NEWS FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON.

THE WAR IN INDIA.

Investment of Lucknow by Colin Campbell.

ADDITIONAL FROM CHINA.

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

DECLINE IN CORN AND COTTON.

Some Mistake about Spanish Emancipation.

Our London, Plymouth St. Petersburg and Hong Kong Correspondence, &c., &c., &c.

The steamship City of Washington, which sailed from Liverpool at 11 o'clock on the morning of the 31st of March, arrived at this port yesterday afternoon.

The news is four days later than that brought by the America, but is not of special importance.

The English papers were generally engaged in criticising the bill amending the government of India; and the new project was, in a majority of cases, regarded as impracticable.

The story taken out by the America, that the Spanish government had presented a project of law abolishing slavery in all the Spanish territories, *is not confirmed, and is supposed to be unfounded.* It appeared as a telegraphic despatch in the Brussels *Nord.*

Parliament was not in session, having adjourned for the Easter holidays.

The London *News* of the 31st of March says:—

The partisans of the late Ministry are proclaiming the approaching rejection of Lord Ellenborough's India bill and the return to office of Lord Palmerston, consequent on the subsequent resignation of the authors of bill No. 2 for India. Both bills have their good and bad points. The *Daily News* recommends that they should be remitted to a select committee, with instructions to retain that part of Lord Palmerston's bill which delegates the Governors of India to a President and a real Council, to enlarge the Council to the number proposed in Lord Ellenborough's bill; to adopt the elective principle embodied in Lord Ellenborough's bill, with an improved constituency to retain the provisions in Lord Palmerston's bill for ensuring the presence of an official representation of the Council of India in the House of Commons; to make whatever amendments on this combination of the best parts of both measures may appear to the said committee advisable.

Mazzini had published a lengthy manifesto in the London *Advertiser.* He addresses his remarks to the Emperor Napoleon. Another lengthy address by Mazzini to the Genoese Judges had also found its way into print.

The Atlantic Telegraph Company had received a letter from the Admiralty announcing that in conformity with the request of the company the Agamemnon would be immediately commissioned and commanded by a captain, and also that two other vessels would be attached to the Agamemnon for the special service on which she is to be employed.

The London *Times* of 31st of March epitomises a financial article which has appeared in the London *Economist:* a review of the facts dissipates at once the idea of a present deficiency in the imperial exchequer. The customs for the year are not likely to fall short of the estimate; they may possibly exceed it. The excise is expected to exceed the estimate by half a million. On the other hands there is the same cheerful prospect, but there does arise a very grave question—what is to be done for the next year?

In April, 1859, we are threatened with a deficiency—a difference between revenues and expenditure to the amount of £6,000,000. How will Mr. Disraeli propose to make all ends meet on April 5, 1859? It was he who, assisted by all the obstructive and destructive politicians in the House, compelled the late Chancellor of the Exchequer to withdraw his budget last year and confine his calculations to the year which ends next week. It is rather remarkable he should now have to encounter the difficulty arising from out this manœuvre.

A London journal of the 31st ultimo displays in huge type an announcement headed "Possible concentration of the French fleet in the English Channel." The statement originates in a Brussels paper. The squadron of Brest will unite with that of Toulon at Cherbourg, in honor of the Emperor's visit on the inauguration of the railway next July. The Belgian paper is careful to state that the naval display will not take place unless the good feeling between France and England is completely re established.

The appeal of the owners of the American ship Carlyle against the verdict of the Court of Admiralty, for having caused the loss of the bark Grazia a Dio, by collision off Holyhead in July last, had been heard before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and the finding of the Lower Court was reversed, judgment being pronounced in favor of the Carlyle.

A fire had occurred in Gilbert street, London, entailing the loss of fifteen lives. The parties were asleep in the house at the time, and their escape was cut off by the rapid progress of the flames.

At the Liverpool Police Court, eighteen men of color, composing the crew of the ship Gertrude, were brought up charged with mutinous and disobedient conduct during the voyage from New Orleans to Liverpool. Eight of the men were sentenced to twelve months imprisonment.

The cotton mill of Messrs. Lewis & Edward Williams, at Manchester, had been destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of £100,000 and throwing 500 hands out of employment.

The government of Basle had refused to admit the new Consulate which the French government desires to establish there. The federal government transmitted the refusal in a despatch to Paris.

The Danish Ministry having made a cabinet question of the measure respecting the fortification of Copenhagen, the Supreme Council had definitively accepted the project by 38 votes against 15.

The Vienna correspondent of the London *Times* says the ancient animosity between the French and Austrians is reviving, and the latter seem to be impressed with the conviction that they will soon be called on to maintain their position in Italy at the point of the sword.

Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort will probably visit Berlin before the prorogation of Parliament.

General Duval, aide de-camp of his Excellency the Duke of Malakoff, arrived in London evening of 30th of March.

We have dates from the Cape of Good Hope to the 9th of February, but the news is unimportant. An American man of-war, name not mentioned, was at the Cape.

The Europa arrived out at Liverpool at 8:45 on the morning of the 29th ult.

The screw steamer New York arrived at Glasgow on the 27th ult.

Two new screw steamers, to run in the line between Hamburg and New York, had arrived at Hamburg from the Clyde. The service of this line is to be a fortnightly one. The Hamburg correspondent of the Manchester *Guardian*, writing on 24th of March, says:—

The Hamburg and New York Steam Navigation Company's two extra and most splendidly built and arranged ships, the Austria and Saxonia, have arrived in port from the Clyde, some days ago, and are being prepared to take their turn for the trips to New York every successive fourteen days, to call, as usual, at Southampton. The Company have made an arrangement with the government of the States to convey the regular mails to and fro, and which will prove, it is thought, of great advantage to the future prosperity of the concern, since the Bremen line appears to have been given up for the present, not having turned out a profitable affair to the company. These vessels, which have been built expressly for the Hamburg and New York company, are among the very best which can be boasted of in the transatlantic trade, and some thousands of persons have visited them since their arrival, expressing general satisfaction and pleasure at their superb appearance.

THE GREAT OCEAN TELEGRAPH.

Special Correspondence of the Herald.

PLYMOUTH, England, March 25, 1858.

Arrival of the United States Frigate Niagara in Plymouth, England—Her Reception There—Hospitality of the People—Preparations for the Laying of the Atlantic Telegraph Cable Next Summer—Condition of the Enterprise and Prospects of Success—One Word Sent Through Twenty-two Hundred Miles of Cable in a Minute—The Coiling Commenced on the Agamemnon—The Work on the Niagara to Begin in a Few Days, &c., &c.

The United States frigate Niagara arrived at this port on the 23d inst., after a passage of a little over thirteen days. She left New York on Tuesday, the 9 inst., about four o'clock in the afternoon, and arrived in the channel opposite Plymouth between 10 and 11 o'clock on the night of the 22d, but was unable to enter till the following morning, on account of the difficulty of procuring a pilot. She experienced very heavy weather during the greater part of the passage, and never did she display her splendid qualities to better ship. From the 9th inst, to the 16th it was unpleasantly rough, and on the 13th, 14th and 15th it blew a perfect gale. There is no doubt that this was the equinoctial, and it did full justice to itself so far as heavy blowing is concerned. Those who have crossed the Atlantic in the months of March and September can form some idea of the nature of equinoctial gales and of the terrific force with which they sweep over that ocean. Under the heaviest stress of weather, however, the Niagara behaved magnificently, and went through the storm at the rate of ten and eleven knots an hour, and this, too, while other ships were hove-to. Her quickest day's run was 304 miles, and there is no doubt that she would have accomplished the passage in ten days but for the head winds which prevailed from the 17th to the 22d. During the gale she had the wind from the south and southeast, from which it changed to the east and stuck there with the most dogged obstinacy. While blowing from this quarter we had, however, no complaints to make in regard to the quality of the weather, which, with one exception, was as fine as could be desired. But there was another difficulty besides the head wind which it would be unjust to the vessel not to mention. For the last two or three days the Engineer was obliged, by an order from the Chief Naval Constructor, to burn some seventy-five tons of coal which the ship had brought with her from England on her return home last November. This was not the coal which had been procured for her, but was a portion of the stuff that had been shipped to and re-shipped from the Crimea during the siege of Sebastopol, and was taken simply because no better could be procured at the time of her departure. The kind that was intended for her, and which was best adapted to her furnaces from its resemblance to the American anthracite, was the Welsh coal, several hundred tons of which had been purchased for her consumption. Unfortunately, however, the vessel which was employed to convey this coal to Plymouth foundered at sea, and so, as has been stated, the Crimean stuff had to be used in lieu of anything better at the time. New this coal was ordered to be put on board the ship at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, although I understand it had been condemned by the engineers some time before. The result of all this was a marked diminution in the speed of the ship, which never exceeded five miles an hour, or about one-half the distance accomplished by burning the anthracite. Had it not been for what, under other circumstances, might have been a commendable spirit of economy, there is no doubt that the ship would have reached her destination at least a day and a half sooner.

A rather melancholy circumstance occurred while the ship was three days out from port. A sailor, named William Wilson, fell from the maintop and was instantly killed. It is supposed that he was struck on the head with a boom, and was thus thrown from the yard. He was engaged at the time in clewing the yard down. And a death took place later in the passage, but it was from a protracted sickness. The name of the deceased was Samuel Scudder, and the disease of which he died pleurisy. They were both buried in a seaman's grave, and had the funeral service read over their remains. Poor fellows, whatever pleasing prospects they may have had when they entered on this special service were doomed to a fearful disappointment. One man fell over the forctopsail yard, but fortunately was caught by another who was on the same yard, and held there till he was relieved from his perilous position.

The Niagara, as I have said, arrived in the channel opposite Plymouth on the night of the 22d inst., and entered the Sound the following morning. Hardly had she anchored before a number of the officials of the place made their appearance on board, and among these, strange to say, two revenue officers. What their object could have been in thus thrusting themselves on a national vessel of another country and outraging the rules of international courtesy it is impossible to say, but it is to be presumed that their conduct in this instance is attributable to ignorance—certainly the only reasonable explanation that can be given for such a breach of all the rules of international etiquette. After making their abode on the ship for about two days they took their departure, and that is the last that has been seen of them. The Niagara lay in the Sound till the 24th inst., when she weighed anchor and proceeded up the harbor, preparatory to going into dock for the reception of the cable. Since her arrival the numerous friends which the officers made during their stay here last year paid a welcome visit, and again tendered their hospitalities. Invitations have already been tendered by nearly all the regiments stationed at this port to the officers of the Niagara asking them to dinner, and if they accept one-half of them they will have enough on their hands for the next two or three weeks. I should state here that as an evidence of the friendly feelings which have been manifested towards them since their arrival, all, or nearly all, the vessels lying in the harbor cheered them as the ship passed up to her anchorage. The rigging of the Impregnable and other vessels were manned by their crews, who gave three cheers that waked all the slumbering echoes of the surrounding hills. I need hardly add that the welcome was responded to with an enthusiasm on the part of the Niagara's men which proved that they were determined not to be outdone in this demonstration of friendly feeling.

The coiling of the cable on the Agamemnon has commenced, and about one hundred miles of it have already been placed on board of that ship. They have abandoned the idea of putting the whole 1,450 miles which are to constitute her half of the deep sea line in one coil, and for good reasons. On the last expedition 1,250 miles were placed in one part of the hold, and this weight, although it did not seriously injure the ship, strained her so that it was feared at one time she would be hogged, and some apprehensions were entertained in regard to her sea worthiness. The division of the cable into three coils this time will prevent the possibility of any accident arising from such a cause, and will make the vessel much steadier in a seaway than she was before. The importance of steadiness in the laying of the cable can hardly be over estimated, and the change in this respect will go far to secure the success of the undertaking. It is not known who will be appointed to the command of the Agamemnon, in place of master Commander Woddall, who went on the last expedition, and who it is to be regretted has not been detailed for the same work this year. Rumor says that Lieut. Dayman, of the surveying steamer Cyclops, will be assigned the position; and his knowledge of the oceanic telegraph route would certainly be a strong recommendation in favor of his appointment. This is the gentleman who surveyed the great plateau on which the cable is to rest, and whose soundings corroborated those made by Lieut. Berryman under the order of the United States government. Then it is also said that Captain Wainwright, of the British war steamer Leopard, will have command of the Agamemnon, but these are, after all, merely speculations. It is to be hoped, however, that some one of these gentlemen will be appointed, on account of the experience which they have had in the great work. The Leopard, you may remember, acted last year as the escort of the Agamemnon, while the United States steam frigate Susquehanna, or as she is called here, the Suskewhanna, acted as the escort of the Niagara. It is a singular coincidence that both of these vessels should have subsequently met at San Juan, where they were looking after the movements of the fillibusters, and where, I believe, they are still stationed. The Susquehanna is expected over here in the course of four or five weeks, to take her old place in the telegraphic squadron, as it is presumed she will be detailed by our government for the purpose. There was a report that the squadron would be accompanied to mid ocean, from which the laying of the cable is to be commenced this time, by the Channel fleet, but it is exceedingly problematical whether the British government will in the present threatening aspect of affairs in France leave the English coast in such a defenceless condition. A squadron of some five or six vessels may, however, be detached to go out with the telegraph ships, but I doubt if even this will be done.

The machinery is not quite finished, that is, all the details are not completed yet. Every attention has been bestowed upon it, and as the success of the enterprise largely depends upon its adaptability to the work it will be subjected to the most rigid tests before it is finally adopted. A great deal of the heavy and cumbrous work which was put on board the Niagara last year, and which lumbered up the dock to no purpose, has been dispensed with, and the whole will be as simple in its operation and as free from complication as it may be possible to make it. All the attention of Mr. Everett and the other engineers has been given to this important point, and I think there will be no reason to complain of any defects in this important particular. In the meantime the electricians have been hard at work in their particular department, and have succeed in telegraphing a word a minute through a length of twenty-two hundred miles of cable. This is a great advance, when compared with the comparatively slow transmission of signals previous to the departure of the expedition last August. In fact, the rate of transmission has been so far improved that it will more than double the receipts of the Atlantic Telegraph Company. This is one of the most important features of the enterprise, not merely as a matter of pecuniary interest for the company, but for the increased working value which it will give to the line when laid. Considering these points, the public attention will be more earnestly enlisted in the success of the next expedition than it was in that of the last. Everything that human foresight can provide for has been done to secure the accomplishment of the great work, and never were the prospects of a triumphant accomplishment more cheering and promising. Both the Agamemnon and Niagara will make a trial of the machinery in the Channel before their final departure for mid ocean, which will not probably take place previous to the first week in June next. The whole length of wire to be coiled on board both ships is about twenty-nine hundred miles, which will allow a surplus of between twelve and thirteen hundred over and above the actual distance between the two points of connection—that is between Trinity Bay, Newfoundland, and Valencia Bay, Ireland. This will not only be sufficient for the purpose, but will leave a large excess after the completion of the work, and I should not be surprised if there were some seven or eight hundred miles more than the actual length requires. This, however, is a matter that can only be settled by trial, and it must therefore remain undetermined till the close of the next expedition.

The coiling of the cable will be commenced in the Niagara next Monday, the 29th inst., and will occupy altogether five or six weeks. Everything is in readiness for its reception—the circles are ready, and nothing remains to be done but to place it on board at once. There will be six circles this time, on account of the increased length of the cable, of which there will be two hundred miles more on board of each ship. It is not yet decided which end of the line the Niagara is to take, but there is some talk of her running to the coast of Ireland, as she had the shore line there last year, and there is some doubt as to the justice of requiring her to go to Newfoundland, and of being obliged to lay the shore end there also. This is a matter, however, of little moment, and will be settled satisfactorily. Perhaps the best way would be to send the shore end over in a small steamer, as there is but ten miles of it, and have it laid before the arrival of the ship in Trinity Bay, and thus the work would be greatly expedited, and any difficulty in approaching the coast, should there be rough weather, prevented. However, as I have said, this is a matter of but little moment any way. The calculations at present are that the cable will be laid about the middle of June next, so that it will be in perfect working order by the 4th of July.

Our London Correspondence.

LONDON, March 23, 1858.

Return of Baron Brunow to the British Embassy—The Changes in the French Legation—Compliment from the London Times to Barney Williams—The Bernard and Truelove Prosecutions—London Concert Halls and Night Saloons—American Circular Pianos—Elopement in High Life—The Newly Discovered Disease, &c.

The Russian Ambassador, Baron Brunow, has not only arrived, but has been, most cordially, indeed, most enthusiastically received. So much for his private worth. Mons. Le Comte de Persigny is, we are now assured, certain to quit the Court of St. James. It is said that he is the only sensible French diplomatist at present, being much annoyed at the blindness of the Emperor and M. de Morney as to the real state of France, "*dehors et dedans!*"

Two Greek seamen were hanged last week, and we have now two men awaiting a dangling apotheosis, and in addition reports of three more murders in the provinces.

We have had lovely summer weather these past few days, and the town is filling fast, though business East and West is stagnant.

The *Times* of to-day, in its fourth leader (for it is more than usually loaded) on the subject of the Galway election, pays a well merited compliment to your highly meritorious actor, Mr. Barney Williams, which, if it does not make him an inch or two taller, will at all events prove his popularity as a matter of history. The written letter remains, and we are sure that Barney has sufficient good sense to know that—

Fortune a goddess is to fools alone.
The wise are always masters of their own.

The *Times* might have dragged in a line or two about Mrs. Barney Williams, but then her *spécialité* is Yankee gals. We beg her pardon, for the limitation, for she is nightly drawing crowds to the little Adelphi theatre to see her play ten different parts, male and female, French, Spanish, English, Italian and American, in Mr. Charles Selby's new and successful sketch "An Hour in Seville."

There is in the theatrical world here a talk of an *entente cordiale* between Mr. Dion Bourcicault and Mr. Charles Kean, which, if not brought about by the Scotch lassie, the heroine of the Indian mutinies, will perhaps be effected by the engagement of Miss Agnes Robertson at the Princesses. Mr. Charles Dillon, actor and butcher, has been hacking Mr. W. R. T. Martwell's version of Cassimer Delelngue's beautiful tragedy "Louis XI," at the Lyceum theatre. He has at least credit for not having exposed the mutilated remains on any part of Waterloo bridge. Talking of that span of the river, the Man-in-the-Streets says privately that although they wouldn't guillotine Rudio in Paris, that we must hang him in London. We have already told that the victim of this mystery was one of the conspirators (before the attempt) connected with the Rue Lepelletier atrocities. The swells of London, principally the juvenile bloods, are evidently taking great interest in the Bernard and Truelove prosecutions. As regards the former they are more disgusted than are the mob with the Franco one sided conduct of imperial Mr. Jardine. We are told that a £5 supscription is on the tapis, to be placed for signature at Limmer's Hotel, Conduit street. Notwithstanding its literary insignificance, the pamphlet entitled "Tyrannicide, or is it Justifiable," would readily fetch £5 5s. a copy—none are to be had. The eminent Queen's Counsel, Mr. Calvin James, is engaged for the defence in both cases.

The officers of your fine government ship Niagara will be sure to meet with another hearty reception on their arrival here.

Lord Panmure and Miss Smith Swanborough open the Strand theatre on Easter Monday.

Ten years ago and such a place as a music hall was in England a myth, a chateau *in nubibus.* In fact, there was not a single room of tolerable dimensions, except Madame Tussand's exhibition room, the room for building and the long room at the Custom House. But on a sudden there sprung up a mania for eating very bad suppers in very bad company, the while you listened to very bad singing in a very bad atmosphere, and accordingly Boniface of Evans', in Covent Garden, cleared out the coals from the cellar, let in a gas burner or two through the ceiling, stuck an insolent waiter at the door to charge double prices, and having secured the invaluable services of several distinguished performers, previously unknown to fame, called the den a grand saloon and made a heap of money. But as "the ancient philosopher" has observed, nothing is done now without its being over done; and soon the cider cellars, Nell Gwynne's tavern and the coal hole vied to secure the patronage of a drunken and ignoble public. Boniface not to be out done, got the chorister boys from the neighboring chapel and announced to his supporters that Herr Von Joel, the talented gentleman who does the farm yard on a stick, was forever retained on the staff. The rush was tremendous. The butcher who supplied the kidneys made his fortune and died with joy. The result of all this was that Boniface took away the ceiling and let in some dozen bedrooms, and now Evans' is one of the finest halls in the kingdom. Strange to say, the custom, since the improvements, has decreased alarmingly. The fact is, men about town have luxury staring them in the face all day long, and many like to pig it occasionally. They like, when sated with all that refinement can imagine, or wealth purchase, to assume the garb of the Spartan for a while, and feed on lentils. Why is it Limmers' Hotel is so well favored—a nasty, ricketty, uncomfortable dirty house, with a sanded floor, and spittoons, and the chops a cooking before your very eyes, and the waiters looking as if their feet were very dirty, if you could only see them, and as though they had forgotten to go to bed; the charges awfully heavy; the owner ghost-like and retiring. All for what? Mere affectation of simplicity. Why does the Cock crow so thrivingly in Fleet street? It's a perfect stye. There are Simpsons and the London within a stone's throw, but men will go to the Cock? Why have the Shades shadowed three brilliant fortunes to their successive owners? It's all whim. So poor Green Boniface is not making money, and the chorister boys are looking sickly. In vain does the German Professor whistle on his stick; in vain the short man yells "tollolderalitie!" The kidneys hang on the hands of the butcher, and the insolent waiter is thinking of starting elsewhere, on his own hook. However, since Evans' was built hosts of splendid halls have sprung up. There's Canterbury Hall, there's Weston's, there's the Raglan, and others, too numerous to mention; most of them will go or have gone to grief; instance the Surrey Gardens Music Hall. Topping them all, however, is the St. James' Hall, which opened last night, a structure which, if we except the Redoubten Salle, at Vienna, and the St. George's Hall, at Liverpool, is the finest concert hall in Europe. The proportions are so admirably observed that the impression produced at first on a spectator standing in the centre of the body is one of smallness. The dimensions are, however, these: height 60 feet, breadth 60 feet, length 139 feet. The novel features of the building are however those of the lighting and the decorations. The vaulted roof supports scores of rods, each supporting a star of gas in the horizontal plain. When all these stars are lit the effect is singularly beautiful. The orchestra stage projects forward forty feet into the body of the hall, thus securing that advantage possessed so pre-eminently by Her Majesty's theatre: the placing the performer nearly in the middle of the audience. The ceiling is decorated by Mr. Owen Jones, the architect, in the Moorish style, profusely with gold and many colors. The arched form of this ceiling gradually expands over the orchestra so as to simulate the form of one or more shells, from which Venus, in poetic imagery, is seen rising out of the sea. The hall cannot fail to be a success, and Exeter Hall, the Hanover Square Rooms and Willis' will, we expect, come off now but second best. The hall itself is perfect, but the restaurant, as it is called in the polished language of the *Casserole*, is as execrable as it well can be. You go, for instance, out of Regent street into a narrow passage lined with a row of dusty evergreens, and suddenly you find yourself gazing into an abyss, hot and steamy. For all the world you feel like Martius Curtius about to jump in the gulf. It is more like the *Café des Aveugles*, in the Palais Royal, than anything else we know, except it is the engine room of Beill's baths at Brighton. You think to find the knives and forks chained to the table, and when you ask for the *carté*, anticipate the perusal of "Prison regulations." Donald is the "lesse." That is to say, he has promised to pay £2,800 a year for the rent, on condition that he may charge any one any price for anything. Last night. I told you, was the opening of the hall. It was, I should say, a private view. On this auspicious occasion, it being eight o'clock in the evening, everybody was supposed by the directors to be hungry. In fact nothing seems to open in London now but what all the press are asked to feed. The inference is plain that the judgment of the press is in its stomach. In the St. James' Hall was exhibited a most curious American circular piano, in which all the hammers are made to play round a perfect cylinder. It is to be tested there. Doubtless you know more about this invention than we do. I believe that the idea of the hall first originated with Mr. W. Beale, son of Mr. Beale of the firm of Cramer, Beale & Co., and that the site was chosen and obtained by Mr. F. Chappell, the solicitor to the company. The chief promoters are Messrs. Cramer, Beal and Chappell, of Regent street, and Messrs. Chappell & Co., of Bond street, and to these gentlemen the public are principally indebted for the pecuniary assistance which has at last set the concern in working order.

Old fools have been from time immemorial considered the worst of fools, but when their folly, like the frog stoning in Æsop's fables, is injurious to others, they should be deemed the worst of antiquated villains. The Right Honorable the Earl of Cardigan, the first in and the first out of the Balaklava charge, the General Inspector of our cavalry, has for a second time betrayed friendship's hospitality, and eloped and sloped to the Continent with Miss De Horsey, the only daughter of a wealthy commoner, and the niece of an earl.

The medical profession finding, we suppose, that all it does do is not much, has made a remarkable grab at public credulity to enhance its *kudos.* They are busy in elaborating the details of the origin, growth and secession of a supposed new disease—diphtheritis. The evidence of there being such a disease is very poor, and the best informed pathologists agree that the affection is but a severer form of angina. All the mucous membranes are liable to take on exagerated function, to assume morbid functions or to lose functional power, and so are all vital tissues. Mucous membranes, however, being the most vascular tissues of the body are the most subject to take on perverted action from the dissemination of a materies morbi in the blood or the propagation by continuity of inflammatory states of this fluid. Hence any disordered state of the blood, whether hypersthenic or spasmodic, affects mucous membranes primarily and immediately. That is how diarrhœa or inordinate fluxes occur so frequently from the intestinal mucous membrane from the simplest causes, such as vicissitudes in temperature. Function is in excess, and consequently secretion is in excess. Now the reverse of this obtains in diphtheritis. The mucous membrane of the mouth and pharynx loses functional power, whether this be from a loss of nourishment in the blood which feeds it, or an absence of selecting power in the epithelial cells of the mucous membrane, for the elements of nutrition from the blood, is not known. This, however, takes place. The disturbing force, whether it be local in the system or general in the atmosphere or food, acts suddenly, potently and certainly. The membrane loses function and becomes dry. The superficial capillaries having no longer anything to nourish, become emptied of their contents and wither. The membrane whitens and falls off in shreds. Inflammation from this abnormal condition is set up in the subjacent tissues. Exudations of serum take place into the areolar tissue, with infiltration, swelling is consentaneous. The air passages become gradually obliterated from the tumefaction, and the patient dies asphyxiated.

But such indeed is the course and character of all diseases of the respiratory mucous membranes preceded by or sequential to inflammation of a low type. Inflammation once set up in a tissue of depraved vitality opposes no barriers to its progress. Hence the march of the disease is rapid. But with the exception that it affects alike the ill nourished and the sturdy, the poor and the rich, the infant and the aged; it presents in itself no features sufficiently distinctive to entitle it to the appellation of a new and distinct disease. The best remedy, and that which is now always administered in our hospitals, is the chlorate of potash, with or without compounds of chlorine, such as chloric ether and hydro chloric acid.

Our St. Petersburg Correspondence.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 19, 1858.

Progress of the Emancipation Agitation—An Imperial Committee Organized—A Consul sent to Japan—Trade of the Amoor—A New Commercial Company—Communication with California—Marriage Fêtes—Death in High Circles.

The serf question has entered a new phasis which will tend to accelerate its final settlement. Seeing that the adhesion of the nobility to the proposals made them come in much slower than was anticipated, and that the whole nation was kept in a state of suspense that might lead to dangerous agitation, government has determined to take the matter in hand itself, and to exchange the passive part it had played hitherto for an active one. A special committee has been appointed, presided over by the Emperor in person, and in his absence by Prince Orloff, President of the Council of the Empire, to deliberate upon the measures necessary to accomplish the contemplated reform without further delay. It is composed of twelve members, viz:—Grand Duke Constantine, Count Bloudoff, Prince Gogarin, Count Adlerberg, Lanskoy (Minister of the Interior), Count Panin (Minister of Justice), Baron Korff, Gen. Tcheffkin (Director General of Public Works), General Michael Moarovieff (Minister of the Imperial Domains), Prince Dolgorouky, Brock (Minister of Finance) and General Rostootsoff, with M. Boutkoff as secretary. Thus the affair is entrusted to the leading statesmen of the empire, including the first originators of the scheme of emancipation, particularly Grand Duke Constantine, who is considered by some people as the real Emperor of Russia, under the name of his brother. It is evident from this that the idea of leaving it entirely to the good feeling and self-abnegation of the serf owners has been virtually abandoned, and that a gentle pressure will be employed against them if they should hesitate any longer to comply with the wishes of the government.

No doubt a great deal of heart burning will be excited among them by this course, and it certainly converts what would have appeared a graceful act of patriotism on the part of the nobility into a concession extorted from them by the immediate and unmistakeable interference of imperial authority, to which, however, in this instance, must be added the force of public opinion. To make up for it a loan of fifty million roubles is talked of, which will be contracted by government, partly to indemnify the more indigent portion of the proprietors for the loss they sustain by the emancipation of their bondsmen, and partly to enable the latter to purchase the and allotted to them, without passing through the intermediate state of probation they were to undergo until they had made their payments. Here in St. Petersburg, where the nobility, who belong mostly to the wealthier class, were among the first to accede to the proposals of government after the initiative taken by the Lithuanian provinces, the meeting of delegates called for the purpose of carrying them into effect has been sitting for some time, and rather stormy debates are said to have taken place; but an agreement has at length been come to, and will be published as soon as it receives the imperial sanction, unless it be thought advisable that the forms and conditions to which the enfranchisement of the peasantry is subject should be promulgated simultaneously for the whole empire. At Moscow the first number of a new monthly has just been issued, which treats exclusively of the emancipation question, and endeavors to show that the interests of the rural population will continue bound up with those of their former masters; that the latter will gain quite as much as the former by their mutual relations being placed on a more satisfactory footing, and that in the end they will find it more advantageous, even in a pecuniary point of view, to have their estates cultivated by free laborers than by sullen and indolent serfs.

In consequence of the treaty concluded with the Japanese government by Count Putiatin, a consul has been appointed to Japan in the person of M. Goshkevitch, who proceeded thither a few days since, via Siberia and the Amoor. He will reside at Hakodadi, in the island of Yeso or Matsmai, which has been selected as being contiguous to the Kouriles and the other Russian possessions in Eastern Asia. M. Goshkevitch is a distinguished linguist, who spent ten years at Pekin with the Russian ecclesiastical mission, and afterwards accompanied Putiatin on his first expedition to Japan in the capacity of interpreter. After the wreck of the frigate Diana in the great earthquake at Simoda, he embarked for Kamschatka on board of a German merchantman, but was captured in transitu by a British cruiser and conveyed to Hong Kong, from whence he returned to Russia on the conclusion of peace with the Western Powers. He brought with him a Japanese, named Tatsibova-va-Koosai, who has been converted to Christianity, and with whose assistance he compiled a Japanese dictionary, which has lately been published here by the Asiatic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and is declared by our critics to be the best work of the kind extant. M. Goshkevitch is accompanied to Japan by his wife, who will be the first European female that has ever resided in that country. The Dutch, who for the last two centuries were the only foreigners admitted to trade with the subjects of the Seogoon, and had a footing on the island of Desiva, were never allowed to bring their wives with them, though they were liberally supplied with native concubines. What arrangements Commodore Perry may have made on this head you will know better than I can tell you.

The attention of enterprising men continues to be directed to the new colonies on the Amoor, which are destined at no remote date to figure among the great emporiums of trade, connecting Siberia and Central Asia with China, Japan, California and the whole Pacific. A company has recently been formed with a capital of one million roubles to carry on commercial operations between the Amoor and the adjoining regions, to run a line of steamers on that river and its tributaries, and to work the rich coal and other mines that exist in various parts of the country. Considering the vicinity of the great Siberian placers, there can be no doubt but that gold will be found too, although the immense fields of anthracite on the island of Segtalin and elsewhere will turn out eventually to be more prolific sources of wealth than what is usually termed the "precious" metals—the same as the black diamonds of England have proved infinitely more valuable than the real diamonds of Brazil. The chief drawback on the future prosperity of the Amoor is the climate, which, though much milder than other parts of Eastern Siberia, is still excessively severe, the river being frozen up at its mouth for nearly eight months in the year. This necessarily confines the maritime intercourse of Nicolaievsk with the rest of the world to a very brief period, and it is in serious contemplation, therefore, to transfer the seat of government of the new Territory to Castries Bay, or some other point on the Gulf of Tartary, where the navigation is but rarely impeded by floating ice. According to our last accounts from Nicolaievsk, the whole place was completely snowed up, and the inhabitants were suffering greatly from the want of fresh provisions, their diet being limited almost exclusively to fish, immense quantities of which are brought from the Gulf of Tartary. They were looking anxiously to the approach of spring, and the arrival of ships from California, which, however, could not be expected before the beginning of June. From Admiral Putiatin we had despatches not long since dated from Macao, and giving an account of the taking of Canton by the allies, which is represented as a mere farce, the Chinese "braves" having bolted at the first shot. I understand he has arranged all the difficulties between Russia and China; at any rate, the manner in which he has conducted the negotiations must have given entire satisfaction here, as he has just been decorated with the grand cordon of St. Alexander Neosky.

This has been quite a brilliant season for our *beau monde.* At court marrying and giving in marriage is the order of the day. The Empress' maids of honor have been particularly fortunate in this respect; the young Countess Panin, daughter to the Minister of Justice, was married the other day to Count Levashoff, one of the Emperor's aides-de-camp, and now Mlle. Pashkoff is affianced to Prince Vladimir Gallitzin, colonel of the regiment of *gardes à cheval*, and Mlle. Offenburg, a sister of the renowned Princess Kotchenbey, to Baron Konventz, Saxon Charge d'Affairs.

A general gloom, however, was spread in our aristocratic circles by the death of Count Alsonfriff, Grand Steward of the Household, and an especial favorite of the Emperor, who expired rather suddenly at Rome, where he had gone for the benefit of his health.

The Alleged Libel on the Emperor of the French in London.

[From the London Times, March 26.]

The Polish bookseller, named Stanislaus Tchorzewskwski, who stands charged with publishing the pamphlet entitled 'Lettre au Parlement et à la Presse,' inciting to the assassination of the Emperor of the French, was brought up yesterday at the Police Court, Bow street, before Mr. Jardine, for final examination and committal.

Mr. Bodkin, on the part of the Crown, intimated that at the close of the proceedings a correct translation of the entire pamphlet would be produced, in order that it should be added to the depositions.

Mr. Leverson, the prisoner's attorney, said that one of the authors of the pamphlet, M. Talandier, had expressly requested him to state that he (the author) had no desire to screen himself behind the mere seller, but was willing and even desirous to take his place as defendant in the case. He was now present for that purpose.

Mr. Bodkin said that any such application must be made to the Solicitor for the Treasury.

Mr. Leverson then said that he hoped to be able to convince the magistrate that the case should end here, and that this was not a "scandalous and malicious libel." In inquiring what was a "false, malicious, scandalous and seditious libel" a curious difficulty arose, that nowhere could it be found that the law defined "what a libel is." It was said to be, and ought to be, a principle of law that no one should be condemned on *ex-post facto* laws, yet that was constantly done by the judges, who, on the pretence of declaring the existing laws, really established new ones. It was said that this was not written law but common law, which meant just what the judge chose to call law for the occasion. So long as common law continued to disgrace our jurisprudence its basis should be the consideration of what rule of conduct will promote the well being of society. In the case of Mr. William Scriving, in Scotland, the following words were held to be libellous:—"The time is now come when we are to assemble round the flag of liberty to support it; that we are plunged into a war by a wicked Ministry and a compliant Parliament." Yet few persons would now doubt the truth of these words as applied to the war with the French republic. These examples proved that the law was manufactured by judges for each occasion as it occurred, and that is was in the same position as the law of witchcraft.

Mr. Jardine—Do you mean to maintain that it is fair discussion to say that a man is an assassin, and ought, therefore, to be assassinated?

Mr. Leverson—If he is a ruler I am justified in saying that he is an assassin if I can prove it. But suffer me to establish a principle against which I find I am stumbling. It is said that discussion is to be free, but to be decent. According to English law what the judges please to blame is indecent. What is indecent? Is it to blame the ruler? You will not venture to say that. But is it great blame that is indecent? Why, the greater blame is to say that he is more unfit to govern. Then you will allow the lesser evil to be discussed and not the greater.

Mr. Bodkin said there was a passage commencing, "Did he not as President of the republic——"

Mr. Jardine said it was reasonable to suppose that it meant the Emperor. His course was clear; he must send the case before a jury. He was not going to punish—he had no such power.

Mr. Leverson said the committal was a punishment. But, he would ask, was it possible that any jury—that any twelve men off the Treasury Bench would convict the prisoner except of the printing and publishing only? Mr. Leverson then referred to the writings of Junius, of Lord Denman, of Mr. Disraeli and of Mr. Gladstone, and to the letters of "An Englisman" in the *Times*, which he said advocated regicide, and inquired whether prosecutions would be instituted against the publishers of Lord Denman's works, against Mr. Disraeli, Mr. Gladstone and the *Times*? Or, had Mr. Walter, the proprietor of the *Times*, purchased a shameful impunity at the cost of a base subserviency? In every Greek and Roman history the slayers of tyrants were extolled, and the magistrate's own children might at that moment be reciting, with the glow of admiration on their youthful countenances, such lines as those of Lord Denman's, commencing—"I wreathe my sword," &c. Mr. Leverson proceeded to recite several pieces of this description. He next asked the magistrate if he was prepared to risk the agitation which this committal would give rise to, and the riots that might follow.

Mr. Jardine—That argument is one which cannot be allowed at all. I have nothing to do with the question whether the prosecution is a proper one, and all those consequences to which you have referred ought not to enter into my consideration.

Mr. Leverson—They are part of the question whether a jury will convict.

Mr. Jardine—Whether a jury will be influenced by popular opinion is a question with which I have nothing to do. I am bound to suppose that they will do their duty, and give their verdict according to the facts proved in evidence and the law laid down by the judge.

Mr. Leverson continued at some length to re-state his principal arguments, and concluded by reminding the magistrate that he was not only the servant of the Crown, but also the guardian of the people's liberties, which could only be maintained by the utmost freedom of the press.

Mr. Bodkin—Sir: it is for those who instruct Mr. Leverson to consider whether his course is calculated to promote the interests of the defend