AFFAIRS IN EUROPE AND ASIA.

The Mexican Imbroglio with Spain.

&c. &c. &c.

The Spanish Imbroglio with Mexico.

MADRID, March 14, 1857.

The War with Mexico—Doubts about the United States—Effect of the Herald's News by the Africa—A Solitary Voice for Peace—Orders to the Military—Officers for the Otlerica Regiments of Cuba—Movements of Diplomatists—Death of the Poet Quintana—Mil Diablos—Items of Interest—Slavery of Pierre Soulé—The Budget—The Deficit and its Consequences—The Assassination of Spaniards in Mexico, &c., &c.

We are bursting with rage. We are going to fight against Mexico in spite of all the manœuvres of all the diplomats who clue and change their white cravats twice a day. The people of Spain find war an especial pleasure when there is a deficit of $13,000,000 in the budget. In spite of debts, deficits and diplomacy, the preparations are going on actively, and you will soon know in the New World how to respect the ire of Spain.

Our chief trouble in this matter still is that which we give ourselves trying to imagine what will be the policy of the United States in this business. Something like a bombshell has fallen among us in the shape of a New York HERALD, brought by the steamer Africa. The whole press of Madrid has been exercised upon this subject. They all agree that if the United States has in fact signed a treaty to lend $15,000,000, receiving the pledge of fifteen per cent of the products of the Mexican Custom Houses to pay the interest on the same, with the State of Tamaulipas and the Isthmus of Tehuantepec as secret guarantees, it is for Spain a very serious business. Says the *Discusion*, "This, if it is certain, will have in our eyes a great importance, considering that if Spain is to obtain the satisfaction which is her right for the offences received and the treaties violated, she ought naturally to begin by making the rigor of the war fell in the Mexican ports, in whose security the United States will thus be interested."

I send you some documents from Mexico about the authorship of the assassinations, translated from the *Espana* newspaper, and also an article from the *Discusion*, containing a communication from Logroño, the residence of Espartero, which is the only voice which has been raised as yet in the Spanish press, of any party, proposing any other measures with regard to Mexico than that of a hostile expedition to be got ready as fast as possible. In this light it is curious, and I send it to you on account of its solitary and lone condition in the Spanish press. You see that even the democratic organ rails it down with an exhilarating article of the most patriotic character.

On the 5th instant the order was issued for all the military officers destined for the army beyond seas to repair immediately to the port of Cadiz, whatsoever might be the reason of their absence. Officers complete for eight battalions of infantry are being sent forward for the forces which are to be raised in Cuba itself. Three quadrons and the Spanish reinforcements for the Cuban army are also being prepared with great expedition. About three thousand men will be the first detachment which will sail. Senor Rores, late Charge d'Affaires of Spain in Mexico, has arrived at Cadiz in the steamship Isabel, in Cubana, and is coming on to Madrid in all haste, to give an account of the state of things in Mexico, and of the way in which he wound up his mission. Senor Latrigue, appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Mexico to Spain, has arrived in Paris, where it seems he has very prudently stopped to ascertain whether he will be received in Madrid or not. The *Heraldo* says that he will not be received, and the *Heraldo* is good authority.

The great event of the day in Madrid is the death of the patriot poet, Quintana, whose funeral yesterday was attended by half the population of Madrid. Before the hearse was borne the golden crown of laurel which the nation gave him two years since. He is the first poet crowned by the Spanish nation who has died, and he merited both the honor of the crown and the respect of the crowd who followed him tearfully to his tomb, in spite of the jealousy and neglect of the present government. Quintana will live while the Spanish language lives, and will die only when Calderon and Cervantes are also forgotten.

As to interior politics, we are given up, as they say in Castilian, "mil diablos," which is no less than a thousand separate devils—little ones, of course—or how could you expect the rosy lips and divine voices of these Madrid women to talk about a thousand devils if they were not little ones? When in any society the higher elements of politics are locking, men and women also set themselves to gossip, and this is precisely what happens in Madrid. Politicians make war on each other with gossip. A thousand idle tales, which I suppose must be the tale of the thousand devils alluded to, circulate daily through all the cafés and saloons of Madrid. But I think they are generally intended to tempt the unwary, and I suppress them for the benefit of your readers.

General Serrano leaves the Embassy of Paris, in spite of the fact that his wife is pretty and very acceptable in the society of the imperial Court. He is coming also to head the opposition to the government of Narvaez in the Senate, which meets on the 1st of May.

The Queen seems to be afraid of O'Donnell, and calls him every two or three days to tell him how much she likes him, and that Narvaez is old and ugly, and wears a wig.

He who seems to have most fact in politics at present is General Concha, Marquis of the Duero, who sent, in General Concha, Marquis of the Duero, who sent, here, works fearlessly and keeps silent, whilst the rest are stirring up those thousand long tailed gentlemen before alluded to.

Senor Mon has at last started for Rome.

Don Calas Bravo also started for London, but his post chaise upset and he broke his head. With the unbroken portion, however, he still continued his journey to represent her Catholic Majesty at St. James'. It is true that half a head, if it is a good one, is worth more than a dozen such as I could name. The French Embassy at this Court comprises ten heads and nineteen legs, because, as you know, the Ambassador himself has only one leg—that which Soulé left him. I am indignant at the articles in the *Espana* with respect to Soulé. Certainly, as a diplomatist, he committed errors; but in all justice, Soulé did no more than follow out the policy laid down for him by his government at home. Soulé found himself here in the midst of a Frenchified society, which was hostile to him from the beginning. The conduct of the French Ambassador and of the family of the French Empress towards him and his family was mean and petty, and irritated his naturally energetic and impulsive character. But let the enemies of Soulé say what they please; he has qualities which have been rightly feared here and in Europe. His valor, his generosity, and his love for things great and bold, take him out from the ranks of our vulgar politicians, and mark him as a superior man.

In the budget published by this government the expenses for the year 1857 amount to $91,000,000. The presumed revenue will be about $78,000,000, leaving a deficit of $13,000,000 to be covered by the proceeds of the $15,000,000 lately contracted with Mirlos. As $5,000,000 of this loan have already been consumed the account will be hardly balanced, at any rate, at the end of the year. In this flourishing state of the treasury we expect to go to war with Mexico, and spend money enough to flourish her soundly.

THE WAR WITH MEXICO—OPINIONS OF THE SPANISH PRESS.

[Translated from the Discusion (democratic) organ, March 15, for the NEW YORK HERALD.]

Although we do not entirely agree with all the ideas and aspirations contained in the article which we insert as a sequel to these lines, we have thought proper to give it a place in our columns on account of the good intentions which seem to have inspired it, of the spirit of patriotism which can be clearly perceived in it, and of the correct information which its author seems to possess concerning the important question with which he occupies himself.

We believe that some of his observations are worthy of attention, and that the Spanish government will have to display in this affair at least as much skill as energy. The choice of the person who is to command the forces destined for Mexico, is truly a delicate and difficult task, since the conduct he may observe the qualities which are recognized in him, and the idea which people may have of him in that country may influence in a great degree the successful solution of our differences with the republic, causing to disappear the difficulties which embarrass it, or imparting to them an importance that may occasion an European conflict. But, apart from this consideration, in which the writer of the article is right, we are of opinion that the fears which he manifests are rather exaggerated. The United States, whatever may be their desires of favoring Mexico, if a war should take place, cannot but recognize the motives which actuate us, and they will comprehend that there no being on our part an unlawful aggression, and they not being interested personally in the question, a pretext is wanting to them to interfere in the quarrel. If, in spite of this, the feeling of their own interests prevails with them over the rights of justice, and they pretend to take advantage of the opportunity in order to make an attempt against our Antilles, that complication, however possible it may prove, ought not to be an obstacle to our undertaking. Such an event would neither be unexpected nor strange, but it is in the nature of things that the preservation of our Ancient province should oblige us to have an encounter with the Yankees; and as that day may arrive, and will probably arrive, it is of no consequence that it should be more or less anticipated. We will do to day, owing to the Mexican question, what we should have to do tomorrow for any other motive, to defend ourselves with energy, and show that it is not so easy as is believed to make attempts with impunity against our rights. This, as far as regards Spain; with respect to the other European Powers, principally England and France, we are certain, because their own interests thus counsel it, that they would not abandon us on this question, nor would they remain idle before the aggressive pretensions of the United States.

Neither do we fear to raise up there a national war or a war of races; more especially should the Spanish government observe the conduct which we have advised it to do, and limit its action to what our interest and our dignity alike demand—not launch itself into rash, hazardous and ridiculous enterprises.

Spain does not go, and ought not to go to Mexico to realize a project of conquest opposed to the ideas of modern civilization, and incompatible with the equilibrium of the world. Neither is she going to destroy the constitutions of that country, establishing in their place an impossible monarchy to bestow it on a prince of the Bourbon family. We carry our forces to Mexico with the double object of taking satisfaction for the crimes committed against our countrymen and securing the security that they will not be repeated in future. As regards the forms of government, let that country have those which it may think proper to give itself; and Spain, if she does not wish to remedy one abuse with another, if possible more to be condemned, should abstain from interfering in this matter. But let it be understood that the preparations for war that we are making by sea and by land, that the expenses which the expedition gives rise to, that the solemn compromise which we have contracted before Europe, oblige us not to lay down our arms until we have completely obtained our object; that is to say, until we see in Mexico a constituted government which may have power enough to cause the persons and property of our brethren to be respected.

The evils which must occur from hostilities are deeply to be felt, and the more so if they fall, as the author of the article declares, upon properties belonging to the Spaniards; but when justice declares the war to be inevitable, the only thing to be done is to resign oneself to the misfortunes which are always the inseparable companions, more especially as Spain will not have to bear the blame of these misfortunes which will fall of right on the Mexican government; in other words the latter government will be obliged to indemnify the Spaniards who may have property in Mexico for the losses which a war to which we have been provoked may cause them, and which we only undertake to give satisfaction to justice, and to maintain the prestige of the Spanish name.

We give here the article which has inspired us with these reflections.

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More than 25,000 Spaniards are residing in the Mexican republic, who represent property to the amount of at least $25,000,000. In addition to this a great or the greater part of the buildings in Mexico, Vera Cruz, and other towns, belong to Spanish families who, for the most part, reside in Spain.

The greatest satisfaction which can be given to the enemies of the Spanish race in America is that the Spaniards should begin a war with Mexico.

That the United States desire this war every one knows, as well as the motive of this desire.

The government of the United States has just lent to that of Mexico $25,000,000, and this means a great deal, a very great deal, in the actual picture of affairs.

If the Spaniards bombard Vera Cruz the greater part or the whole of what they destroy will be the property of Spaniards, and these will be the first victims.

If we show judgment and tact in the choice of negotiators the actual question with Mexico may be quickly and easily settled, and means may be taken at the same time to strengthen the union and fraternity between these two countries, which are truly sisters.

It has been said, and we are of the same opinion, that if it is possible to have a national war in Mexico it can be only against the Spaniards. Let not this be forgotten, as it is very important that the Spanish government and the nation at large should understand this truth in order to appreciate the results which may flow from it.

We are of opinion that our government ought, before commencing hostilities, to reflect well, and make itself previously acquainted with everything; and for this result it would be proper to send a commission to Mexico, who should investigate the facts, and who should confer with the Mexican government, selecting to be present at these conferences respectable and worthy Spaniards out of those residing in that country, and who, on account of their independence, will not be subjected to the influence under which diplomatic and public men labor. This question ought to be considered as purely a family one, and to be treated as such. If in fact it is wished that the results shall not cause bloodshed between brothers.

The idea that the Mexicans will admit of foreign interference, more especially of a Spanish one, in order to dictate to them a particular kind of government, can only be entertained by persons who are not acquainted with those who were once Spaniards; and we say this because deluded persons are not wanting who think it very easy to found a monarchy there, for which object a great deal has already been done, and a great deal of money has been misspent. * * * * * * *

MEXICAN DOCUMENTS RECEIVED IN MADRID.

[Translated from the Diario Espanol for the NEW YORK HERALD.]

GENERAL RARO, CHIEF COMMANDER OF CUERNAVACA, TO GENERAL ALVAREZ.

To his Excellency, General Don Juan Alvarez, in reply to his letter of the 21st inst., I communicate, amongst other news, the following:—

The principal families of this town have emigrated from it, with such property as they have been able to take with them. In addition to these, more than a hundred Spaniards in the conditions between masters and servants of the possessions and houses of commerce, have left. This flight has not taken place on your account, whom the population are disposed to receive in a brilliant manner, but on account of the staff which accompanies you, composed of Villalse, Mariano Hernandez, Abascal, and others of disreputable character, who will only reflect reproach on those who command them. The approach of Villalba and of your Secretary to San Jose and San Gabriel, was a signal which alarmed the whole district, and which induced all the Spaniards to fly, abandoning their interests and their labors. I offered them every kind of guarantee; I told them that those men, being under your command would abstain from committing their usual excesses. They would not be persuaded to remain by anything I said to them, because the horrible excesses of San Vicente, in whose assassinations your name and that of Villalba were cheered with the addition of the cry of death to the Spaniards, were fresh in their memories.

I wish to be frank in relating to you what has occurred. This is my accustomed way of acting, and you are well aware of the zeal which I have always manifested in favor of your good name.

HIS BROTHER DOCTOR GIDION TO A FRIEND.

CUERNAVACA, Dec. 21, 1856.

I have great pleasure in writing you a few lines, by the kind favor of Don José Aguierre and Don Cerilio, administrator of the estate of Atlacomulco, who, with many other Spaniards of the neighboring estates, are on their way to Mexico, from their occupations by bands of thieves and assassins who infest this valley.

About forty of these brigands surprised the estate of San Vicente on Thursday, at 6½ o'clock in the morning, and murdered Don Nicolas Bermejillo and four others, all Spaniards, in the most horrible manner; one of them escaped, wounded, and I am attending him here.

I was immediately called for, and I, with some risk, went without delay, finding that the administrator, the last of the five who survived, had expired about two hours before.

The scene was horrible, and the servants and laborers were so terrified that it was with the greatest difficulty that I could persuade any of them to assist me. The proprietor, Don Nicolas, offered supplicatingly, for his life $40,000, but the only replies were oaths, and that they had to fulfill their mission of exterminating the Spaniards. They were slaughtered in the most horrible manner, one of them having sixteen shots in his body.

In this town there are more than a hundred Spaniards seeking for protection, but I fear that there is very little security, because bands of these vandals are ravaging the neighboring territory, and it is said that they are now very near us.

Some of the Spaniards who have arrived here have escaped miraculously and they are all determined to sell their lives as dearly as possible. They are desperate.

I must add that the circulars of these atrocities are supposed to be Don Juan Alvarez, his son and Villalba.

LETTER FROM A HIGH ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE MEXICAN REPUBLIC TO A DIPLOMATIC AGENT ACCREDITED TO THE SAME REPUBLIC.

CUERNAVACA, Dec. 24, 1856.

Your two letters of yesterday, which I have read, reveal clearly enough our condition and what is to be hoped for as a remedy for our misfortunes; but we must have patience. The day before yesterday, at six in the evening, near the tower of Chiptlan, a party of bandits presented themselves at the entrance to this town. Senor Haro ordered them to halt. The licenciate, Hernandez, Secretary of General Alvarez, who commanded it, and the Major General of the division of Senor Alvarez were put out at this, but at length Hernandez determined to enter, accompanied by a few others dressed in jackets, whom I suppose were officers and soldiers. He spoke with Senor Haro, delivering to him some letters from Don Juan, which recommended Hernandez for the attainment of his commission, which was the procurement of some $4,000 or $5,000. He then retired, and the soldiers remained outside in the turret. At eight Hernandez presented to Don Degrado a letter from Don Dego, asking for money, but he took none with him. He brought another for Don Ramon Portillo and only took with him $4,000, which Silvo furnished him with. Yesterday, at about 9 o'clock in the morning, they asked me for Don Beese on the part of the commandant, in order that he might take up Barreto and Abascal, Alvarez's satellites, as both of them slept in the town and the second had the audacity to walk about in the square.

I have questioned the Alcalde of Yautepec in order to learn with certainty who were those who had taken part in the assassinations of San Vicente, and he tells me that up to the present time he has not been able to find out, because the criminals threatened with death those who should denounce them. But it seems to be an undoubted fact that they belonged to the troops of Villalba or Casales, as they saw six or seven soldiers of the party which the latter commands, and it is declared that Barreto also took part in them.

The *Espana* of the 13th March, commenting on the above says:—

In order to cover appearances the Mexican government sent to Cuernavaca the Judge Contreras, one of the magistrates of the capital, with a commission to investigate who had been the authors of the robberies and murders committed against the Spaniards, but Contreras has returned to Mexico, and as is said publicly, has declared to Comonfort and his ministers that no investigation could be attempted without failing at every step upon numerous proofs that the responsibility of the crimes belonged to Gen. Alvarez. In Cuernavaca every kind of threat and violence has been employed to intimidate those who might reveal facts and data against that savage chief.

The Mission of Lord Elgin to China.

[Translated from the Paris Assemblée Nationale, March 17, for the New York Herald.]

The nomination of Lord Elgin to the post of Plenipotentiary near the Court of Pekin has been unreservedly approved by the London *Times*, and it was impossible to choose for that distant and delicate mission, after the events of which it is difficult to foresee the consequences, a man of a more sound judgment, of a more elevated and conciliatory spirit, in a word, a man more able to provide for all the emergencies of this most complicated situation. Some years ago Lord Elgin had the distinction of pacifying Canada, pushed to revolt by several successive years of mal-administration, and already inclining towards its neighbor, the United States. He accomplished—says the London *Times*—with so much skill and success the delicate task which was regarded even as impossible, to convert the rebellious Canadians into English royalists, that his popularity extended beyond the frontiers of the colony, and that, in the neighboring States, ovations were voted to him. Later, he successfully negotiated between British America and the United States a commercial treaty based on the principle of reciprocity. "But wherefore shall we insist upon his merits," asks the same newspaper, "since not a single objection has been raised against this choice, although the name of Lord Elgin was pronounced by everybody, from the moment that it was thought of to send a new plenipotentiary to China?"

Lord Elgin is neither a political, nor even a personal friend of Lord Palmerston. We may add, without fear of contradiction, that he frequently blamed the policy of the Secretary of State, and both the spirit and the proceedings introduced by the noble viscount into the international relations of England. For calling him to such an important post, Lord Palmerston must have been determined, not only by the gravity of the situation which is to be provided for, but also by the well recognized necessity to alter the policy which has been condemned by the House of Commons. Between Lord Palmerston unreservedly approving of the conduct of Sir John Bowring and the same Minister entrusting Lord Elgin with the charge of directing the affairs of Canton, there is a thorough conversion, and as we willingly admit, a very clever one. The confidence at once accorded to the plenipotentiary will make up that for which the minister will have so much pain to retrace. Some days ago we said—"If Lord Palmerston, after the discomfiture which he just suffered, remains in power, he will remain much altered and much changed, if not entirely converted; it will no more be the Lord Palmerston of some years ago, nor even of some months ago." The nomination of Lord Elgin goes far to support our forebodings.

What will be the instructions given to the new plenipotentiary? Certainly we do not pretend to know them. But, if we are allowed to express our opinion, we believe them to be very simple and general. The cabinet did not disavow either Sir John Bowring or Mr. Parkes, because it could not; because, as was very clearly proved in both houses of Parliament, Mr. Parkes and Sir John Browring did nothing but conform themselves to Palmerston's policy, and, perhaps, even follow precise instructions which emanated from Downing street. Their conduct in Canton is throughout after the manner of Lord Palmerston. The treaties with China were about to expire. It had been talked of to establish with France and the United States to bring about in common their being renewed. This regular and slow proceeding, so well adapted to true diplomacy, is in no manner to the taste of the noble lord. To provoke a conflict without well knowing what will come from it, to embroil for the moment matters, were it but for an opportunity to step forward and to reduce more or less his allies to the position of satellites and attendants—this is the Palmerstonian idea, free from all drawbacks, and carried out in its most complete form. Wherefore, in fact, the recommendation addressed to Sir John Bowring to present again, at the first opportunity, the demand of entering Canton, according to the treaty of 1842? Wherefore the authority given him contrary to previous instructions, of employing the armed force without even referring to the government? Was it not quite natural to wait, in order to obtain an entrance to Canton, for to negotiate the treaties renewal? Evidently Lord Palmerston wished to strike a blow in those regions, to establish, as it were, the superiority and supremacy of England, and at the same time he flattered himself that the counter-effect in London would be favorable to his policy. He must soon know that in all probability he has been strangely mistaken.

It is useless to recall the effect produced in England by the news from Canton. Save some commercial houses of Liverpool and some merchants of London, who consider matters from a point of view not very disinterested, there was but one feeling in regard to the conduct of the Governor of Hong Kong, the bombardment of Canton, and that abuse of force, which was supported by a lie. The House of Commons was but the interpreter of this feeling, and amongst the members who, for party considerations, deemed it their duty to remain faithful to the ministry, there is, perhaps, not a single one who did not think like the majority, and who did not feel embarrassed by his vote. But in China itself matters seem to have gone much farther than Lord Palmerston wished it. He met in the population of Canton a disposition to fight with a resolute force which he did not at all expect. What was originally calculated to remain a local and transitory conflict, out of which he hoped to gain an easy triumph, threatens to turn out a general and serious war. Already Admiral Seymour has been obliged to give up a part of his positions; he seems to think less of threatening Canton than of covering Hong Kong, and the situation, such as it has been revealed by the last news, does not fail to cause in England some uneasiness.

Let us hope that the forces sent from the Mauritius, and those which left Portsmouth will arrive in time to prevent a catastrophe. But even then, will all the skill, prudence, moderation and firmness of Lord Elgin be sufficient to terminate peaceably and to the honor of Great Britain an affair so unfortunately engaged? It is clear that the Cabinet itself is not at all tranquil on this point. It is seen from the speech of Lord Panmure, Minister of War, in the House of Lords, on Friday last—and our readers will doubtless have remarked the phrase where he defends himself against ever having declared that he did approve the bombardment of Canton—it results from this speech that the government was unable to give Lord Elgin any precise instructions, and that it almost limited itself to recommending to him to exercise all his efforts for putting an end to the affair in a peaceable manner; that is to say, to draw England as fast as possible out of the embarrassment wherein Lord Palmerston put her. Evidently, people dare not in London rely on the employment of force and prefer to give up for the present time the idea of striking a great blow, rather than to engage in a new war with the Celestial Empire.

China is no longer what it was in the year 1840. On the one hand the hatred to foreigners seems rather to have been increasing than diminishing, and on the other hand its military condition and means of defence have been considerably improved. The palace revolution, so wittily called to mind by Mr. Gladstone, in his speech on the motion of Mr. Cobden, which at the beginning of the present reign threw down Mon-Tchang-Ha, first minister, and Ki-In, the negotiator of the treaty of Nankin, was an event more important than is generally believed. The diplomatist and minister have been sacrificed to the hatred of strangers, and to the popular wrath excited by the concessions accorded to the barbarians in 1842. This feeling has not abated since 1850, it grew rather stronger, and the Son of Heaven is obliged to conform his policy to it. The treaties concluded with the Europeans were one of the grievances alleged against his dynasty by the rebels who have been waging war on him for these seven years, and whom he is unable to conquer. To accord new concessions would be the same as to expose himself to lend new forces to the insurrection and to lose his crown. The war with the barbarians may, on the contrary, bring back to him a portion of those who have taken part with the rebels.

At the same time time, the army and the people have become accustomed to war whilst fighting against the Shanghaes; and during their civil wars their fire arms have been very much improved. Ki-In, one of the statesmen who paid with disgrace the honor of having taken part in the negotiations of 1842, was the first author of those reforms. "He perfectly understood—says a reliable writer on this matter—that the Chinese soldiers armed like the heroes of Homer, with bows and arrows, or embarrassed with old fashioned arquebuses, were unable to fight against European troops; he undertook to change their grotesque equipments." Percussion guns were fabricated under the superintendence of a prince of the imperial family; at the same time, the stock of munitions in the arsenals was increased and caps provided in number.

We all know that the most warlike and quarrelsome ministers are not always those who think most of the preparations which form the strength and security of empires. However, we believe that the successors of the negotiator Ki-In and of the peaceable Mon-Tchang-Ha did not neglect to work out the reforms introduced by them in the military system of their country.

Therefore if the English should have a new war with China they can no longer expect to meet with those badly armed soldiers they so easily vanquished some fifteen years ago. At the close of the last war they became aware that the Chinese troops grew more and more inured to battle, and that, either having learned from their agressors themselves to defend themselves better, or some foreign element having introduced amongst them new habits of discipline and notion of tactics, they opposed a stronger resistance to the Europeans. None of those who were present in the campaign of 1842, or who have perused the reports of the newspapers of that period, forget the savage energy with which Chin-Kiang-Fou was defended, or the stain thrown on the English name by the sack of that unfortunate city. To-day one may expect to meet, from the first fight, such soldiers as the defenders of that celebrated city.

It is not for us to say that the Chinese have already attained a point to fight advantageously against Europeans, but it is evident that, on their part, a resistance better calculated and more difficult to conquer must be expected. Being accustomed to war, better armed, and as ever obstinate in their hatred against the strangers, war may be a bad means to bring them to new concessions; and this war, if it be unavoidable, may one day cost dear those who, without necessity, provoked it.

Therefore, we understand the first and only recommendation given to Lord Elgin to be to bring matters to a close as soon as possible. England cannot think of new conquests in China; and the concessions she may still be able to obtain will never be equivalent to what a distant war will cost her, in which, whatever may be said to the contrary, she cannot hope for any help from her allies, and in which her enemies will be enabled to find—more or less directly—the occasion to humble, one day, her power and her pride. Will the wisdom, moderation and skill of the new plenipotentiary suffice to find an honorable way out of this difficult position? We do not know; but nobody was more worthy of such a mission, and the interest of his country is sufficiently deeply engaged for overcoming the hesitations of Lord Elgin to accept it.

Mr. Buchanan's Inaugural in England.

[From the London Times, March 21.]

The inaugural message of the new American President will, perhaps, disappoint those who waited for his arrival with anxiety. It would seem that, though the forms of a monarchy and a republic may differ, the teachings of political experience are the same in both. The session of the British Parliament is usually opened with a royal speech—a composition which has been the butt of sarcastic generations of satirists, but which bears the ground because it is exactly suited to the circumstances of our political life. Ministers who do not wish to appear without a policy, and are yet unwilling to commit themselves and the margin but significant paragraphs of a speech from the throne the best means of indicating their intentions with a prudent vagueness. The American republicans from the beginning refused to countenance such brevity; they would have a clear narrative of the past and a clear plan of the future from the hand of their chief magistrate. Yet, as the concerns of the country become more extended, as the relations between the States become more delicate and complicated, as the republic is brought more and more into connection with the Powers of Europe, as questions of foreign policy assume greater importance, we find that the messages of the Presidents are more cautious and reserved, and that these powerful and almost irresponsible rulers imitate the vagueness, if they are denied the emotionness, of a royal speech. Mr. Buchanan has been elected President after the most exciting contest of recent times. Since our own reform bill there has been nothing like it on either side of the Atlantic. Americans, generally disposed to laugh at the predictions of dissension and disruption which are sometimes heard in English society, and to set them down as the voice of ignorance or jealousy, admitted that they could not help taking a serious view of the struggle in 1856. The anger and boisterous invective of the Southern States, the bitter resentment of the North, the fanatical excitement of the abolitionists, and the deeds of blood in Kansas made the contest an anxious struggle. Add to this that the foreign policy to which Mr. Buchanan had given his sanction at Ostend justly rouse the apprehensions of more than one foreign state. England, Spain, Mexico, and even France were all more or less interested in the question whether a statesman should be raised for four years to power far greater than that of a constitutional minister, after having scornfully subscribed to doctrines which, carried into action, would give foreign States no alternative between undignified submission and forcible resistance. As it was, the relations between England and the States were still unsettled; the questions relating to the Bay Islands and Nicaragua were still the subject of negotiation; and a hostile President might delay for an indefinite term the desired solution. We and all the world, as well as the Americans, took the deepest interest in the election, and when that was decided, waited with something of impatience for the new President's political programme. This document we have at last, *but it falls short of satisfying the curiosity which has been awakened.*

Mr. Buchanan is certainly the most distinguished politician who has been elected to the Presidency during the last twenty years. More than one of his predecessors have merely profited by political combinations or political jealousies. When one section would not tolerate the leading man of another section, both would unite to raise to the highest place some one whose mediocre qualities disarmed apprehension and dislike. But Mr. Buchanan is the leading man of his party; he is first in ability, as in place, among the democratic politicians of his country. We cannot suspect him of weakness or imagine him to be sincerely commonplace; we may therefore attribute to his experience and judgment the singular moderation and incoherence of the present message. The President commences by saying that, having determined not to be a candidate for re election, he has no object but faithfully to serve his country during his term of office, and to live in the memory of his countrymen. As at the expiration of his Presidency Mr. Buchanan will be in his 70th year, we can well understand that he is anxious to conclude worthily a long political life by his conduct during the next four years, without looking further into futurity. The President then declares his adherence to the principle now recognized by the country—that the will of the majority in each Territory or State shall determine the establishment of domestic slavery. "Congress is neither to legislate slavery into any Territory or State nor to exclude it therefrom, but to leave the people thereof perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the constitution of the United States." This principle Mr. Buchanan represents, and its enunciation is nothing new. By it slavery and non-slavery are allowed to battle it out between them without the interference of any controlling authority. Slavery may force its way up to the British frontier, and freedom may carve for itself new domains out of the wilds of Texas. Territorial premises and boundary lines are now effaced. Territory will be won by either of the two systems, according to the energy and progress of its representatives. "May we not, then," says Mr. Buchanan, "hope that the geographical parties to which the question has given birth will become speedily extinct?" Thus is the terrible problem solved by the new government of the United States.

The President then proceeds to point out the folly and want of patriotism displayed by those who during the late struggle hinted at and even advocated the disruption of the Union. We need not follow him into his arguments that the preservation of this great confederacy tends to the developements and civilization of every part. The fulness of the American treasury is the gratifying subject of the next few paragraphs. This plethora of income has, it appears, given rise to wild schemes of expenditure, and *called into existence a race of jobbers who threaten to corrupt the virtue of the republic.* As "a relief from this embarrassment," the President proposes to appropriate the surplus to great national objects, the extinguishment of the public debt, a reasonable increase of the navy, and the defence of the extended sea coast. The squandering of the public money, it is then urged, sinks into insignificance compared with the waste of the public lands, and the President calls attention to the powers inherent in Congress and in the several States with regard to this subject. The next point is the necessity of a military road from the Atlantic States to California, so that in case of war reinforcements might be sent to the far West without the necessity of passing round the Horn or across the Isthmus. It will be seen that these topics are of a domestic character, and neither in themselves nor in the manner in which they are treated do they exhibit anything novel or striking. The convulsion of the electoral struggle has certainly passed away, to be succeeded by a soothing calm of no mean improvement.

But what of the new President's foreign policy? Ostend was here the Monroe doctrine and the Ostend manifesto to be developed by the triumphant champion of the democracy? To these questions the inaugural message offers but vague answers. The two concluding paragraphs are devoted to "our rights and duties as a member of the great family of nations." The duties, as defined by Mr. Buchanan, are such as might satisfy the most scrupulous moralist or most lax lawyer. To cultivate peace, commerce and friendship with foreign nations, not only with a view to material interest, but in a spirit of Christian benevolence, to employ a diplomacy which shall be direct and frank, to cherish a sacred regard for the independence of nations—such are the principles of public policy which are to guide the conduct of Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Cass. We are, however, next brought to the application of these principles as understood by their propounder. The United States, we are told, have never extended their dominions by the sword, for Texas was annexed by the vote of a free people, and that half of the Mexican territory which was added to the Union ten years ago was fairly purchased after the Mexican armies had been beaten. While the American government continues to act on this principle, "no nation will have a right to interfere or complain if in the progress of events we shall still further extend our possessions." These are the most measured inductions we can gain of the President's policy. To acquire territory he looks upon as natural and praiseworthy, if it be by the will of a majority of the actual settlers, or the stipulations of a pecuniary bargain. The application we must leave to the individual judgments of our readers. However, *there are but same doctrines after the Ostend Manifesto.* On the whole, we think we see symptoms of that necessary moderation which accompanies the assumption of responsibility. The government of a Buchanan and a Cass could not say less than is said in this inaugural discourse. Let us hope that temperance of tone will be followed by frankness of conduct, and that one of the first results will be the final settlement of those trifling differences which still exist between the two great free nations of the world.

Miscellaneous Items.

Letters from Marseilles of the 18th say that the American ship Adriatic being arrested in consequence of the collision with the steamer Lyonnais, the Captain demurred to the jurisdiction of the French courts and appealed to an American tribunal. The objection was overruled and the cause will be heard before the Tribunal of Commerce. The survivors of the Lyonnais are waiting to give their evidence.

There was not much business transacted last week by the Paris manufacturers. From some of the manufacturing towns the accounts are rather favorable. Woollen stuffs are in demand, and some large orders have been received from Paris. Calicoes are not so easily disposed of. There has been a small rise in the price of cotton thread. Complaints are made of the non-arrival of order for silk from the United States. New York merchants decline to purchase silk goods at the present high price, which is 30 to 40 per cent higher than that of last year.

News has been received from Algiers, announcing that one-fifth more of land has been sown with wheat this year than last, and the growing crop promises an abundant harvest.

There is a progressive rise in the prices of colonial produce. The corn and particularly the flour markets are excessively dull. A speedy fall in the price of wheat is inevitable. Flour of the best quality was offered at the last market at 75f. 50c. the sack of 157 kilogrammes. The bakers have supplied themselves with flour worth 1f. the sack. The reserve of flour in the market stores of France is large.

The following is an extract from the London *Times*:—Cadiz letters state that the forts of Vera Cruz had fired on the boats of the Spanish war steamer Ferrouna whose Commander has demanded an explanation. There are several French and English ships on the station. The Mexicans boast that they have assistance from the United States.

The government propose to convert the French five per cent bonds into four and a half per cent ones.

The Neuchatel Conference would probably meet on the 25th ult.

Russia having demanded an explanation of the recent landing of three hundred Poles and Turks under Mehemet Bey from the English steamer Kangaroo on the coast of Circassia, the Porte has appointed a commission of inquiry.

The Hamburg money market was rather easier, discount having receded to five per cent.

Sir John Crampton performed the ceremony of kissing hands on his departure as Minister to Hanover.

Diplomatic relations are suspended between Austria and Sardinia. The Piedmontese *Gazette* announces the recall of Count Pasar, the Austrian Minister, with the whole of his legation from Turin. The Austrian citizens are transferred to the protection of the Prussian Minister. The recall takes place without a rigorous diplomatic rupture.

There are reports from Naples of some relaxation in the prison severities—also of an unofficial mission of M. Pianelli to Paris to conciliate the Western Powers.

An insurrection had occurred in the Persian Tauris, where a cousin of the Shah is Governor.

Dates from the Indian Isles to the 6th ulto. have been received.

The elections are declared void. The Chambers accuse the British government of having tampered with the electoral lists. A dissolution of the Chambers is probable.

The Paris *Moniteur Etoile* gives the details of the arrest and interrogatories of the Chinese cooer who was executed for poisoning bread at Hong Kong. He stated that he acted agreeably to the orders of the Viceroy, who had bought him by a gratuity of the manufacturer. The orders informed Allum, the baker, that the English having declared war, it was his duty to assist in their destruction; that the soldiers used fire and sword to fight them, and he was to use poison. If he disobeyed these orders, his family at Canton would be thrown into prison and his property confiscated. He made two kinds of bread, one poisoned for the English, which was unintentionally given to the other foreigners, and another kind only for the Chinese.

The two British steamers forced Fort Nangasaki in Japan, because they were refused admission contrary to the treaty. Communications, however, were made to the Emperor who published an edict, giving orders that the three ports should be opened; but the crews of any foreign vessels are forbidden to penetrate into the interior.

Advices from Constantinople state that civil war is raging in Persia.

The London *Gazette* contains a notice from the Board of Trade that Denmark has engaged to abolish the Sound Dues from the 1st of April.

The steamer Tamar brings intelligence that there has been a modification of the law with regard to differential duties by which ships can now discharge a part of their cargo at Montevideo and Buenos Ayres, and proceed up the river with the remainder.

NEW OCEAN STEAM LINES.

New Steam Line Proposed Between New York and Galway—Interview with Commodore Vanderbilt, "the Rothschild of New York."

TORONTO, March 16, 1857.

REV. AND DEAR SIR—Many reasons, both of a public and private nature, suggest to my mind that I should dedicate the following national, humane and apparently Herculean undertaking to you, namely, my efforts to establish as a packet station, the "Capital of the West," the far famed "Isle of the Tribes," the scene of my late arduous but ill requited exertions; and what still surrounds it with a more affectionate and hallowed association, the land of my forefathers.

In the first place, the positions you have so long and so worthily filled, in connexion with the Grand Jury and Harbor Boards of Galway, pre eminently entitle you to it, as also your intimacy with the nobility, gentry and merchants of that county and town, and your long tried untiring anxieties for the promotion and prosperity of their interest. Neither can I exclude from my consideration the incident of your having been my guardian.

Many times the idea has occurred to me that the attainment of this most desirable object required only ordinary exertions, and viewing it even in the light of a money speculation, I defy the most skeptical and cautious financier by the most artful reasoning from the geographical position and other capabilities of Galway and its vicinity, to create a doubt, either as to its being perfectly practicable or unquestionably remunerative.

Yielding to these impressions I communicated my thoughts on the subject to a gentleman nearly related to a late dignitary of our church in Ireland, who occupies an influential position in New York, and he kindly accompanied me, a few days ago, to the office of Commodore Vanderbilt, considered, I believe, the Rothschild of New York. This gentleman told us that he then had eight first class steamers disengaged, and was willing to let one of them on hire for a sum I do not judge prudent at present to mention, and not only that he would be a stockholder himself, and act as director, but would sell ten thousand pounds worth of stock for us. After an interview of more than an hour, during which we calculated the pros and cons, we thanked him for the useful important information he afforded us, and also for his extreme courtesy, we left truly gratified.

Of course the only way this project can be set afloat is by a joint stock company, registered under the provisions of the Limited Liabilities act, which everybody knows restricts a shareholder's responsibility to the amount of his shares. We would require at least three first class