and afflicted humanity. The Charleston *Standard* admits that the slave trade might diminish the value of slaves, but it suggests this compensation:—"There is buried now under every acre of land in South Carolina fifty dollars in gold, and the day that the savage African is landed on our shores to cultivate it, that gold will glitter upon its surface." Will not its brightness be dimmed by the sweat the tears, the gore of "the savage African," who, with a soul to be saved and faculties to be educated, is to live and die like the brutes that perish, not in their native wilds—which the missionary has never penetrated, but which the almighty dollar will speedily open to American enterprise—but amongst a community calling itself Christian, and loudly proclaiming the perfect equality of the white race? This is a specimen of the religion and the humanity of the Southern States.

But it is well known that the filibusters who have left their country to reinforce General Walker are in fact propagandists of slavery, fully impressed with the belief that the day is not far distant when Central America will be covered with States acknowledging the great domestic institution of a portion of the American people. Such weak States as Nicaragua, Honduras and New Granada, *cannot long resist that gradual and almost imperceptible process of annexation, produced by a constant influx of American adventurers, which in time is quite as successful as the more speedy and more honorable conquest by the sword.* But should the American government somewhat anticipate this process of annexation by taking military possession of the Panama railway, it is fortunate that England has, on the Central American coast, a naval force quite sufficient to protect British interests elsewhere than in New Granada, and to join in persevering order along that great line of communication over which, for the welfare of the commerce of the world, no single nation should be permitted to exercise exclusive control. In the policy of the dominant party in America territorial aggrandisement is only valuable as a means certain to promote the extension of slavery. We are told that "the Constitution of the United States does not prohibit the slave trade—it merely gives power to Congress to do so—and Congress may repeal the existing laws on the subject. Neither does the law of nations prohibit the trade, as that law is understood by the governments of England and the United States, and the judiciary in both countries." For the information of those who make this assertion we invoke the memorable declaration of the Congress of Vienna, and the multitude of treaties which this country has contracted for the express purpose of the suppression of the slave trade. It is painful to witness this retrogression of opinion amongst a large portion of the people of the United States. We trust that it is only a temporary ebullition of feeling, provoked by the excitement of a great contest—not a permanent and determinate policy.

The Conferences of Paris.

[From the London Post Dec. 1.]

When the Congress of Paris broke up it was determined that certain minor details should be left for the future care of a Conference composed of the second Plenipotentiaries, who, being the resident Ministers of the Powers concerned, could always be summoned at any moment when the matters to be referred to them should be ripe for decision and arrangement.

This second Conference has no power of reopening the treaty of Paris or of altering its text or scope. The Conference may be summoned at any moment, and we can see no reason why our Government should object to its being called together.

The points in dispute with Russia have been the possession of the Isle of Serpents and of Bolgrad. These points, we hold, are determined by the treaty of the 30th of March, and by it we abide. With respect to the Isle of Serpents, Turkey has possession of it, and an English fleet is in the neighborhood. These facts are almost as simple as the indisputable right of the Porte to the Islands. The Conference will not attempt to restore it to Russia. With regard to the question of Bolgrad, about that too there can be no doubt, save that which hinges upon the name of the place; and the Plenipotentiaries know quite well that when they said and wrote Bolgrad, they meant the Bolgrad of the maps which would run the Russian boundary away from the Danube, and not New Bolgrad, which would seat the Russians in the very position the treaty was framed to exclude them from. England will stand by the one possible Bolgrad—so will Austria—so will the honest Sardinia—so will Turkey—so, we doubt not, will France. We have yet to learn that Russia will care to put the question. It is one thing to attempt a jaggle; it is another thing to carry it on after defeat—to exposure. We did not win more by the war than the simple objects for which we fought. But we did win those, and no attempt to wrest the fruits of our success from us will meet with other result than defeat.

[From the London Times, December 11.]

It is really wonderful how much that is absurd and how much that is base can be concealed, wrapped up, and overlaid by the pomp of diplomatic diction, and carried off by the authority of a great and powerful government. The Cabinet of St. Petersburg has presented to Europe a note which they doubtless think calculated to raise their character and estimation. It is couched in language of the most guarded moderation, is of considerable length, is full of professions of the most exuberant good faith, and is altogether so exceedingly decorous, so smooth, and so respectable that one can hardly believe that it is prepared in any spirit except that of candor and shrinking from misrepresentation, and good faith that shudders at the bare idea of a doubt or a surmise of its sincerity. And yet we venture to say that out of this document itself, with little aid except the very slightest knowledge of geography and the most superficial acquaintance with the history of the last few years, with far less industry than has been bestowed on the disciphering of ancient inscriptions and the interpretation of texts in ancient historians, a meaning might be extracted which would cover Russia with the deepest disgrace, and leave her diplomacy subject, on its own showing, to the charge of the meanest evasions and subterfuges, alike disingenuous and superficial. Everybody knows that one of the main causes of the war was, that Russia, having possession of the Sulina mouth of the Danube, used her power to close up that mouth altogether, and that one of the principal conditions of peace was that Russia should retire entirely from the Danube, and leave it wholly in the possession of Turkey. After the conclusion of peace Russia nevertheless endeavored to occupy the Isle of Serpents, an attempt in which she was entirely outmanoeuvred and defeated by the English fleet. But now she puts forward in justification the assertion that there was no express stipulation in the treaty to meet the case of an island, although the possession of that island would have entirely neutralised all the provisions so earnestly insisted upon with regard to the free navigation of the Danube. Men who interpret treaties in this manner should do so at the point of the sword, but for the vanquished thus to seek to elude their obligation is alike futile and discreditable.

As for the question of the rectification of the Bessarabian frontier, Russia seems to feel that she is not superfluously strong in moral force, and she accordingly proceeds to take credit for having yielded in matters not worth disputing. On one occasion the frontier line cut a lake in two, but Russia was too generous to squabble about half a lake, and ceded it to Moldavia without a struggle. On another occasion doubts were entertained whether the town of Katamori belonged to Moldavia or not. Russia was once more magnanimous, and whatever may be comprehended in the name of Katamori passed forever into the dominions of Moldavia. And here we must stop for a moment to unburden our minds of the fulness of respectful admiration. Half a mile and a whole village—who could believe that a Power capable of such a surrender could nourish guile or deceit, or be capable of even the most justifiable artifice? We now approach the case of Bolgrad at every possible disadvantage. Russia looks down upon us from a pinnacle of moral superiority, and almost persuades us that it is wicked to doubt the intention or interpretation of so virtuous a Power. The question is, shall the boundary between Moldavia and Russia pass north or south of the town of Bolgrad? We say north, Russia says south, observing in her winning way, what we heartily agree to, that it is "a question merely of good faith." Russia appeals to good faith, and by the principles of good faith we are content that she should be judged. She declared at the Congress frankly, as she says, or, as we may paraphrase it, with her usual frankness, that it was important not to separate Bolgrad from the Bulgarian colonies of Russia, of which it was the capital. To this the allies assented, and Russia, in a spirit of good faith, as she calls it, requires the performance of the agreement, and is scandalized that any demur can be made to so reasonable a proposition. We should be scandalized too if we were not informed immediately afterwards by what means the assent of the allies was obtained.

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One can well imagine M. Brunow or M. Kisseleff descanting on the importance to Russia of retaining Bolgrad the town in her dominions, and then pointing to Bolgrad the village, the only Bolgrad on the map, and showing how far it was from the waters of the Danube, and how gratuitously vexatious it would be to carry the boundary to the north of it. The device succeeded for the moment but it was at once too clumsy and insolent to prevail after it had been thoroughly exposed. Our answer to Russia must be, that if she comes for good faith she must practise good faith; that an agreement obtained by fraudulent suppression of the true and suggestion of the false is no agreement at all, but a mere trick and circumvention; that an agreement implies the concurrence of two wills on the same thing, whereas the Bolgrad that she spoke of was a different place from the Bolgrad that we spoke of, and different, not by accident, but by her design and practice. We have already convincingly shown her that we are not to be overpowered by force; we have now to show her as convincingly that we will not be overreached by artifice.

Russian Interests in China—Treatise by the Chinese Government.

[Foo-choo (Oct. 7) Correspondence of the London Times.]

Two nearly simultaneous announcements of a grave character have occurred to flutter our deadly-lively communities in this part of the world. The one is the appearance of a kind of politico-geographical treatise at Pekin, in which the relations of China to her nearest neighbors and also to the maritime powers are reviewed. The author betrays a considerable and accurate knowledge of the conflict of interests subsisting between the great powers of Europe and Russia, and of the designs of the latter upon the empire of the world. He inclines to the conclusion that, for the present at least, the maritime powers are more to be apprehended than Russia by the patriots of the "Flowery Land," whose true policy he declares to consist in keeping well with all, and playing them off against Russia and each against the other. The other announcement is of a more official nature, but it is like unto the first. I have it from the French Jesuit missionaries at Shanghae, the French consulate at the same place, and the French bishop at Ningpo, between which last port and Chusan there is nearly daily access, and a run of but a very few hours. The French missionaries in Chusan are vouched by each of my informants for the truth of the story, and it is hard to conceive that one so circumstancial can be entirely groundless. It is briefly this:—Russia has concluded, at Pekin, a treaty with China. Three thousand acres of land and a safe harbor upon the west coast of Chusan are ceded in perpetuity by the "Son of Heaven" to the Czar. A Russian consul general, with ample diplomatic powers, has been nominated and accepted, and will reside at the fort, which is to be immediately commenced on that site. He is authorized to appoint, without needing confirmation, three other consuls and diplomatic agents for other provinces of the Chinese empire. Chusan is quite unsuitable for commerce, unless conducted by means of steamships; and even for these there is no perfectly secure anchorage and shelter against typhoons. The tremendous and ever varying currents render this archipelago peculiarly dangerous for sailing ships; but those who are familiar with the traditional policy of St. Petersburg know that the interests of commerce are not there with which it concerns itself. The crisis, however, is favorable. England, America and France are under the necessity of renewing for another term their several treaties with China, all of which have expired, or are now expiring. A revision of each of those treaties has long been felt to be required upon other grounds. Will the "favored nation clause," which occurs in the subsisting treaties, be overlooked when the revision takes place; or is Russia to continue, in the face of that clause, to enjoy the sole privilege of a diplomatic representative at Pekin; and this, too, at the moment that she has obtained a participation with the three powers in the advantages first wrested from the Chinese Emperor by our treaty of Nankin? But I do not think that any revision will be effectual unless negotiated at Pekin. If the three powers, laying aside their jealousies (which here, at least, will be quite out of place,) would only agree to negotiate in concert, that would be an additional pledge of the good success of what each has at heart. There is fair water carriage for their men of war, almost to the gates of Pekin; and, of course, the vessels which convey the sacred persons of their representatives thither will be men-of-war, and none other.

The American and English and the Chinese Authorities at Foochow.

[From the Hong Kong Register, Oct. 15.]

A short time ago an American gentleman of the name of Cunningham was killed in a street row at Foochow, and in consequence of, what seems to us, an unreasonable demand for satisfaction not being complied with, the American Consul has taken upon himself to stop the duties payable to the Chinese government by his countrymen, taking his countrymen's words of honor that they would pay when called on to do so. We think the demand unreasonable, as it calls on the Mandarins to punish the guilty parties without professing to point them out. But whether or not we are correct in this, there can be no doubt of the impropriety of the step taken with the view of urging the Mandarins to action. Of course, this proceeding for the time placed the American merchants in a better position than their rivals—a thing not to be borne—and so the American Consul having done wrong, the British Consul follows suit, that his compatriots may be on equal terms with the American merchants. Two wrongs do not make a right; and we can but regret and condemn this deliberate act of bad faith on the part of the American Consul, compelling to a certain extent the British Consul to commit the same in self-defence. The offence is not only against the Chinese, but against every person at other ports who pays his duties regularly. It is high time that this partial and local system of government of each port should be put a stop to and some uniform system adopted for all the five ports which shall prevent the freaks or fancies of one Consul from upsetting the peaceful arrangements of all the Western nations with the Chinese.

The Electric Telegraph Over the World.

[From the London Post, Dec. 4.]

Benjamin Franklin was a man of acquirements in advance of his age. Studious of the nature of lightning, and versed in the science of electricity as it then known, it was he whose sagacity first detected their affinity, and who, in 1752, first applied conductors to the protection of buildings; and his invention will be a constant safeguard to property to the end of time. He, too, took a prominent part in the war of independence; he negotiated the treaty of alliance between the United Provinces and France which involved that country in an American and European war with England in 1778, and probably led remotely to the great revolution of 1789; he signed the treaty of peace between the United States and Great Britain in 1783; and, first Minister from the new republic to the mother country, received from George the Third the emphatic assurance that, as he had been the last man in England who had acknowledged its independence, so also he would be the last man to dispute it. But Franklin died in 1790, long before the beats incidental to that struggle which freed his country had subsided, and very bitter feelings prevailed between the two countries during the latter years of his life. But what would the father of electrical science have said if he had known that there were children in the world which he was leaving who would live to see the day that all England rejoiced that such was the triumph of science that the salute which inaugurated the 4th of July in New York might be fired by English engineer officers in London?

Yet it is even so. In no great number of months the galvanic wire will connect England with the New World, and early in 1858 the electric current will carry a message or fire a gun across the Atlantic with a velocity that allows no appreciable measure of time. Wonderful as the project is, it is no mere speculation; the thing has already been accomplished. Already submarine telegraphs, concentrated in London, traverse St. George's Channel to Dublin, the North Channel to Carrickfergus, the Straits of Dover to Calais and Ostend, and the North Sea from Orfordness to the Hague. We are other countries behind hand—the Little Belt, the Great Belt, and the Sound are traversed by a line to Karlscrona, which connects Sweden with the rest of Europe. France communicates with her Algerine Governor by a line which passes from Spezia to Cape Corso over Corsica and Sardinia to the neighborhood of Tunis, and thence to Algiers by land. Even the inhospitable Euxine has received the beneficent messenger, and many an anxious mind has been relieved by the telegraph from Balaklava to Varna; whilst preparations are being made to communicate in the same manner with Malta, Constantinople, Alexandria, Aden, and thence to Kurrachee, where it is to be connected with the Indian system.

The line which is to connect the New World with the Old is to commence at Cork; and along its proposed route to St. John's—a distance of one thousand six hundred and eighty miles—the bottom of the sea is a plateau or long continued bank, as discovered by Lieutenant Maury in 1853, and so eminently suited as the resting place of the submarine cable, that it has been called the telegraph platform. It is of a tolerably uniform depth, not more than has already been successfully encountered during the greater part of its extent, though deeper near the Irish coast than the shores of Newfoundland, and about two or three miles in breadth. This bank is composed of a bed of the most minute possible shells, so small as to be scarcely distinguishable by the naked eye, and of such a delicate and beautiful structure—apparently kindred to those microscopic shells which forms some of our chalks and marbles—as to prove the complete stillness of the water at that depth. Indeed, it is well known that the disturbance caused by the waves, even of the most violent storm, ceases at a depth comparatively trifling. St. John's is two or three days nearer England than Halifax; and now that a dangerous reef, called the Merlin Rock, in the narrow entrance to the harbor—eighteen feet below the surface at low water—has been skilfully and successfully removed by the order and at the expense of the company, the largest steamers in the world can with safety pass in and out of that land locked harbor, which possesses abundant facilities for coaling first class steamers. Crossing Newfoundland to Cape Ray, the cable is laid down across the Gulf of St. Lawrence to Cape North, whence, traversing Cape Breton Island, it is carried to Halifax, whence it distributes messages over the whole continent of North America.

Amongst the most remarkable events of the age in which we live will be the changes effected by this new agency of intercommunication. Rapidly as steam has bridged the Atlantic—however soon as we may expect a still greater rapidity of interchange of correspondence arising from the improved construction, and, to a certain degree, increased size of ocean steamers—still there will, some time or other, be reached a limit to the velocity with which these huge bodies can be moved—which limit, indeed, cannot be very far distant; and however great the rate of speed might be which science may hereafter command, it would still leave the great commercial world of America at a disadvantage as regards its trade compared with the nations of Europe. The facilities which this line will afford to commerce in the rapid interchange of orders and information, the certainty it will give to mercantile calculations, the comfort it will bestow upon severed friends and relatives, the pacifying effect it will have upon diplomatic relations, by making it possible to settle difficulties almost before they arise—at all events before they are known to exist—are incalculable; but the area over which its influence will extend in North America may be measured by the fact that whilst at the end of 1852 the total length of electric wire in the United States amounted to 24,375 miles; in March, 1854, according to a report presented by Mr. Shaffner to the Telegraph Convention, the total length of electric telegraph was no less than 41,392 miles; and from that increase, of more than a thousand miles a month, we may fairly infer it now greatly exceeds that enormous estimate—the expenditure upon which has been $3,671,800, or about £1,400,000. The Electric Telegraph Company's system in the United Kingdom, at the termination of the half year ending June 30, 1854, comprised 26,988 miles of wire, and the number of messages transmitted during the previous six months amounted to 272,474. A curious but convenient peculiarity in the transmission of messages will arise from the difference of longitude—New York time being about six hours behind London. It follows, according to the arrangement at present contemplated, that the messages which are forwarded from London from then in the morning till four in the afternoon—our business hours—though they arrive instantaneously at the other side, do so, according to their time, between four and ten in the morning, and at their ten o'clock these replies until their four will reach this country between four and ten in the evening, leaving them the whole night for consideration or obtaining information before our hours of activity recommence, at ten in the morning. The cable will be itself 2,500 miles long, to allow for slack, and will be divided into two lengths, each of board a separate vessel. The ships will meet half way, at a point previously fixed on, and having connected the two ends of the cable, will steam away, one towards Ireland and the other towards Newfoundland, paying out the cable as they go, and interchanging signals all the way.

Theatrical and Musical Items.

BROADWAY THEATRE.—It is gratifying to observe the old friends of the management on hand every night, no matter how disagreeable the weather. This evening's bill comprises "Virginius," with Mr. Loraine and Mrs. Davenport in the chief parts, and the "Young Widow."

NIBLO'S GARDEN.—The Pyne and Harrison English opera company close the second week of their engagement here to-night in the charming fairy legend entitled "Cinderella."

BURTON'S.—Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Davenport, Mr. Wheatley and the leading members of the regular company are to combine their talents this evening in "Julius Cæsar." "Peter White" follows.

BURTON'S.—The ever attractive play of "Dombey & Son," with Mr. Burton in his great part of Cuttle, is to be given, with the spectacular drama of the "Bottle Imp" this evening.

WALLACK'S THEATRE.—Mrs. John Wood, the great favorite with the Bostonians, is to play the character of Minnehaha for the third time to-night in "Minnehaha." "Out for a Holiday" is the afterpiece.

LAURA KEENE'S.—The intensely interesting drama of the "Marble Heart," with Miss Keene's great original cast, is to be repeated this evening, with the new comicality styled the "First Night."

CHAMBERS STREET THEATRE.—Manager Eddy is again on hand with an attractive bill for Saturday night. It comprises "Nick of the Woods," "Wallace" and the "Four Sisters."

AMERICAN MUSEUM.—The elegant Operatic spectacle of "Cinderella" is to be enacted both in the afternoon and evening. Messrs. Clarke and Hadaway, Miss Mestayer, &c., are in the cast.

GEO. CHRISTY AND WOOD'S MINSTRELS.—Any person having a desire to enjoy a real, downright, wholesome laugh, should see George as the landlord, in the farce of the "Old Clock."

BUCKLEY'S SERENADERS.—Miss Hilliert, George and Bishop and others, who perform in the "Cinderella" burlesque, are rightly winning golden opinions from the lovers of fun and good music.

SPLENDID EXHIBITION.—An exceedingly entertaining and instructive panoramic illustration of the Russian war may be seen at Chinese Hall in the afternoon and evening.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENTS.—Manager Burton is entitled to much praise for the admirable and expensive manner in which he has produced the "Bottle imp." Manager Stewart, of Wallack's, has also spent much time and money on the new extravaganza of "Hiawatha." "King John" is to be brought out in a style hitherto unequalled at the Bowery next Monday.

Court of Appeals

The Court of Appeals met in Albany on the 24th inst., and will probably continue in session for the residue of this month, for the purposes of consultation, and the decision of causes heretofore argued.

On the first of January there will be a change in the four members of the Court, taken from the Judges of the Supreme Court. After that date, and for the coming year, the Court of Appeals will consist of the following Judges:—

Elected as Judges of the Court of Appeals:—

Hiram Denio, Alexander S. Johnson, George F. Comstock, Samuel L. Selden.

From the Supreme Court:—

John W. Brown, Second district; Alonzo C. Paige, Fourth district; Wm. H. Shankland, Sixth district; Levi F. Bowen, Eighth district.

Reporter, Francis Kernan.

Clerk, Russell F. Hicks.

The next term of the Court for hearing arguments, will commence on the first Tuesday of January. The famous cause of the North American Trust and Banking Company was, at the last term, set down for the first day of the next term. The argument is expected to occupy a week or more. Eminent counsel are engaged in the cause, among whom we have heard mentioned N. Hill, S. Beardsley, G. C. Bronson, W. C. Noyes and C. O'Conor. There are doubtless other legal gentlemen connected with the cause.

ARREST FOR MANSLAUGHTER.—STARTLING DISCLOSURE AND ACCUSATION.—A telegraphic despatch was received by the Chief of Police last evening, from Buffalo, requesting him to arrest Dr. A. P. Biegler, of this city, for manslaughter. In the evening train officer Harris, of Erie county, came to take the doctor in custody, and from him we learn the following particulars of the grave accusation:—A young woman, 19 or 20 years of age, named Reesdale, whose father resides in this city, went to Buffalo, having found herself *enceinte*. Dr. Biegler was summoned thither to perform an operation for abortion, which, it is alleged, he undertook. In the performance the young woman was so badly injured that she survived the operation but a short time. Her death took place on Monday. The circumstances became known to the Coroner, who proceeded to hold an inquest upon the body of the unfortunate deceased, and elicited facts tending very seriously to implicate Dr. Biegler. A dispatch was at once sent on and the arrest made. The Coroner's jury was still in session last evening, and Sheriff Harris returned with his prisoner in the 8 o'clock train. This occurrence will shock this community, where the accused has practiced as a homeopathic and hydropathic physician many years, having re-established himself here on his release from imprisonment upon a sentence for arson several years since. He is a German, formerly practiced in Albany, and is well known throughout the State, and generally regarded as a very skilful practitioner.—*Rochester Democrat, Dec. 24.*

CHILDREN FOR THE WEST.—Some forty or fifty children, under charge of Mr. Tracey, agent of the New York Destitute Children's Aid Society, came up from New York yesterday *en route* for the West, where permanent homes will be secured for them.—*Albany Argus, Dec. 26.*

ADVERTISEMENTS RENEWED EVERY DAY.

THE LECTURE SEASON.

ELECTRO PSYCHOLOGY.—DR. BENTON CONTINUES his lectures and amusing experiments at Onderdonk Hall, 405 Grand street, Saturday and Monday evenings, Dec. 27 and 29, at 7½ o'clock. Admittance one shilling. Office for electoral applications for disease, 477 Broadway.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN UNION OF NEW YORK. Lectures for the course as follows:—

The Rev. E. H. Chapin, December 29. Subject—"Benjamin Franklin."

The Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, January 8. Subject—"The Commonwealth."

Dr. William Elder, February 3. Subject ——

Ralph Waldo Emerson, February 12. Subject—"The Conduct of Life."

The Rev. T. Starr King, February 17. Subject—"Existence and Life."

Wendell Phillipps, ——. Subject—"Philosophy of Reform."

The Hon. Nathaniel P. Banks, Jr., March 6. Subject ——

At Dr. Chapin's church, 543 Broadway, at 7½ P. M. Tickets for the course, prior to the first lecture, $1 50, single tickets 25 cents, may be procured of Van Norden & King, 45 Wall street; C. S. Francis & Co., 554 Broadway; T. J. Crowen, 609 Broadway, and other bookstores, and at the door on the evenings of the lectures.

DWIGHT H. OLMSTEAD, CLEMENT D. NEWMAN, WM. H. WOODMAN, } Lecture Com.

HOUSES, ROOMS, &C., WANTED.

A GENTLEMAN OF THE BAR AND HIS WIFE, RESIDING in the vicinity of New York, desire furnished apartments in the city for the winter months, in a respectable first class house—up town—parlor, bedroom, servant's room, kitchen, gas and baths. They will be found unusually eligible tenants. Address, stating terms and particulars, box 2,612 Post office.

A ROOM WANTED—SUITABLE FOR A DENTIST'S office, near Broadway, above Houston street. Address Dentist Herald office.

A QUIET, RESPECTABLE FAMILY, WITHOUT CHILdren, wish part of a house, consisting of kitchen, parlor, and three or four bedrooms, at moderate rent, situated between Spring and Twentieth streets, Sixth avenue and avenue A. Immediate possession wanted. Address box 109 Herald office, this day.

BOILER WANTED—ABOUT TWENTY FEET LONG twenty to twenty four inches in diameter with two flues, must be in perfect order. Address Boiler, Herald office.

HOUSE WANTED—THE ADVERTISER WISHES TO purchase a genteel city or country property in Brooklyn or on Staten Island, in exchange for good dividend paying stocks. Address C. A. G., Herald office, stating location.

JEWELRY AND MERCHANDISE WANTED, IN EXchange for land.—The subscriber being in possession of a large quantity of good available land in the State of Indiana, is desirous of exchanging the same for a good and general assortment of jewelry and merchandise. Any person wishing to exchange the same for land, will find it to their interest to address for one week G. F., box 155 Post office, Easton, Pa.

SHOP WANTED—FOR A TERM OF YEARS, BETWEEN Third and Seventh avenues, below Twentieth street, for manufacturing purposes; one with a small steam engine preferred. Address S. C., No. 336 Bowery.

STORE WANTED—SUITABLE FOR A PORTER house; rent not to exceed $500 per annum, payable monthly; or a good three story dwelling house that would be rented for an English chop house, convenient to Broadway, and not above Fourteenth street. Address William Johnstone, Herald office.

WANTED—BY THE FIRST OF JANUARY, TWO UNfurnished rooms, by an