AFFAIRS IN EUROPE.

Our London Paris, Berlin and St. Petersburg Correspondence,

&c., &c., &c.

Our London Correspondence.

LONDON, July 18, 1863.

Effect in England of the Gettysburg Victory—John Bull in the Dumps—Confederate Bonds and "Continental Damn"—Roebuck and Lindsay Snuffed Out—The Newspaper Hostility to the Union Cause—Walker's Pamphlet on Jeff. Davis and Repudiation—The Pseudo American Ambassador, M. D. Conway—Henry Ward Beecher Under the Ban in England—Important Improvement in Telegraphing, &c., &c.

The news from Gettysburg has turned the tide of public opinion very materially, and put a different face on American affairs. Secesh is not jubilant. Different scenery is required and a different prologue to the great drama.

Hung be the heavens with black, yield day to night;
John Bull is in the dumps; his rebel friends
Are put to rout on Pennsylvania's plains;
Their cause is lost; Longstreet is kingdom come.
Confederate bonds and "Continental damn"
Are terms synonymous; while General Meade
And darkness and the gloomy shades of death
Environ them, till mischief and despair
Will make them break their necks or hang themselves.
SHAKSPERE.

Of course it's Shakspere! Who but the "immortal Will" could so graphically describe the "great wars that make ambition virtue?" And that he did it—though born three hundred years before the events took place—was all the more merit in him.

Roebuck and Lindsay are snuffed out, and all debate on the recognition of the South is put off to the ides of March, '64—and that means, in this case, to the Greek kalends. The aims of the press and the public men of the kingdom have been fully developed by one or two awkward *exposes*. There is a grand combination to systematically misrepresent and keep down everything in the shape of intelligence and events that is in favor of the Union cause. A few days since a well known metropolitan editor got hold of a leading man of the provincial press, and, presuming he was "all right on the goose"—because he knew the paper was that he was attached to—he unfolded all the plans. He was not "willin'" to aid, and thus the plans were "blown." Every pamphlet and book that is in favor of the Union cause is to be completely ignored by the great mass of newspapers that are in Southern interests and sympathies. They are not to be noticed at all; for, being sound in facts and irresistible in logic, the opponents of constitutional liberty lose immensely by trying to refute them. The scheme is a kind of free masonry, and, like all secret societies, the secrets got to be as well known to outsiders as to the charmed circle within.

I was conversing yesterday with a writer on one of the leading journals of London (secesh), and I asked him to tell me candidly whether the Southern sympathizers did actually believe, as they professed to, that the rebels had or would gain their independence. He hung his head and said, "If the North keeps fighting with the same determination they must eventually crush the South." "But," said he, "if equal determination exists on each side, neither party will get what they are striving for—because," said he, "the South will never come back into the Union, but get annihilated, and leave the land a desert to be repeopled." Just as if there was ever an instance known in history where any people had all or a majority of their numbers annihilated and swept away—even by ruthless oppressors—except in some minor instances, like a small community or inconsiderable tribe. Then, the South never were oppressed, but always had equal rights with the North.

Mr. Walker's pamphlet on Jeff. Davis' repudiation and the recognition of the South has fallen under the rule of silence—so far as the secesh press is concerned—which has been tacitly agreed on.

Americans in England are getting their eye teeth cut. Moncure D. Conway, self-elected abolition envoy for his own august person, has cut his own, the barber's basin that caught the blood being held by Mr. Mason, an ambassador without recognition, without a government, without a portfolio, without character and without any of the realities that go to make up an ambassadorial existence. Mr. Conway's appearance and disappearance have been something like the Satanic gentleman who acts a pantomimic part in a minor suburban London theatre on Guy Fawkes' day. He stalks in with great majesty, tremendous hoofs, big horns and long tail. Presently a firecracker in the tip of his candle extremity explodes, a fizzle is heard coming from the throat, and, one bang, and the Devil is gone—completely used up—nothing left but the fragments of an old cow's horns and two hoofs. *Sic transit gloria Conway!*

Mr. Colorado Jewett is here, and puts up at the princely hotel at Buckingham gate; but no fizzle has been heard from the distinguished friend of Mr. Greeley. Perhaps he takes warning from Conway's fate.

Another representative of the abolition interest is undergoing a period of intense suffering. I know not what deity in the Greek mythology would be a fitting type of his torture. The agony of Sysiphus is felicity compared to it. Mr. Beecher is under a ban. He can't make speeches. The wherefore and cause is this. He was all primed and charged to go off on the first fitting occasion, and some small tea parties had been arranged by the old women of both sexes—like those given to the author of "Uncle Tom"—but, like the henpecked husband, enjoying himself among his boon companions:—

He sees a hand you cannot see,
Which beckons him away;
He hears a voice you cannot hear,
That says he must not stay.

Some prudent men—Americans—went to him and implored him not to make any public speeches, and held up to him the self-slaughter of Conway, George Francis Train, *et id genus omne*. But no, speak he must, or burst. Finally it was arranged that he should meet first Mr. Bright, then Mr. Cobden, at breakfast. They were asked in his presence if Mr. Beecher ought to allow himself to make any speeches. "Certainly not," said they. The people here do not need any information as to the cause or grounds of the American war. All that has been told till the tale is threadbare. The tory press systematically deceive their readers, and the readers like to be deceived. They wish to see nothing, either facts or arguments, that does not chime in with their sympathies and prejudices; and the readers of the liberal press are thoroughly "posted up" on all points. Mr. Beecher has left for the Continent.

Mr. Field has just received from Professor Wheatstone, the eminent electrician, and Professor Thompson, the announcement of a new principle in telegraphing, whereby four times as many words can be telegraphed through a cable two thousand miles long as by any modes now in use. That alone will increase the value of the Atlantic telegraph, when completed, fourfold; for all agree that they can have more work than they can do. The subscriptions now amount to about £400,000.

Mr. Wm. M. Evarts has, I understand, accomplished the objects for which he visited Europe, and returns by this steamer.

We are now all in great anxiety to hear the final results of the battles near Gettysburg, as our last intelligence only dates to the evening of July 2. The rebel press throw cold water; but the Unionists are confident.

Our Paris Correspondence.

PARIS, July 14, 1863.

The Taking of Mexico—What Next?—Russia and Poland—Religious Affairs, &c.

Any enthusiasm which might otherwise have been exhibited upon the arrival of the news that the city of Mexico had been occupied by the French forces was discounted in advance by the capture of Puebla. The result was that the last news was received with coldness and indifference. A feeble illumination was improvised along the facade of the Tuileries, and a few extra gaslights were burned on the Palais Royale, the Mint, the Corps Legislatif and other public buildings. The Bourse was not affected in the slightest, and the general feeling among the people was one of thankfulness that there was now a hope that the Emperor would retire from and abandon the most unpopular movement which he has ever undertaken. Such is the view expressed by the leading journals, and one of the most outspoken of them—the *Opinion Nationale*—in hoping that such will be the case, says that any attempt to hold possession of the whole, or any portion of the Mexican territory will be inevitably followed, sooner or later, by a war with the United States.

Neither the government nor its organs or representatives give any inkling of the course which is now to be pursued. The Emperor himself has undoubtedly changed his mind several times since the inauguration of the Mexican expedition relative to the manner in which he intended to terminate it. This now depends, I am satisfied, principally upon the turn which affairs take in the United States. Should there be a reasonable prospect that our country is to be divided, and a new confederacy hostile to us be established as a barrier between the United States and Mexico, the Emperor will endeavor to make the latter a French colony. This is, in part, an explanation of his recent "sounding" instructions to Baron Gros relative to the recognition of the South. The result of the invasion of the Northern States, which here it is firmly believed will bring our war to an end, is looked for now with great anxiety; and upon this probably hangs the fate of the Mexican republic.

The notes of England, France and Austria upon Poland have been published, but throw no new light upon the previous suppositions as to their character. Russia will probably accept them in principles and assent to a conference, which will drag its slow length along through the present year. What will grow out of it it is useless to imagine. The probability of a war with Russia grows less and less every day.

It is asserted upon good authority that three thousand French troops are about leaving Toulon for Madagascar, and that the Emperor intends placing the new Queen under the protection of the French government, and making her occupy a position similar to that of Queen Pomare in Tahite. This thirst for extension of empire which his Majesty is exhibiting may yet prove his ruin.

The Emperor is said to be exceedingly incensed at the recent disclosures of Messrs. Lindsay and Roebuck, and particularly at the determined assertion of the former that his Majesty gave him authority to represent his views in Parliament. The result will probably be that the Emperor will be rather shy hereafter about granting interviews to roving and injudicious members of Parliament.

The weather is exceedingly hot for Paris, the thermometer ranging about eighty degrees, and everybody is getting away to the seaside or some of the watering places. The Grand Hotel and the Louvre are almost deserted.

Rev. Dr. McClintock, the pastor of the American chapel in Paris, has returned to his duties with renewed health and vigor. The congregation who worship at this church have been exceedingly delighted during several Sundays past with a new and beautiful *Te Deum*, the composition of J. W. Crane, Esq., the accomplished organist of the church. Rev. Mr. Lamson, the rector of the American Episcopal church in Paris, has returned from the United States and resumed his duties. Rev. Henry Ward Beecher is in Paris, seeing the sights, but keeping very "shady." I understand he has declined an invitation to preach here, asserting that he does not intend to appear in public while in Europe.

PARIS, July 17, 1863.

Effect of the Late News—Its Interference with the Secession Programme—The Russian Reply—School Corvette Macedonian—Death of the Duke of Hamilton—Paris a Seaport—Colored Troops in Paris—The "Black Doctor," &c.

The harps of our secession friends in Paris are hanging mournfully upon the willows. The news up to the evening of the 4th of July, which reached here yesterday, and which contained the accounts of the fighting at Gettysburg, has not been at all satisfactory to them. They had been anticipating something of an entirely different description, and the capture of Washington and the entire defeat of the Army of the Potomac were the principal items of their anticipated bill of rejoicing. For a week past they have been preparing for this, and had projected a grand celebration at the Grand Hotel in honor of the event. Had it occurred, then the Emperor, either single-handed or in conjunction with Spain, was to have acknowledged the Southern confederacy; for they have asserted that Mr. Slidell had arranged this whole matter. In his last interview with the Emperor they state that he convinced his Majesty of the importance of placing an extensive territory under a government friendly to him and hostile to us between Mexico and the United States, and, it is even said, had offered to give up Texas to France and to agree to the gradual abolition of slavery. In return for this the Emperor was to acknowledge the Southern confederacy, and then lend his physical aid to them in regaining possession of the Mississippi river. All that was lacking, they asserted, to make their programme a fixed fact, was the news, which they expected to receive yesterday, of a great Union defeat. This did not come, however, and they are gloomy, unhappy and exceedingly dampened in their enthusiastic ardor. We, on the contrary—every man of us—feel six inches taller at the hope that at length our army has found a leader worthy and able to handle it and to lead it to victory.

The reply of Russia to the notes of France, England and Austria is expected to be received to-day or to-morrow. It is generally believed that Russia will accept in principle the propositions made by the three Powers, and thus throw upon the Poles the onus of refusing what will not be at all satisfactory to them. In any event, after the determination exhibited by the English government not to go to war for "an idea" in the interest of Poland, it is generally believed that no war will ensue.

The United States school corvette Macedonian, on her way to Lisbon, has been lying some days at Cherbourg, and Captain Luce and about twenty young men of the graduating class have been up here seeing the sights of Paris. They are a fine looking set of youths, and do credit to our navy. At the Jardin Mabille a few evenings since one of them met the son of Mr. Mallory, the rebel Secretary of the Navy, who had been a classmate with him at the Naval School at Annapolis. He accosted him, to which young Mallory replied that he could not recognize him in that uniform, whereupon the young midshipman, who is from Pennsylvania, considering his country insulted in the contempt expressed for its uniform, and going "to war for an idea," immediately knocked young Mallory down. Mutual friends then interfered and prevented hostilities from proceeding any further.

The Duke of Hamilton, one of the leading men and models of the English aristocracy, died at the Hotel Bristol on Wednesday morning. The papers state that his death was caused by "cerebral congestion." This was undoubtedly the fact; but the papers do not state how the "cerebral congestion" which caused the sudden and untimely death of the model aristocrat was brought on. On Friday evening last the Duke, with a friend, dined, we may presume copiously and freely, with a friend at the Maison Doree. After this they visited that favorite resort of model aristocrats, the Jardin Mabille, and returned at a late hour, in company with some "fair but frail" companions, to the Maison Doree, where they supped and remained till seven o'clock on Saturday morning. In coming out the Duke of Hamilton, overcome with wine, fell from the top to the bottom of the stairs, was taken up and carried to his hotel, and never spoke afterwards. The mother of the Duchess of Hamilton was the daughter of Queen Hortense, and the Duchess is an intimate personal friend of the Empress. The Empress, upon hearing of the accident, immediately went to the Hotel Bristol, and persuaded the Duchess, with her children, to accompany her to St. Cloud, where she has since remained. The Duke of Hamilton was in his fifty-third year.

A company is now engaged in making a survey for a projected ship canal from Deppe to Paris, with the idea of making the latter a seaport. This has been a favorite project of the French monarchs from Louis XIV. down to Louis Napoleon.

All the approaches to the Tuileries are now guarded by "colored troops"—regular Ethiopians, such as Jeff. Davis would hang with much pleasure if he could get hold of them.

We have not had a drop of rain in Paris for four weeks.

The celebrated "Black Doctor" is again up before the police for practising medicine without a license.

Our Berlin Correspondence.

BERLIN, July 15, 1863.

The Street Riots—An Aristocratic Prisoner—Trial for High Treason—The King of Prussia and the Emperor of Austria—Feud in the Royal Family—Intrigues Against the Crown Princess—Poles in the Russian Service—The Prussian Leader Banege—Failure of a Dantzic House, &c., &c.

The street rows have not been renewed, and Berlin has relapsed into the state of sullen tranquillity from which they had momentarily aroused it. We were highly amused with the description given of these disturbances in a Paris journal, which converted them into a regular insurrection, with barricades attacked by the military and defended by the people amid cries of "Long live the constitution!" and "Down with Bismark!" The fact is that, notwithstanding they may be considered as a symptom of the widespread discontent which undoubtedly exists in Prussia, and especially in the capital, they had not as yet assumed any political character, and even the *Kreuz Zeitung* has been unable to trace them to the machinations of the revolutionary party, or to ground upon them a charge of conspiracy against the constitutional opposition. Of nearly five hundred individuals who were arrested during the four evenings on which the riots continued there were only three belonging to the better classes—one of them being a young Prince Esterhazy, *attache* to the Austrian Embassy, who had incautiously approached the scene of action to see what was going on, and was pounced upon by the constables and hauled off to prison along with the *ci noddoi* of plebeians, but was released next morning, with many apologies. Indeed, the greater part of the captives have been already set at liberty as not having taken any active share in the fray, and only fifty-one have been detained to await their trial for "disturbing the king's peace." The proceedings against them, however, will excite less interest than those against the Polish noblemen from the Grand Duchy of Posen, who are accused of high treason, and have been brought here to be placed before the tribunal specially appointed for offences of that nature—a sort of star chamber, on the Stuart plan—composed, not of jurymen, but of judges nominated by the crown. Some of the delinquents are scions of the first families in the province; but the members of the alleged Secret Committee at Posen, Count Djialyaski, Guthrie, Count Roger Raczyaski, &c., have escaped, and will hardly think it advisable to return from Paris and stand their trial before such a court.

The meeting between the King and the Emperor of Austria, so confidently announced by the Prussian government organs, appears to be adjourned *sine die;* at any rate, it is positive now that the Emperor does not come to Carlsbad. Whether the interview will take place at Gastien remains to be seen; but it is quite clear that Prussia is much more anxious for it than Austria, and that the positions of the two monarchies are completely reversed since 1860, when Francis Joseph had to beg and pray the Prince Regent to be allowed to join him at Warsaw, and was civilly, but decidedly, refused permission to attend the conferences at Baden Baden. At that period Austria was reduced to the lowest depths of degradation, while Prussia was not only the leading Power in Germany, but respected and looked up to by all Europe, and courted by Louis Napoleon himself. The change is not so much attributable to the superhuman dexterity of the Vienna Cabinet, whose reputation for diplomatic finesse has been at a considerable discount since the Italian campaign, as to the series of unpardonable blunders committed by Prussia, and chief of all to the silly and unnecessary quarrel of the King with his own subjects, which has ruined his character, destroyed his influence in Germany, and actually forced the liberal majority of the nation into the arms of Austria. It is impossible but that he must feel hurt and mortified at the untoward results of a policy to which he still clings with such fatal obstinacy, although it is reprobated even by his son and successor, as appears from a correspondence between the two, of which some extracts have found their way into the *South German Gazette*, and the authority of which is evident from a famous article in the *Kreuz Zeitung*, which, while affecting to treat it as spurious, at the same time calls for signal vengeance upon the "un Prussian coterie" who have dared to make it public. This "un-Prussian coterie" is assisted by Privy Councillor Duncker, the Prince's private secretary, by whom the correspondence in question must have been communicated to the *South German Gazette*, with which he has long been in connection, and which, indeed, was founded by his party, the Gothaers, or moderate liberals. Of course it would not be difficult to get rid of M. Duncker; but in the background there is a much more important member of the aforesaid coterie—no less a personage than the Crown Princess herself, who has great influence over her husband, and who is strongly suspected of having inoculated him with constitutional ideas which he cannot possibly have imbibed in the school of his father. Against her even M. de Bismark is powerless, although the red reactionists, if they had their own way, would, notwithstanding their professions of loyalty, be quite as ready to cut off her head as the red republicans were to decapitate Marie Antoinette. What can be effected by underhand intrigue will certainly be done. Perhaps the Princess may be requested to retire to England for a season, or attempts will be made to involve the Prince in the toils of some female Machiavel, who in the intervals of her lighter duties may indoctrinate him in the principles of high conservatism; but the success they have met with on former occasions is not particularly encouraging. Besides, the King is sincerely attached to his daughter-in-law, is fond of her society and anxious to be on good terms with her family; and there are persons who imagine that if he should ever be brought to see the error of his ways and to adopt a more rational system of government it will be through her intervention. That the *Kreuz Zeitung's* party are of the same opinion we may infer from the bitter animosity manifested by them towards her, and which, in their private conversation, is said to be expressed in the most cynical manner.

The official journals state that several of the regiments forming the cordon of the Polish frontier have been withdrawn and replaced by others, some repose being required by them after the fatiguing duties to which they have been subjected for the last five months. According to private accounts the true reason is that numerous desertions have occurred from these regiments, which are mostly composed of Poles, natives of Posen and West Prussia, who could no longer resist the temptation of joining their brethren in the struggle for the independence of their common country. Several officers, too, are mentioned among the deserters, though, as two of them at least have German names, another version, which ascribes their flight to pecuniary embarrassments, may perhaps be more correct. As to the assertion of the Breslau *Zeitung* that the famous partisan chief, Boneza, was in reality a young Prince Redziwils, son of the Prince Redziwils, who is a general in the Prussian army, and directly related to the King, it seems to be one of the thousand myths to which the Polish insurrection has given rise; for Boneza has since been killed, and we go not hear of the Redziwils going into mourning.

The failure of Messrs. Behrend & Co., of Dantzic, one of the largest commercial houses in Prussia, has created unusual excitement in the mercantile community. Their liabilities are estimated at from two to three million thalers, of which half a million are owing in Warsaw and about as much in this city. The Behrends are generally respected; one of the partners is a member of the Prussian Chamber of Deputies for his native place, and was chosen Vice President in several successive sessions; the second is married to a Miss Balff, daughter of the celebrated musical composer, and sister of the fair Lady Crampton, whose appearance as a suitor in the English Divorce Court has been attended with such curious disclosures. It is believed that great exertions will be made by the friends of Messrs. Behrend to obviate a declaration of bankruptcy; and as the suspension of payments is caused chiefly by the disturbances in Poland and by the low state of the rivers, which prevents the grain purchased of the Polish and Russian landholders from being shipped to Dantzic, it is not improbable that by allowing them a little time they may in the end be enabled to meet all their engagements and emerge triumphantly from difficulties in which they have been involved, not by any fault of their own, but by natural and political causes which they could neither foresee nor provide against.

Our St. Petersburg Correspondence.

ST. PETERSBURG, July 9, 1863.

Deliberations of the Russian Cabinet Council—A Conference "Ad Hoc" Rejected—Reasons for Immediate War—Vacilation of the Emperor—The New York Herald in St. Petersburg—A Love Match in the Imperial Family, &c.

In reference to the great question of the day—viz: the acceptance of the propositions of England, France and Austria to our government—I have received intelligence, which I communicate with all reserve, but which is derived from a quarter usually in possession of the latest and most authentic information. A Cabinet council was held day before yesterday, in presence of the Emperor, in which the said propositions were discussed, and it was agreed that they might be accepted *en principe*, as offering a basis for further negotiation, seeing that they coincided in a great measure with the views entertained and partly acted upon by Russia previous to the outbreak of the Polish rebellion. Respecting the cessation of hostilities, there would be no difficulty in that if the irruptions from Galica and Prussia were put an end to, by which the disturbances are now almost exclusively kept up, as the bands of insurgents in the Kingdom of Poland and the Ukrome have, with few exceptions, been completely destroyed, or reduced to isolated gangs, who prowl about the dense forests and will melt away of themselves with the first snow. As to the conferences, however, which are to meet at Brussels or some other European city, and in which the Polish question is to be definitely settled, such a proposal has been declared by the majority of the council to be irreconcilable both with the dignity and the interests of Russia. If a congress should be held for deliberating on all the questions which now agitate Europe, and those of Poland among the rest, Russia, as one of the great Powers, could of course have no objection to participate in it; but she cannot possibly submit to have her internal affairs subjected to the decision of an Areopagus of foreign diplomats, convoked expressly for that purpose, and at which she would appear like a prisoner at the bar before a hostile tribunal. She is quite willing to carry on the negotiations as heretofore, by an interchange of notes with the mediating Powers or by conferences with their delegates at St. Petersburg; but any further concessions will be decidedly rejected.

This resolution brings matters to a crisis. The Western Powers, or at least France and England, must either back out of the position they have lately occupied or answer the refusal of Russia with a declaration of war. I believe our government is under no illusions on this subject, and the consequences of our declining to accept the programme of the three Cabinets in its entirety were fully discussed at the council just referred to. It was allowed on all hands that sooner or later a war was inevitable, and opinions only differed in so far as to whether it was advisable to stave off the evil day as long as possible, or to grapple boldly with a danger from which there was no escape. On one side it was argued that our great object at present must be to gain time; that in a few weeks the season would be too far advanced for the allied fleets to commence operations in the Baltic, and that we should therefore have leisure till the spring to complete our armaments and to tread out the embers of revolution still mouldering in the Polish provinces. Besides this, we should have the chapter of accidents to rely on; Napoleon III. might die, there might be a change of ministry in England, or some difficulty might arise between the disinterested and magnanimous allies in the West to distract their attention from the East. On the other side, it was urged that the season, being already far advanced, was a circumstance that should be taken advantage of to precipitate hostilities; that the Western Powers would have to begin their campaign under the most unfavorable auspices, or else to make themselves the laughing stock of the world by remaining inactive for the next eight months, during which we should have quite as much leisure to complete our armament as if war had never been declared, and might seize the opportunity of the Gulf of Bothnia being frozen over to march across, as Barclay and Tolly did in 1809, and to detach Sweden, *vi et armis*, from the Western alliance, which she would be sure to join if hostilities were deferred till the spring. At the present moment the spirit of the nation was aroused, and the greatest sacrifices would be cheerfully submitted to; but a long period of suspense and inaction might cool down this patriotic ardor, and when once extinct it would be difficult, if not impossible, to revive it. And, finally, as Prince Gortchakoff remarked, and was admitted by M. Reutern, our finances would suffer less from war itself than from the constant prospect of one, during which the resources of the country were exhausted in preparations for it, and trade and industry paralyzed by fears of the future. To these considerations may be added that if a rupture ensues between the Western Powers and Russia the proposed intervention of the former in America falls to the ground at once. The South, deprived of all hope of European assistance, would in all probability consent to some understanding with the North, which might easily be arranged on terms advantageous and honorable to both parties, leaving each independent in its domestic concerns and united against foreign enemies. In that event the reconstructed Union, with a veteran army of a million warriors, would be the greatest military Power in the world, and might, perhaps, think fit to return the compliment which Europe has so recently paid her of interfering in her affairs.

As stated above, the majority of the council declared in favor of the latter opinion, and it is said that the Emperor gave his adhesion to their decision. I understand, however, that the despatches to our ambassadors at Paris, London and Vienna, with the reply of Prince Gortchakoff to the notes of the three courts, will not be sent off till Monday, the 13th, and I will not guarantee that the question may not have taken another turn by that time. The Emperor's only ambition is to devote his reign to peaceful reforms and the development of civilization in his vast dominions; and with such feelings we may imagine his reluctance to engage in war—a war in which the utmost Russia can hope for is to repel the attack of her powerful antagonists at an immense sacrifice of blood and treasure, and which will reopen the wounds, as yet hardly cicatrized, from which the country was bleeding on his accession to the throne. The Empress, too, who is in ill health and extremely nervous, is filled with alarm at the perils that threaten her husband, his empire and his dynasty; and, as she has great influence over him, she will undoubtedly do everything in her power to induce him to pacific counsels. The Cabinet of Berlin is also very anxious for our government to return a conciliatory answer to the allies, so as to defer hostilities till the new organization of the Prussian army is complete, and they will be more able to make a diversion in our favor, which, I think, may be calculated upon, since the restoration of Poland would be a death blow to the Prussian monarchy, and will be resisted by them to the last extremity. A few days must show whether the different influences have sufficed to hasten the decision arrived at by the Council of Ministers. If they did, it would make a painful impression on public opinion; for here, and still more in Moscow, the war party is decidedly in the ascendant, and the proposals of the Western Powers are considered so derogatory to the honor of the Empire that the government ought to reject them altogether.

The *Viedomosti* of this city contains a translation of an article from the NEW YORK HERALD on the Polish question, which is quite refreshing after the demoniac howl of rage and hatred raised against us in the French and English press. Nothing can be more correct than the remark that the action of France and England in favor of the Poles is not prompted by any real feeling of humanity and interest in their unhappy fate, but merely by the desire of weakening the power and arresting the progress of Russia. The whole article is a model of tact, good sense and good feeling, and I have no doubt will make the round of all the Russian journals, from St. Petersburg to Irkutsk.

Our aristocratic circles have been highly scandalized by a love match just contracted by Prince Nicholas of Oldenburg, a near connexion of the Emperor's family through his grandmother, who was a sister of Alexander I. and Nicholas I., and through his sister, who is married to the Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholaievitch. His father, Prince Peter, is a general of infantry in the Russian service, and, though a Protestant, President of the Department of Civil and Ecclesiastical Affairs in the Council of the empire. Young Prince Nicholas Petrovitch, who is only twenty three, was colonel of the Izium regiment of Hussars, and was living in country quarters in the south of Russia, where he met with a fair daughter of the Steppe, whose father, Peter Ilyitch Bulatzel, is a small landed proprietor and *predwaditel*, or marshal of the ribbon, in the district of Bobrinetz. The Prince fell desperately in love with the beautiful young girl, and one fine morning he drove out with her in his *troika* to a village church near Kherson, and got married there, in presence of two of his brother officers, after which he started in a post-chaise, with his bride, for Odessa, from whence he intends embarking via Constantinople for Germany to ask his father's pardon and implore the parental blessing. As he left his regiment without a furlough, he has been dismissed from the service; or, as the *Russky Inwalid* phrases it, "allowed to retire on account of sickness;" but it is thought that his disgrace will be only temporary, as Prince Peter is a man of a very humane and benevolent disposition, and must understand that what is done can not be undone. Besides, after the marriage of the Grand Duchess Mary to Count Stroganoff, the mesalliance of Prince Nicholas is a venial offence, though I am afraid his posterity will have to mourn their losses of succession to the throne of Hamburg, which, like all other petty German States, is reserved for occupants of unblemished descent, both on the father's and mother's side. This, to be sure, is of serious importance; but if he is happy with his young wife I presume he will console himself for it.

MISCELLANEOUS ENGLISH ITEMS.

The Countess Della Seta and Lord Vernon Case.

The case of "The Countess Della Seta v. Lord Vernon" is now before the public, and though it is not yet concluded, enough has been elicited to modify very materially the impressions which had got abroad respecting it. An injured woman appealing for justice against a heartless seducer, who leaves her to support herself and her off-spring as best she may, must always be an object of sympathy, and the more so if the accused party be a wealthy nobleman. Such was the picture which had been painted by some over zealous friend of the Countess, who does not seem to have foreseen the disenchantment which would be wrought by the publicity that was claimed on her behalf. We now know the worst, and to what does it amount? In the year 1842 Lord Vernon formed a connection with an Italian lady, by whom he had four daughters, and with whom he appears to have lived for ten years. In 1852 this connection was broken off upon terms which certainly cannot be considered unfavorable to the interests of the lady. By a deed dated the 30th of August, in that year, Lord Vernon covenanted to pay an annuity of £1,000 for her separate use during her life and his own, and an annuity of £200 to each of the daughters after her death. In case any of them should marry or attain the age of twenty one without marrying, £100 a year out of the £1,000 was to be paid to them respectively during his lordship's life. He further covenanted to leave £20,000 in all for the benefit of the mother during her life, and, after her death, to be divided among the daughters. These provisions were clearly expressed to be made upon condition that the mother should maintain and educate the young ladies during their minority to the satisfaction of the trustees, who were empowered to make any deduction from the allowance which they might think fit for this purpose if that condition should be broken. So far, then, whatever may be thought of the morality of such an allowance, there was nothing unhandsome in the way of terminating it. A jointure of £1,000 a year is no despicable pension for the widow of an English gentleman, and in Italy such a sum represents something more than humble competence. The lady may have been wronged originally, as every woman is wronged who, whether treacherously or not, is tempted to sacrifice her virtue and good name; but she received what the world would call an ample pecuniary reparation.

The sequel is soon told. We need not follow the history of the present Countess Della Seta further than to say that in the following year she married the Count, from whom she appears to have been afterwards separated, still retaining the custody of the three survivors of Lord Vernon's four children. Some months ago he heard that "they were not happy with their mother," and had left her house at Cairo. Thereupon he instituted proceedings in Chancery with a view of making them wards of the court and obtaining a scheme for their education. Pending this, some part of the monthly instalments hitherto paid regularly for the joint benefit of the Countess and daughters was withheld during two months, without the slightest apparent intention to violate the spirit of the settlement, and only until the court should designate the proper recipient of it. Meanwhile an order was made for the appropriation of four hundred pounds annually to the support of the three sisters. It is this order which the Countess now seeks to get modified, at the same time claiming access to her daughters, one of whom has been seriously ill. This application is still before the Vice Chancellor, but whatever be his decision it will, no doubt, carry out the presumed design of the original settlement. Lord Vernon's counsel declares, on his behalf, that he neither has, nor ever had, the least idea of shrinking from the liabilities which he incurred in 1852, and it is but justice to say that the facts, so far as they are known to us, do not furnish the smallest pretext for such an assertion. How it came to be made is now the question, and to this question we fear no satisfactory answer can be given.

Judgment was given in the case on Tuesday. The Vice Chancellor confirmed his decision already given, that the Countess should have reasonable access to her children, but he refused to allow her more than £400 a year. As to the further proceedings, he strongly recommended those who advised the Countess to consider whether it would not be more for her interest to withdraw the case altogether.

Superstition in England.

COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH.—*Morrison vs. Belcher.*—This was an action for libel brought by Lieutenant Morrison of the Royal Navy, against Rear-Admiral Sir Edward Belcher. It appeared that the plaintiff was the author and proprietor of a publication called "Zadkiel's Almanack," and that in consequence of some predictions in 1861, concerning the Prince Consort, a contemporary inquired, in an article of the 31st of January last, "Who is this Zadkiel?", and was answered the next day by Sir Edward Belcher in a letter which formed the libel complained of. He stated that the author and the editor of the almanac in question was a retired lieutenant of the navy named Morrison. He went on to say that Mr. Morrison was the same person who in 1852 had gulled many of the nobility by exhibiting a crystal globe, in which he pretended that various persons saw visions and held converse with the spirits of the Apostles, even with our Saviour, with the angels of light as well as of darkness, and could tell what was going on in any part of the world. The essence of the libel consisted in a further charge that he had done this for money, knowing it to be a mere imposture. The defence was that it had not been done for money, and that Zadkiel had a real belief in the virtues of his glass globe, which appeared to have been formerly the property of the Countess of Blessington, and was, in fact, well known in fashionable society. Various persons of rank were summoned as witnesses to show that they had seen the ball, and that it had been shown them as a "scientific amusement" freely and without payment. The Earl of Wilton, among others, had seen it, but without having had any "conspiracy" suggested to him by it. The Bishop of Lichfield and Sir Bulwer Lytton gave evidence to the same effect. A clergyman deposed that he had seen it, and that the "seer," or medium, described a vision of his son in a distant country, but the description was so general that it was impossible to tell whether it was true or not. Several other respectable persons came into court and sworn to the fact of themselves or others having looked into this crystal ball to converse with "the presiding spirit of the crystal," or to make inquiries about their children, about Sir John Franklin, Judas, Iscariot, Titania St. Luke, Eve, and other subjects equally solemn or grotesque. Accounts had been published on the strength of these visions, of Titania "as she appeared in a chariot," and St. Luke "as he appeared on several occasion." These personages were seen "with legends as coming out of their mouths," and spoke various languages, as English, Turkish, French, Latin and Hebrew, but their present language seems to be totally independent of their education, inasmuch as Titania, St. Luke and Eve spoke English. The jury, under the direction of the Lord Chief Justice, seem to have thought that if so many sober persons could be brought to look at this crystal ball, Zadkiel might be supposed to believe in it, and, as it was not made out that he had received any money for exhibiting it, they found a verdict for the plaintiff. They, however, gave only 20s. damages, and the Judge refused to certify for costs.

Liabilities of Railway Companies.

Hedderwick, of Glasgow, has obtained a verdict, with £1,750 damages, against the Edinburg and Glasgow Railway Company, as compensation for the loss she sustained by the death of her son, who was killed in the accident between Winchburg and Linlithgow, in October last.

Obituary.

Mr. GALCUTT, M. P. for Clare, died in London on Thursday.

A Prodigal Marquis.

There is a report that a noble marquis, who succeeded last year to his paternal estates, worth over £100,000 a year, has found it expedient to retire to the continent and practice economy, with a view of meeting the claims of creditors who lent him money on the recovery of post-obits on his father's life. By his father's death the noble lord receives a sum down of £250,000, but owes £450,000.

Drunkenness in England.

In the year ending at Michaelmas last 94,908 persons—260 a day—were proceeded against before justices in England for drunkenness, or for being drunk or disorderly, and 63,255 of them were convicted. The great majority were only fined, but above 7,000 were committed to prison. The returns show a great increase over the previous year, for only 82,196 were then charged with drunkenness, and only 54,123 convicted. Of the persons thus charged in the last year 22,560 were females, and more than 10,000 women were convicted for being drunk. Coroners' inquests in the year 1862 found 211 verdicts of deaths of 145 men and 66 women from excessive drinking.

Haynau Revivified.

The *Punch* of Berlin this week thinks that "the rumor that General Mouravieff intends shortly to travel to London and pay a visit to Barclay & Perkins' establishment requires—slightly—to be confirmed."

Life in Ireland.

A CHAIN OF TRAGEDIES.

The last of a train of tragedies has been concluded at Limerick, in the sentence of M. Dillane to ten years' penal servitude. In May, 1862, two brothers of that name, men of position and intelligence, fancied they had some ground of complaint against their landlord about a lease. They resolved to take away his life. They had not courage to commit the crime themselves, or they did not choose to run the risk of detection and punishment. They accordingly hired two desperate ruffians, named Beckham and Walsh, whom they armed and sent on their dreadful mission. They met their destined victim, Mr. Francis Fitzgerald, walking near his own house, accompanied by his young wife, to whom he was but recently married. They shot him in her presence and walked away. The deed was done in open day, with a reckless disregard of consequences, the assassins and their employers relying on the sympathy or the fears of the peasantry to secure their impunity. But they were woefully deceived. Beckham was arrested while his hands were yet red with the innocent blood of his victim. A special commission was appointed; he was tried, convicted and executed within one month after the perpetration of the crime. Yet justice was not administered hurriedly, but with care and caution. The Attorney General conducted the prosecution with moderation, and the jury was so fairly selected that there was not a word said against its composition or its verdict. The second assassin, Walsh, managed to conceal himself for a considerable time, but the police were constantly on his track; he was hunted down, and having been tried and convicted at the ensuing assizes, he too was executed. A "respectable" farmer, named Cooke, who harbored Walsh, was tried and found guilty of this offence and severely punished. It was long felt to be almost a useless sacrifice of human life to hang the hired instruments of agrarian combination while the secret instigators and employers of those wretches escaped. Justice could never be satisfied, society could never be safe, while the chief criminals were beyond the reach of punishment. It was felt, therefore, to be a matter of vital importance to the peace of the community to convict the men who hired the assassins of Mr. Fitzgerald. This the Attorney General has happily accomplished in a way which leaves nothing to be desired or regretted. Denis Dillane was tried as an accessory before the fact, in hiring and arming the assassins. The evidence against him was conclusive. He was found guilty and executed. Only one of the guilty parties now remained unpunished—Michael Dillane, and he has been awarded the just punishment of his crime. He had been in jail for eighteen months. The indictment charged him also with being an accessory before the fact; but, in consequence of a defect in the evidence to sustain the capital charge, the Attorney General withdrew it, and resolved to proceed upon the minor counts. To those the prisoner pleaded guilty, finding it vain to struggle against the evidence. The highest penalty the law allows in such a case—soliciting to commit murder—is ten years' penal servitude, and of this Mr. Justice Keogh declared that he would not abate one hour. Such speedy and complete retribution—so many trials for an agrarian murder in Munster, without a single failure of justice, without a disagreement of the jury, so much public satisfaction with the results—have not been known during the present century. What makes the matter more remarkable is that the juries were composed of Roman Catholics and Protestants, and that both the Attorney General who prosecuted so successfully, and the Judges who presided and charged the juries so impressively, belong to the Roman Catholic Church, to whose members many Roman Catholics formerly believed it would be in the highest degree dangerous to entrust the administration of justice.

Foreign Musical Items.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

The latest operatic events in