by Prince Gortchakoff, and is published in extenso in all the newspapers, has created an extraordinary sensation here. Never before has such language been addressed to a Russian Czar, and it shows how much times have changed since the reign of Nicholas. I understand, however, that the conduct of Prince Gortchakoff meets with the full approbation of our government, and, especially of his cousin, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who is quite aware that a policy of repression would only promote the views of Austria and Prussia, and estrange us from France, with whom he is anxious to remain on amicable terms. It is a fact that the Cabinet of Berlin is employing the underhand influence it possesses here through the family ties of the two dynasties to exasperate our Court against the Poles and prevent it from giving way to what they call the insolent demands of a revolutionary faction; but as yet these intrigues have had no effect, the motive being too tran parent. On the other hand, the assertion that the Western Powers have interfered on behalf of Poland, and advised the restoration of the constitution of 1815, is quite unfounded; no such communication has been received either from France or from England, who, from the reports of their ambassadors, can hardly be ignorant of the dispositions of the Russian Cabinet on this subject. Meanwhile, steps are being taken to secure the authority of government in Poland in case of further disturbances. Till lately, the only troops stationed there were three divisions (two infantry and one cavalry) of the second corps, under General Liprandy, about twenty five thousand strong; they have now been reinforced by the first corps, commanded by Lablatzoff, which was previously quartered in Lithuania, and is replaced by two divisions of grenadiers, who have been despatched by railroad from Moscow to Dunaberg and Vilna, and have already passed our capital. The third and Sixth corps (Wrangel I. and Stakovitch) are also under marching orders; so that, if required, an army of at least 100,000 men would be concentrated in the Polish provinces.

Of the changes in the personnel of our administration, the retirement of Count Mouravieff Amorsky from the important and onerous duties of Governor General of Eastern Siberia deserves especial notice. Not a few of your countrymen are acquainted with this remarkable man and can bear witness to his eminent public and private qualities. Like all men who have elevated themselves above the common herd, he has raised a host of enemies and detractors, whose machinations appear to have disgusted him, and induced him to throw up an office which he has occupied for thirteen years, during which he has immortalized himself by the peaceful conquest of the Amoor territory, and the whole coast of Manchuria down to the frontiers of China. He is succeeded in the Governor Generalship of Siberia by Major General Korsakoff, a young officer of merit, who has acted as locum tenens of Count Mouravieff during the absence of the latter on furlough. The appointment of minister at the court of Pekin, vacated by the return of General Ignatieff, has been conferred on Colonel Baluzek, aid de camp of the Emperor, and that of consul in Oorga on Captain Bakaukin. Consulates at Kashgar and Yackenend will also be established on the basis of the treaty concluded with China in November last.

Our Constantinople Correspondence.

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 20, 1861.

Affairs in Turkey—Peculiar Policy of the Government—British Policy in Turkey—Russian Influence—Revolution in Bosnia—The Bulgarian Question, dc., dc., dc.

The political horizon of Turkey has but little changed since my last. Anything beneficial to it is the exception, while evil is the rule. The government is still averse to the adoption of salutary reforms which would throw the country open to foreign capital and enterprise. It fears the introduction of any more foreigners, lest they involve the government of the Sultan in litigations with their embassies, as all of the capitulations of the Porte with foreign governments give entire jurisdiction to the latter over their own subjects. This, on the one hand, is an advantage to the subjects, who are thus preserved against the imperfect action of Moslem law, of ignorant judges and of corruption, which are the rule here, and on the other, it prevents the Porte from profiting by a foreign emigration which would, evidently, bring considerable sums of money into the country, and introduce new sources of wealth in the form of arts and sciences, machinery, &c. Vast tracts of land remain idle, even in the vicinity of this capital, which an enterprising foreign emigration would turn to profit could it be allowed to possess the soil in its own name. As it is, all foreigners are compelled to purchase property in the names of Ottoman subjects, and for its preservation receive from the nominal owner a declaration that he holds it in his name merely *pro forma*, and to meet the exigencies of the law.

This, at first sight, might be deemed sufficient and satisfactory, but another obstacle still exists against such a mode of tenure which needs to be explained. In the Ottoman empire real estate is possessed under two titles—one called *mulk*, or free tenure, and the other *beit*, or lease tenure. In the first case it is necessary to suppose the land originally belonged to the sovereign who conquered the country, and was bestowed or sold by the crown, with the fee right of succession to the male and female heirs of the recipient, direct or indirect. In the second, the property for various reasons—generally to preserve it against violence and injustice on the part of those in power—has been donated by the owners to some pious purpose, such as for the maintenance of a mosque, he only retaining the right, as a condition of the donation, to continue to occupy it, to sell it and to leave it to his own direct heirs in case of death. The possessor, therefore, becomes only a tenant of his own property. He can sell it, it is true, but always subject to the same condition, in which case the purchaser pays a tax on the sale to the administration of the mosque; and should he or any purchaser die without direct heirs, it reverts in toto to the mosque, which then can sell it to the highest bidder. No lease or mortgage of the property can vitiate this condition, and the rights of the mosque; and should the ottoman subject die, in whose name the foreigner has placed his land, and leave no direct heirs, the mosque will not recognize the claim of the real owner, because his name does not exist on the deed. All feudal tenure was abolished by Sultan Mahmoud, father of the present sovereign, and now, I believe, nowhere exists in Turkey.

The Porte has at various times endeavored to adopt some means of breaking the *beit* tenure and creating all real estate *mulk* (or free tenure), but has found itself incompetent to do it. The rights of the donators to thus dispose of their property *a perpetuité* is deemed incontestable, and the claims of the mosques cannot therefore be denied.

I allude to this *in extenso* for the purpose of explaining the difficulties which surround the Porte in its duty towards the foreign Powers represented at the Peace Convention of Paris, in which a *hatti humayoun* or imperial rescript of the Sultan was read, at the instigation of the British government, declaring the Sultan's intention of placing all of his own subjects on a perfect footing of equality, religious and political, and of granting to all foreigners the full rights of possessing real estate in his dominions. These difficulties were well known at the time; and there is, therefore, no excuse for his offer, except that his best friend and ally, the British government, represented by Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, urged him to the act.

It has been the well known policy of the British government to support Turkey against the equally well known designs of Russia. To have this meet with favor in England, the British Embassy here has always reported the condition of Turkey *couleur de rose*, and made much of reforms which, in its own view, only existed on paper. The sinking condition of the country is, however, too well known for it to be able to follow this up much longer. The late Crimean war exposed its fallacy to a large number of intelligent Englishmen, and English writers have told its true tale in their correspondence. Such is not the policy of France. The intelligent mind of the Emperor Napoleon perceives the real state of Turkey. He knows that it is fast progressing to a fall and dissolution, and he is preparing for advocating what he deems will be the interests of France in the event of such an occurrence. Russia is equally well acquainted with the *statu quo* of her devoted prey, and as neither of the two Emperors can conceal the fact from each other, they have apparently come to a tacit understanding as to their future duties when the denouement arrives. I do not believe that the Emperor of France will hasten it an hour; on the contrary, I imagine that he would not wish it to be brought about by any artificial means, but rather to leave the responsibility of it to rest with the Ottoman government.

The policy of France in Turkey has always been a highly honorable and generous one. If any conflict has arisen between it and that of England, it has grown out of the jealousy and egotism of the latter. The influence of France depends upon her power, prosperity and the position which she fills in Europe, whilst that of England is created by her diplomatic intrigues to erect and maintain what she considers the proper balance of power—i. e., her universal supremacy. British policy here is like a rumor, whilst the French is clear and distinct, easily seen and definable.

Russia is evidently desirous of regaining her diminished influence in Turkey. She would gladly see France and England at loggerheads, so as to push forward, with giant strides, her designs in the East. Her great element is the Greek religion of a great number of the Sultan's subjects; and she thinks it suffices to claim a fraternity with them to warrant in the eyes of the world the propriety of her advances. Now, it happens that whilst Russia aspires to the occupation of Constantinople, the little kingdom of Greece does the same, and as all the Greeks in Turkey are turning their eyes towards Athens, as the centre of their future lost empire of the East, they have little sympathy with Russian ambition. Another cause of the unpopularity of the policy of Russia amongst the Greek subjects of the Sultan is that she supports the Greek Patriarchate of Constantinople, and its priests wherever they are, in the empire. The Patriarchate is a seat of barefaced corruptions, sinning and violence to those who are under its influence. Nine tenths of the Greek clergy are ignorant, low, vulgar, drunken debauchees, devoted entirely to the acquisition of money and clerical promotion. They are, therefore, detested by a large majority of the members of that religion. With a better class of clergy the Greeks of Turkey would advance in education, the arts and sciences, and when the "fatal hour" of the Ottoman government comes be better able to become the "ruling race" of the East, and resume their lost empire. This, however, would not suit Russia, and as the Greek priests are her agents, they carry out her policy.

Russia has lately demanded of the Sultan to carry into execution his promise to the Paris Convention before alluded to. It reports that the Greeks of the northern plains of Turkey—Bulgaria, &c.—are treated with extreme violence by the Sultan's Governors and other functionaries, and you will have heard of the abusive despatch of Prince Labanm (the Czar's Minister here) to the Porte on this subject. The present very liberal and enlight ened Grand Vizier, Mohammed Kibriali Pacha, was sent in consequence on a tour of inspection in these provinces. He found no such grievances as those asserted to exist. The most atrocious accusations were brought against Osman Pacha, Governor of Nish; and to appease Russia he was recalled, when it is well known that the Governor, the son of a late Grand Vizier (Raouf Pacha) is one of the most gentlemanly and just men of the empire. Any one resident here well knows that the Christians of Bulgaria, who are a quiet, agricultural people, are treated with much kindness by the Turkish authorities. Their oppression arises wholly from their Greek bishops and Greek clergy, and this fact is notorious to all impartial foreigners resident here. The Russian Legation, as may be well understood, denies and would conceal it for its own purposes. This, it may be added, is the case all over the Ottoman dominions, wherever there are Greeks and a Greek clergy. Besides the latter oppressors, the villagers are greatly wronged by their own municipal chiefs, or *tchorbajees*. These are supposed to be elected or chosen by the Christian communities; but it is far from being the case. They are always the more wealthy members of the community, who, aided by the clergy, succeed in being nominated by the local Turkish authority, and assess whatever taxes they see proper upon the helpless villagers. In the assessing of the dues of the village they relieve themselves of their own share, and make it fall on the helpless. Indeed it is well known that they not only set a bad example to the Turkish functionaries of injustice and violence, but also point out to them various modes of settling disputes in a manner more profitable to themselves than to the judge. Islamism renders the Turk proud and haughty, but it also ennobles him, and he is just and generous when not corrupted by debased Christians. He possesses little cunning, and is too indolent to seek out resources of wealth for himself. The Greek *tchorbajee* or the priest willingly acts the part of the jackall, when he should shield his humble and helpless co-religionists.

It is out of this state of things that the Bulgarian question has arisen. The Bulgarians have suffered extremely from their own Greek clergy, and finding that their complaints at the Patriarchate have been fruitless, they, in despair, claim to have a separate hierarchy to rule their ecclesiastical affairs. It is believed that the Bulgarians are of an Asiatic origin; they speak a Slavic dialect, but do not resemble the Russians or the Poles. In the view of continuing their supremacy over a people who are only their co-religionists, the Greek Patriarchate compels the Bulgarians to use the Greek Litany in their church devotions, and refuses to admit to holy orders any of their own nation, thus leaving them at the mercy of the bigoted and grasping agents of the Russo-Greek hierarchy. The Porte has acted in the matter with its habitual slowness. The request of the Bulgarians for a separation from the Greek Patriarchate, and the nomination of bishops and clergy of their own nationality, has been rejected, and they have in consequence become Catholics, so as to receive the quasi protection of the French embassy. The Porte naturally has no sympathy for either of these Christian sects; both are equally condemnable in its sight; and, in a political point of view, it probably fears less from France than from Russia. The few Bulgarians who have become Catholics have entered the Catholic community of the Porte, and form a nucleus for fresh proselytes. The heart of the Pope has been rejoiced at this schism of the Greek Church, and Monseigneur Hillarian, the Papal Bishop of Poa, recently proceeded to the Fevar, where the Greek Patriarch resides, and, from a respectful distance, formally went through the ceremony of excommunicating the Patriarch and all his functionaries. This has been considered quite a farce by the Greeks, who (at least those who are of any intelligence), though they regret the conduct of their Patriarch in not coming to a timely compromise with the Bulgarians, whose wrongs are not denied, still do not admit any superiority of the Pope over their own Church. It is supposed that the Russian government is at the bottom of this affair; if true, it is a *coup manqué*, for instead of getting the Bulgarians separated from the Greek Church, which it knows is not friendly to it, it now has the dissatisfaction to see them become Catholics, and therefore under French influence. The question is not free from importance, and is worth your observation at the present moment.

The Mission of the Southern Commissioners to Europe.

[From the London Herald, April 1.]

The cotton growing States of America, now calling themselves the Southern Confederation, have appointed three special commissioners to the Courts of St. James and the Tuileries, for the purpose of inducing those governments to recognise the independence of their new republic. Two of the gentlemen thus appointed, Messrs. Yancy and Dudley Mann, are not unknown to fame on this continent, and it is doubtful whether an envoy could have been selected whose principles are more adverse to public sentiment in this country than the first named statesman. Extracts from Mr. Yancey's speeches have frequently appeared in the columns of the English press during the past six months, and the invariable contempt with which he had treated Great Britain for her humanity towards the African race will certainly not ensure him a favorable reception by this nation, whatever may be his success with the government. The fact of such a man being appointed on such a mission proves that the seceding States look upon the recognition of their independence by England and France as already accomplished, and we may judge what tone will be adopted by these Southern Envoys from the discussions at Montgomery and the articles in the American proslavery press. However ridiculous and bombastic it may appear to Englishmen, the statesmen of the cotton confederation firmly believe that their staple is so much a necessity to our manufacturers, and we are so powerless to obtain it elsewhere, that we shall be compelled to accede to any and all of their demands, or starve. The New York Herald uses the following language two weeks ago:—"King Cotton, in this matter, stands before my Lord Palmerston and his imperial Majesty of France, as a veritable potentate, whose demands cannot be set aside;" and we may, therefore, conclude that the envoys will assume the air of conferring a benefit rather than of soliciting a favor. We do not pretend to predict what their reception will be from her Majesty's government, but we trust that nothing will be done in reference to the objects of their mission until President Lincoln is represented at our court by a plenipotentiary of his own appointing—one who can speak authoritatively upon the views and intentions of the present administration. *This much is certain, if Great Britain recognize the independence of the new confederation we shall be placed in a false position towards the Northern Union, and many years must elapse before the citizens of the free States will forget an act which they will very properly characterize as British interference in favor of slavery.*

The three Southern envoys are also commissioned to propose commercial treaties with England and France, and the Hon. F. Butler King, of Georgia, has been empowered by the cotton States to open negotiations for a direct European trade with the ports of the seceders. Unless such a trade can be set on foot it is idle to speculate upon the future of the new confederation. Everything that the South can offer has been tendered by it to European capitalists; free trade is promised, although not yet existing, and the coasting trade has been opened to foreign shipping. Still there are certain event alities which our merchants will do well not to ignore. Vessels bound from Europe to any of the ports in the gulf of Mexico must pass by Key West, and the government at Washington holds, and is certain to continue to hold for a long time to come, the various fortifications on the Florida reefs which command the channel. In addition to this, the Pacific, Mediterranean and Gulf squadrons of the American navy have been called home, and it is rumored they will be employed in blockading the Southern harbors and watching the coast. Should this direct trade be ultimately established, it is very much to be doubted whether, after all, it will be of great value to the country. Half the population of the new republic are slaves; and this description of labor never consumes much of anything, certainly not of manufactures. Three-quarters of the sum total of European exports have hitherto been purchased by the free States, and in furthering the schemes of the seceders we should not merely fail to increase our trade with the South, but should also expose ourselves to retaliatory legislation on the part of the North. Some parties in this country are sufficiently short sighted to suppose that the restrictive tariff of the free States can be evaded by entering goods in the Southern States and smuggling them across the frontier; but this is scarcely a policy which is likely to last, as Mr Lincoln will soon find means to stop the major part of such traffic, and may even succeed in closing every Southern port. Mr. Jefferson Davis and his admirers in this country seem also to ignore that the routes of commerce are marked out, not by man, but by nature; and this fact is particularly exemplified in the case of New York and Philadelphia. The latter city is much nearer to Southern markets, its approach from the sea is equal to that of the former, and yet it has never succeeded in putting itself on a par with its rival. So will it be with New Orleans or any other southern port; and our merchants will do well to take a lesson from the past, instead of blindly attempting a future which it is perhaps impossible to attain. The trade of a whole continent is not to be diverted to suit the schemes of a set of political enthusiasts.

A letter which appeared in our columns on Thursday morning will probably open the eyes of our Manchester politicians to the true state of public opinion in the Southern States in reference to free trade. It is well that Englishmen should know how far the new republic is adverse to a restrictive tariff, and that free trade is merely offered to this country as a bribe for the recognition of Southern independence. The slaveholders believe that we are opposed to their peculiar institution, but we are a mercantile nation, and will gladly give up our principles when those principles and self-interest are antagonistic. According to our correspondent who, as an American, should certainly be acquainted with his own countrymen, the seceders for months past have used this language:—"England talks a great deal against slavery but only let us give her free trade and she will put her anti-slavery principles in her pocket and go all lengths with us." Under this belief the Commissioners from the slaveholding confederation are now on their way to Europe, and it remains to be seen whether the government of Great Britain will be inclined to give up its opposition to slavery in return for a promised free trade with a country the independence of which may never be established. Sound policy dictates the strictest non-intervention in reference to this quarrel, and it certainly would be a most unfriendly act on the part of Great Britain towards the government of the United States to afford the slightest color of assistance to a section of the country which is in open rebellion against its authority. Setting aside the true cause of the establishment of this Southern confederation, namely, the aggrandizement of slavery, the interests of our manufacturers will be much further advanced by a continuance of amicable relations with the free States than by any possible amount of trade with the slaveholders. We trust, therefore, that Messrs. Yancey, Rost, Mann and King will for the present receive no answer to their demands, and Great Britain may thus be relieved from the necessity of recognizing an independence which President Lincoln will prove to be impossible.

The Chance of European War.

The Turin *Opinion Nationale* has an article discussing the probabilities of peace or war. After alluding to the disquieting rumors which were current about the middle of last week on the subject of warlike demonstrations along the banks of the Po, our contemporary proceeds to consider the probabilities of Italy, on the one hand, or of Austria, on the other, commencing hostilities. And first, as to Italy, it says:—

Will then war break out anew? Should we expect and prepare for it? Who can desire war? Is it Italy? Evidently not. She is not yet constituted; is not in possession of her capital; the South supplies her with few or no resources, and her army and navy are not what they will be in two or three years. If Italy intends, as she openly announces, to claim Venice one day, she has no need for hurrying; she knows that time is her confederate, and that the same principle by which she is constituting herself is causing the decomposition of Austria; she knows, too, without any doubt, that France would disapprove of her assuming the offensive in any way, and would not consider herself obliged to afford assistance. If, then, war is to break out on the banks of the Po and the Mincio, we may be certain in advance that Italy will not take the initiative in the attack.

As to Austria, the writer considers her position and interests to be quite different:—

"Austria," he observes, "has in Venetia an excellent and numerous army ready to enter on a campaign; she possesses fortified places of the first order, and has just put Venice in a formidable state of defence. To take advantage of her superiority in numbers and organization to crush Italy—to bring back to her flag the prestige of victory—to revive in all Italy the hopes and the efforts of the reaction—to restore the dukes, and to replace the the King of Naples on the throne—such might be for Austria the result of two battles won. The temptation is great—so great that if she has abstained from action up to this day, if she has tolerated arms in hand the successive invasion of the Marches, Umbria, Naples, the taking of Ancona, Gaeta and Messina—that prolonged inaction, that unnatural longanimity, can only be attributed to the fear of drawing a second time into Italy the armies of France, and of exciting the renewal of a contest from which this time she would not escape on such easy terms as from the last. But it will be said, if the fear of bringing France into Italy has restrained Austria for a year, why should it not continue to do so? Austria cannot doubt that if her army were to cross the Mincio 150,000 French would go to meet it, and would, perhaps, reconduct it to Vienna. Yes, it is certain that Austria has an interest in making war; that the longer she waits the weaker she will be and the stronger will be Italy, and that at all times what is loss for her is gain for Italy."

If, therefore, Austria should think of making war in Italy, she must, our contemporary declares, have provided a diversion for France on the Rhine, and she should only have done so by inducing Prussia to enter into a league with her to act against France at the same time that the troops in Venetia act against Italy. On the subject of such an alliance our cotemporary says:—

That a coalition of Prussia and Austria against France is an extravagant idea we do not deny; but an attack of Austria isolated on Italy, supported by France, would not be less so. On the other hand, why do we see on the Mincio the preparations which announce an approaching entrance on a campaign, such as the order to leave given to families of public functionaries, the calling out of reserves of an army already on a war footing, the arrival of Sisters of Charity, &c? It is difficult, we admit, to discover the truth in the midst of so many incomprehensible facts and absurd hypotheses. Nevertheless, it seems to us that the French government would do well to be prepared, to place the army of Lyons on a native footing, to complete its effective force, to keep the fleet at Toulon in readiness to put to sea, and not to consider as absolutely inadmissible the most improbable acts of extravagance.

The *Independance*, of Brussels, has the following speculations on the probability of war:—

We do not deny that a wish for war is felt by some at Vienna, but between that desire and the actual entry of the Austrian army into the field there is an immense distance. Independently of other considerations which would prevent Austria from precipitating events and rushing into an inevitable disaster, she is at present completely occupied with the movement of her internal policy, and the attention of the government is fully absorbed by the reforms which are being accomplished on every point of the empire. It must not, moreover, be forgotten that every time that Italy has made a step towards unity, the same rumors of war have been in circulation. When the annexation of Tuscany was accepted by Victor Emanuel, an attack on the part of Austria was announced; when Garibaldi entered on his expedition against the Two Sicilies, the same rumor prevailed; and when the Italian troops entered the Roman States, it was again repeated. Each time, however, Austria remained quiet, contenting herself with adding fresh remonstrances to those before made against the attacks on the rights of the dethroned princes. If France quits Rome and allows an Italian army to enter, Austria will continue the same line of conduct, and all that will be done by her will be to make an additional protest.

The *Austrian Gazette* contains an article on the rumors of war lately current, in which it insists on the obligation imposed on Austria not to quit the defensive. Sardinia, it says, must absolutely attack before she could depart from that attitude; and, however painful may be the idea of seeing the head of the Church deprived of his last refuge, and Count Cavour reign at Rome, it would be quite impolitic for Austria to assume the offensive.

Important Letter from Prince Murat.

CHATEAU DE BOURGANEUF, March 27, 1861.

DEAR DUKE—Our political situation is more strained than ever, and cannot be prolonged. The different parties that dispute Italy are about to enter into conflict, and I am assured that the aspirations and the wishes of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies turn towards me. It is, therefore, right that I should make known what I think to you, and to those who hope in me.

I have declared several times, and particularly at the commencement of the annexations, that I never would be an obstacle to the unity of Italy, and I have kept my promise! But unity may be understood and effected in different ways. There is federal unity, which is in conformity with the historical developement and the genius of Italy; and centralized unity, arising from the utopian movement of conspiracies. The means, and I will even say the artifices which are employed to realize this utopian project, have been, in my eyes, the certain indication of the failure of an enterprise which ought never to have been attempted.

It was easy to organize political associations destined to second movements which were prepared before hand. It was easy to plan cunning schemes, to cajole people suffering from misery or of easy conscience, to turn universal hatred against governments justly detested, and it was possible to gain two or three battles. But it was not easy to decapitate the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies—to make Naples a provincial town—to invade Rome, without regard for the reasons of State, and the moral forces which defend the Papacy—to arm a million of soldiers to beat Austria, and even to pretend to keep in check France, the guardian of Rome, and, with France, the monarchies of Europe, menaced with a general revolt.

It is not known whether, in her secret heart, Piedmont originally thought of making all Italy a single kingdom, without taking any account of so many difficulties. The tendencies of Piedmont were often suspected by the promoters, even those most celebrated of Unification. But when Piedmont planted her flag in the centre of Italy, she found herself exposed to the risk of having to embark in the most hazardous enterprises; and now she has behind her the short-sighted fanaticism which impels her to extreme violations.

This blind fanaticism now cries to the men who govern Italy, "Forward! Let us enter Rome! Afterwards we will turn against Austria; or, if it suits you better, we will attack Austria first and Rome afterwards!" Thus speaks a party which aims at making all people rise in insurrection in order that they may become its accomplices.

Will Piedmont cede to this fatal impulse? If she does, the task of Unification will bring about new conflicts with Austria; and the civil war will be lighted up anew in the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. Piedmont will have before her the Austrian army, behind her Neapolitan autonomy; and then will be endangered at the same time both national independence by the Austrian armies, and liberty by the Bourbonian party. So attacked, liberty and independence may succumb, or at least fall again under the high jurisdiction of the great Powers.

I understand, in presence of the possibility of such calamities, that, as you wrote me, the remembrance of my father is like a ray of hope. As long as the people of the Two Sicilies shall exist, the name of Joachim Napoleon will be dear to the hearts of all, and will be venerated. And I, his son, will consider it a great honor to encounter the difficulties and the dangers with which would be surrounded, under the present grave circumstances, the mission of succeeding him conferred by popular election.

I would not undertake so great a mission if it were not to open the path so necessary to Italy, of political and social prosperity, and with the determination of laying the foundations of an edifice that would not shake as does that of annexations, which is only supported by vacillating props. The grandeur of States cannot be founded in a few months. The admirable power of the French Empire is the production of the social labor of several centuries.

As I would not consent to embarrass Italian unification, so I would not suffer that others should embarrass our reign, by leading us into seducing but disastrous enterprises. I would guard your independence as a treasure, and I would share with a Parliament what is most noble in the task of a King—the development of social activity by encouragements given to manufactures, to commerce, to science, to art, to great public works, and to all elements of collective education and national progress.

The fundamental rule of my conduct would be very different from that of the men who agitate Italy. These men have placed above the Italian people associations of conspirators who are connected with all European revolutions. We should be happy, on the contrary, to see disappear this artificial aristocracy of conspirators, who dispose of everything as they please. We would not seek the friendship of these cosmopolitan conspirators, who dream of a territorial remodeling of Europe, but that of every government of conservative and progressive tendencies.

As to the people of Italy, it is not only their friendship, but their fraternity which we must possess—fraternity taking the form of a confederation, which alone can effect our political transformation. We should be in Italy a pledge, and in Europe an element, of that universal conciliation which is invoked by the peoples and the governments, who feel anxious with regard to the immense dangers that a stormy future appears to presage.

Accept, dear Duke, &c., LUCIEN MURAT.

The New French Mortar Cannon.

The following are further particulars relative to the new French mortar cannon:—

The tube or barrel is formed of several cylinders or rings of cast or wrought iron, its longitudinal cylindrical parts affording the means of uniting the rings. The interior of the tube is rifled by means of a certain number of projecting spiral rods shaped in triangular prisms. The tube can be lengthened at pleasure. The breech of the gun is a mortar, to which the tube is attached, and from which it may be detached, either for the purpose of loading it at the breech or of making use of it as a mortar. It is alleged that this cannon cannot become heated, that the process of cleaning after each discharge is unnecessary except as regards the breech, and that it may be fired five times during the space now required to fire any other gun once. Another consequence said to follow from the non-heating of the barrel of the gun is that there is no danger of bursting, either from defect in the metal or from overcharge. The gun may likewise be lengthened or shortened at pleasure. The inventor states that a gun throwing a shot of 120 pounds weight may be taken to pieces and conveyed on the back of a horse or mule over roads impassable for carriages. He shows that there is a considerable saving in the construction of this gun, in consequence of the tube being of open work, and of iron in place of bronze. It may be as light as is consistent with the resistance which its weight must necessarily oppose to the recoil produced by its discharge. The inventor expects that this gun will supersede mortars, and that every cannon mounted on a ship's deck may be used both as a cannon and a mortar, and that a ship which carries forty guns may be said to carry forty guns and forty mortars.

Garibaldi on Protestantism.

[From the Liverpool Mercury, March 30.]

A letter has been addressed by General Garibaldi to Sir Culling E. Eardly, Bart., President of the Evangelical Alliance, in reference to the proposed presentation to him of a copy of Baxter's Polyglott Bible by the Alliance, whose wish is also to distribute the New Testament among the soldiers of Italy. The following translation has been sent to a gentleman in Nottingham by one of the London Secretaries:—

CAPRERA, Feb. 17, 1861.

SIR—I am very grateful for all that the Christians of England have done for the welfare of man and the rights of nations. The Evangelical Alliance, over which you preside, is a good work. I shall receive with pleasure, by post, the offer which you have made me of a Bible in many tongues, and I do not consent that a deputation of members of your society should put themselves to inconvenience for the purpose. * * The great majority of the people among us, if not Protestant in name, are very Protestant in fact, as is proved by the indifference—nay, even the contempt—with which they receive the anathemas of the Papacy, and the public ridicule which the miracles excite. Be persuaded, sir, that the Italian people are much less Popish than has been said. As for me, be good enough to believe me the irreconcileable enemy of hypocrisy and of all despotism, and at the same time your affectionate

G. GARIBALDI.

The Late Defalcation in the Commercial Bank of London—How It Was Effected.

[From the London Times, Feb. 20.]

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To this ledger clerk seems to have belonged the sole duty of transferring from the passbooks to the books of the bank the accounts of the customers. The customers, of course, examine their passbooks. It was necessary, therefore, that these should be correct, and they were correct. The managers and the directors examine the books of the bank. It was necessary that these also should be correct, and they were correct. But they were correct in relation to very different tests. No one ever thought of examining whether the passbooks really agreed with the ledgers. For twelve years no one has ever looked over that clerk's work and seen how he did it; if any one had done so, he would have found that, while the passbooks represented the actual transactions between the bank and its customers, the ledgers represented a fanciful and unreal state of things, of which nothing was true but its statement of the total of the sums received and paid. If we suppose that this clerk had a thousand accounts to pass into his ledgers, and that to each of these accounts, on any given morning, £100 was paid in, we see at a moment how easily the fraud could be accomplished. One of these accounts was his own, opened under a fictitious name. When he came to copy the thousand passbooks, he deducted, we will suppose, £10 each from the £100 which each had paid in, and he added the aggregate of these deductions, or £9,990, to his own account. This is all he had to do. He could then draw out his £9,990 as soon as he pleased, by the simple process of signing checks with the fictitious name in which he had opened his own account. He could do this because the cashiers, when in doubt as to a customer's balance, refer not to the passbook, but to the ledger. This process could be repeated to any extent. There were only two precautions necessary to render detection almost impossible; the first was to manage that nobody but himself should ever post the ledgers or examine them; and the second was never to draw an account down so low as to incur the risk that the cashiers, after reference to the ledgers, might refuse to pay a check. And so it did go on for years. For eleven years has this guilty wretch, without the intervention of one holiday, stood from morning to night, guarding the dreaded secret that lay constantly before his eyes. No wonder that at last human endurance could bear no more, and that a fit of paralysis struck him down. But for this catastrophe the systematic fraud might have continued for years. It might have gone on until the fictitious account had swallowed up so much of the other accounts as to occasion necessarily, at some moment, an accidental discovery. There was, however, always the possibility that those bulloing speculations or other desperate adventures might have taken a favorable turn, and might have enabled the man gradually to blot out the fictitious account, and to restore the books to a healthy condition. Who can tell how many of these things are going on! In the nature of things it is only the failures that are discovered. Men such as these are, in the full current of affairs, always hope that with the command of money they can make speculations which are not risks, and that they can put back the money they steal. If they succeed we hear nothing of it; they fail, they sink deeper and deeper, until they have lost a sum which is too large ever to be recovered. Hitherto the ingenuity of the thief has been greater than the caution of the supervisor. Even when the Pullinger frauds set all the directors of the different banking establishments on inquiry, no one thought of examining that ledger clerk's books with passbooks. Yet, he was there day by day. He never took a holiday. Margate, or Brighton, or Broadstairs had no temptation for him. Year after year his hat hung on the same peg at the same hour. It would seem that this ought to have excited suspicion. It was declared as the moral of the Pullinger frauds that your hardworking man, who never wanted a holiday, was very likely to be a thief, for that such an exception to all human nature must have some over-constraining reason to nail him to his desk.

M. Mires' Affairs.

The Paris correspondent of the London *Morning Post* writes:—I have this day obtained some reliable information concerning the affairs of M Mires & Co. The Governor of the Bank of France, who was entrusted with the difficult and laborious task of making a statement of the actual condition of the establishment, was lately honored by an interview with the Emperor. M. de Germiny stated that the affairs of M. Mires & Co. showed an amount of real property to an extent which did not justify a declaration of bankruptcy, and that he might very easily resume business or relieving himself from extensive liabilities and contracts which others would willingly embrace. Great efforts have been used to crush M. Mires by other Parisian financiers. The Emperor, too, was determined to ascertain how far certain persons holding a high position were or were not identified in M. Mires' speculations. Such persons have refunded any bonuses that may have been accorded for "services of influence," and renounced all future intercourse with M. Mires' house. This fact has greatly reduced the political interest excited by the imprisonment of M. Mires, who, by the way, is still in confinement. It is now generally believed that arrangements will be made calculated to insure the liberation of the incarcerated banker, and at the same time to enable him to continue business, but on a more limited scale.

Atlantic Royal Mail Steam Navigation Company.

[From the London Shipping Gazette, March 28.]

The second ordinary meeting of this company was held yesterday at the London Tavern—Mr. Malcomson in the chair. The report stated that the present directors, who had come into office in September last, had since been doing everything in their power to improve the financial position and prospects of the company. They had obtained from government a suspension of the contract until the 9th proximo, on account of the loss of the Connaught and the damages sustained by the Hibernia, which, however, would soon be completely repaired. The Columbia was now at Southampton, the Anglia would be delivered in a few weeks, and they had purchased the Adriatic, a first class vessel. By the modified contract the company is to deliver the mails each voyage at St Johns, Newfoundland, and the colonial subsidy is to merge in that from the imperial government. To carry on the company it was necessary to raise £600,000 additional capital, by the issue of preference shares, and to regard all the losses hitherto sustained as so much capital invested. The Board had raised the qualification from £1,000 to £2,500 stock. They had also taken measures to secure better wharf and harbor accommodations in Galway.

The CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report, and in doing so said that the directors since they had come into office had had many difficulties, financially and otherwise, to contend against, but they had met them with the determination of overcoming them, and although they had not succeeded in converting difficulties into success, he trusted they had laid the foundations of a prosperous future for the company. He trusted that when, on the 9th of next month, they recommenced the postal service, they would be able to afford so much satisfaction both to the government and the public, that they would receive such an accession to their traffic as would enable them, after the payment of working expenses, to keep the subsidy clear to pay not only the interest on the preference capital, but also within a short time to pay a good dividend to the original shareholders. (Hear, hear.) He would not say anything of the past. It had been unfortunate, but there were many companies now in a prosperous state which had passed through even a severer ordeal. At all events he hoped when they next met, to come before them with more sanguine anticipations, and results more brilliant than they were at present able to show. (Hear, hear.) He could not say too much stress on the prospect they had of carrying telegraphic messages between Europe and America, for from it they expected great results. They had, too, entered into negotiations with the French government for a kind of postal service, and although they had not yet been brought to a conclusion the board anticipated from them the most sanguine results. When the American people, who had introduced the system of telegraphic communication not only into their commercial, but also into their private arrangements, came to know that the company could carry their messages to and from Europe in six days, there is little count but that they would press on their own government to give the company such support as would enable them to carry out not only a fortnightly communication, but also to originate a weekly one. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report, and that the losses hitherto sustained should be for the future regarded as capital.

Mr. J. S. STERLING seconded the motion.

Mr ADAMS asked if there was not a clause in the articles of association requiring them to wind up the company when they had sustained a certain amount of loss.

Mr. VAILLANCE, the company's solicitor, said it was altogether discretionary.

The motion was then agreed to.

The meeting having become special,

The CHAIRMAN moved the creation of £600 000 additional capital, by the creation of £10 shares, with a preference of 6 per cent.

Mr. ROBINSON having seconded the motion,

Mr. STERLING moved, as an amendment, that the preference interest be seven per cent, which was seconded by Mr. MARTIN, and unanimously agreed to; after which the proceedings terminated in the usual manner.

The New Steamship Hibernia.

[From the London Chronicle, March 19.]

The Atlantic Royal Mail Company have been under a cloud. They obtained a lucrative contract for conveying mails between Galway and America. Their ships were not up to the mark, and they were given some months to prepare others. The old directors of the company were superseded by some first class men, both for wealth and business, who appear determined to try whether a contract for carrying mails between Galway and America cannot be worked satisfactorily for the government and profitably for Ireland. They have built three new steamers, the Hibernia, Columbia and the Anglia. They have already the steamer Prince Albert, and they have purchased the Adriatic, the finest and most costly steamer ever built in America. With these steamers they purpose carrying on a fortnightly mail steam packet communication between the west of Ireland and the United States. The Hibernia and Columbia were at Southampton on Saturday; the former had made the trial trip in the early part of the week, and had averaged about sixteen miles an hour. She was to leave Southampton for Galway on Saturday, and, as it is customary to have a preliminary trial trip to the official one, it was resolved that the Columbia should perform such a trip by accompanying the Hibernia to the Needles. About one hundred persons were invited to go out in the Hibernia and return in the Columbia. Unfortunately, Admiral Fitzroy was not consulted, and the directors were not aware that the weather on Saturday would be unpropitious. The Hibernia lay down the river, and a small steamer took out the excursionists to her. Amongst the company were Messrs S. Gurney, Robinson, Tollemache and Edwards, directors of the Atlantic Steam Packet Company; Mr. A. M. Wier, managing director; and Mr. A. Boate, Secretary to the company; the Marquis of Clanricarde, Mr. Blake, M. P. for Waterford; Colonel H. P. de Bathe, Admiral Morier, Captain Mangles, Captain Bulkeley, Captain Breton, Captain Patey, R. N., superintendent of mail packets; his secretary, Mr. T. Y.