place. (Hear.) My honorable friend calls upon us to do the very thing he said he would not do—namely, to release our case to the House; and, in the absence of materials, he at the same time tries to persuade the House that Lord Russell and the government acted on grounds not warranted by law and under the influence of representations almost of a menacing tone made by Mr. Adams. The House will excuse me if I follow my honorable friend into the statement he has made. First of all, to take up the commencement of the matter, on the 11th of July Mr. Adams sent to Lord Russell a letter, *representing the affair to be of grave importance, and urging the government to fulfil their professions of neutrality* and execute the law by preventing the departure of the vessels in question. I ask the House whether any person could blame Mr. Adams, or the representative of any foreign nation, for urging a matter of that description in the most pressing and serious manner on the attention of the government. (Hear, hear.) In this case, the matter was pressingly urged by the minister of the foreign country most interested in it, if his belief turned out to be correct; and are we, *because his expressions may in certain instances overstep that moderation which might be desirable*, to deviate one inch from doing our own duty, or in any way abstain from redeeming our own professions of honest neutrality? (Hear, hear.) What would have been said if the United States, to whom we applied to enforce their own Foreign Enlistment act during the war with Russia, had turned round and said that they would not enforce it because it was Great Britain that asked it to be done? Should we have thought such a course consistent with the dignity of that country, and with its professions of neutrality? Undoubtedly it is the right of a foreign State, injured by proceedings of that description, to represent the injury and to call on a friendly Power to enforce the laws and observe the obligations of neutrality, *and it is, I venture to say, the duty of that Power*, not overstepping the limits of its own laws, but acting fully, firmly, boldly, and courageously up to the extent of those limits, to attend to the representations made to it, and to put its laws in force. (Hear, hear.) What was this case? Here are ships of that formidable character which even, according to the view taken in the Court of Exchequer, in the recent case of the Alexandra, by one, at all events, of the judges not in favor of the crown, are, if intended for the Confederate government, contrary to our Enlistment act, being capable of doing the most extensive mischief, the moment they passed beyond the limits of our waters, to the United States, if directed against the commerce of that country. The character of the ships was patent and known, and the only question was, whether they were intended, as Mr. Adams believes, for the Confederate government. What was the course taken by her Majesty's government? They required such evidence as would justify them in acting, as would produce a conviction of the truth of the facts alleged, and as they could produce in a court of justice. The depositions forwarded to the government, though containing some matter capable of being produced in a court of justice, contained more that was not capable of being so produced; and, on the whole, it did not appear to the government proper to treat the vessels as liable to confiscation. That decision was announced to Mr Adams on the 1st of September. It is said, however, that Mr. Adams on the 3d of September repeated his instances, and that on the 4th an order was given to detain these vessels, or to prevent them from leaving the port of Liverpool. That order, however, was not the result of a decision adopted by the government after the receipt of Mr. Adams' letter of the 3d of September, but of a decision arrived at previously. The honorable gentleman asks whether any new information reached Lord Russell in the meantime. That is just the one thing we do not mean to tell the honorable gentleman—(hear, hear)—but he may be sure that the government have grounds for what they do. (Hear, hear.) They were themselves during the whole period actively prosecuting inquiries, and information reached the government which determined the measures they took at every stage and every step. (Hear.) The honorable gentleman asks what right the government had to detain the ships. I say boldly and in the face of the country that the government, on their own responsibility, detained them. They were prosecuting inquiries which, though imperfect, left on the mind of the government strong reasons for believing that the result might prove to be that these ships were intended for an illegal purpose, and that if they left the country the law would be violated and a great injury done to a friendly Power. The government did not seize the ships, but on their own responsibility took care that the law should not be evaded until the whole inquiry would be brought to a conclusion, and the government would know whether the inquiry would result in affording grounds for seizing the ships or not. If any other great crime or mischief were in progress, could it be doubted that the government would be justified in taking steps to prevent the evasion from justice of the person whose conduct was under investigation until the completion of the inquiry? In a criminal case we know that it is an ordinary course to go before a magistrate and some information is taken of a most imperfect character to justify the accused's committal to prison for trial, the prisoner being remanded from time to time. That course cannot be adopted in cases of seizures of vessels of this description. The law gives no means for that—(opposition cheers)—and therefore it is that the government, *on their own responsibility, must act and have acted in determining that what had taken place with regard to the Alabama should not take place with respect to these ships.* (Cheers.) *That they should not slip out of the Mersey and join the navy of the belligerent Power contrary to our laws*, if that were the intention, until the inquiry in progress should be so far brought to a conclusion as to enable the government to judge whether the ships were intended for innocent purposes or not. (Hear, hear.) There is all the distinction in the world between detaining the vessels on the responsibility of the government and seizing them; for the latter the government never would do unless on such evidence as would justify the seizure. In point of fact this detention has been neither more nor less than an announcement to the builders that the ships were under the surveillance of the government, and that if any attempt were made to withdraw them suddenly from the river, the government, on their own responsibility, would take measures to prevent it. Practically, this made during the time no difference, because the ships were incomplete, and the moment had never been reached when, according to the statement of the builder, they were actually stopped or detained before the seizure took place. On the 9th of September Mr. Layard wrote to Mr. Hamilton, of the Treasury, that the ships were not to be allowed to leave the Mersey until either satisfactory evidence of their destination was obtained, or the inquiries which had been commenced were brought to a termination. Of course, if any satisfactory information could be afforded showing that they had an innocent and lawful destination, that was all which the government could by possibility aim at or desire. But, if no information of that kind could be given, the government were determined that the inquiries which they were making should be brought to a legitimate conclusion, that it might be seen whether those inquiries resulted in evidence or not of the vessels being intended for the Confederates, and that in the meantime they would not permit the ends of justice to be baffled by the sudden removal of the ships from the river. (Hear, hear.) Messrs. Laird had early intimation of this determination. About the same time the note which they had heard quoted was written to Messrs. Laird making inquiry who was the owner or the person representing himself to be the owner. I must ask the House to read an earlier part of that note, because it will then appear to have been written upon the dictation of Messrs. Laird themselves. They had given the Custom House agent to understand that, although they would not volunteer information, yet if the inquiry were made they were quite prepared to answer it. Nothing was more desired by the government than to receive satisfactory information which by possibility might show the destination of the ships to be lawful, and might put an end to the whole question. Accordingly they wrote that they had been informed Messrs. Laird had the information ready to give, and that the information would be acceptable. Then Messrs. Laird mention the name of the French gentleman who has been referred to—M. Bravay—and state that he is the owner of the ships. The next objection is that during that period the government were willing to have been purchasers of the vessels from M. Bravay or Messrs. Laird. This is during the period when they had not evidence on which they would have been justified in seizing the ships. It is during that period that inquiries are in progress, and while those inquiries are incomplete. I venture to say that a course more liberal could not well have been taken than this. (Cheers.) The government did not wish to enforce the forfeiture of valuable property against individuals. If it be true, they said, that a private French gentleman is speculating in two ships of this description—if he is a dealer in large steam rams—it must be presumed that, as he is not a belligerent, he must wish to sell them to some one or another. (Hear, hear.) Either on the ground that Messrs. Laird or M. Bravay might be under some delusion as to what the law of England permitted, or, strange as it might seem, that it was a real *bona fide* speculation in steam rams of war by a private French gentleman having no intention to send them to the Confederate States, they would be quite ready, and it might be an easy solution of the matter, to sell them to the British government. They were not obliged to sell them to the government, but what harm there could be in offering to prove their good faith, and at the same time avoiding loss and finding a customer, I am unable to see. (Hear, hear.) The next passage of the correspondence to which my honorable friend referred was Lord Russell's letter to Mr Adams of the 11th of September, 1863. Here it must be stated that the government, as I read the letter, had been perfectly satisfied that there was no truth in the representation that the ships were meant for the Egyptian government, because inquiries had been made which did indeed show that there had been a talk by Mr Bravay on the subject; but the government of Egypt entirely repudiated the existence of any contract whatever for the purchase of such vessels, and said they had nothing to do with these vessels. An Egyptian destination having been alleged, so far as it appears they had not an Egyptian destination. The next thing which happened was to seize them, and it is said the government made a sudden announcement to that effect to Mr. Adams. I, of course, abstain strictly from informing my honorable friend of those facts which the government had ascertained, which satisfied them that illegality had been committed, and that there was good ground for forfeiture; but it will be a satisfaction to the House to have some good ground for believing and knowing that, as a matter of fact, they were not Egyptian vessels which the government seized, and that they were intended for that service which was supposed when they were seized. (Hear, hear.) My honorable friend has read from papers which have been laid before the Congress of the United States. Other papers have also been laid before another Congress, and in the report of the Secretary of the Confederate Navy to his own Congress I find this passage contained:—

"In accordance with the order of the President, early in the present year, I despatched several agents to England and France, with orders to contract for eight iron-clads vessels, suitable for ocean service, and calculated to resist the ordinary armament of the wooden vessels of the enemy. These ships were to be provided with rams, and designed expressly to break the blockade of such of their ports as were not blockaded by the iron-clad Monitors of the enemy. Five of these vessels were contracted for in England and three in France. Due precautions were taken against contravening the laws of England in the construction and equipment of these vessels. (Hear, hear.) Three have been completed; but, owing to the unfriendly construction of her neutrality laws, the government of England stationed several war vessels at the mouth of the Mersey, and prevented their departure from England. (Hear, hear.) Subsequently they were seized by the British government." (Cheers.) We shall have to discuss with M. Bravay and Messrs Laird this seizure, and it can be more conveniently done in another place than it can be done here. But, as between this country and the Confederate government, *we have information from headquarters of a character perfectly unquestionable, and we know, therefore, as a matter of fact, that these ships were being built in violation of our laws*—(cheers)—*and for the purpose of being used in the belligerent service of the Confederate States.* When I say "in violation of our laws" it is not, of course, for the purpose of entering into any legal argument. But I invite any one who wishes to inform himself to read the judgment of Baron Bramwell, which was adverse to the government, in the case of the Alexandra, and then I would ask whether it is not perfectly clear that, applied to ships of this character and description, it would not be an infraction of our Foreign Enlistment act. (Hear, hear.) The House, I hope, will believe that the government have not merely stumbled on the prevention of a gross and most dangerous infraction of our laws—that we have not done what we have only by accident—but that we had some information—that our inquiries did lead to a result which, in the judgment of her Majesty's responsible advisers not only authorized them, but made it their absolute duty to seize these vessels. (Hear, hear.) As to Mr. Adams' despatch to Mr. Seward, stating that the matter had been reconsidered owing to the effect of Mr. Adams' note of the 3d instant, *Mr. Adams may credit himself with his share having such influence*, but I believe that the effect of the note of the 3d was the same as the previous notes which had not led her Majesty's government to determine to take action against these vessels until the course of their own inquiries led them to believe there was evidence of their destination. Undoubtedly the note of Mr. Adams was entitled to attention as the representations of a friendly government. But nothing is further from the fact than the supposition that her Majesty's government, having no other grounds for the action which they took, except the suggestions of Mr. Adams in that note, took it only under the influence of the considerations presented to them by him. (Hear, hear.) Her Majesty's government took the step of detaining the vessels during the continuance of their own inquiries, because these inquiries at that time had reached a point which led them to believe they would lead to actual and positive information, making clear, one way or another, that those ships were or were not intended for the Confederate States. If they were not, there would be a satisfactory end of the entire matter. If they were, it was our duty to prevent any evasion of the law of the country. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the present state of the case, I frankly confess that I regret having to speak of it as pending and awaiting decision. I confess that it would be satisfactory if the case were further advanced. All I can say is that the law officers of the crown are most anxious it should be proceeded with with due despatch. On the other hand, they are not to blame that those whose duty it is to prepare for trial have to take pains to proceed to trial under circumstances most favorable to the country and the government. It was impossible to prepare for trial after last term, and no trial can now take place until May next, but then the case will be quite ready, and it will turn out, as I believe, that no time has actually been lost. I have stated now all that it is the necessary duty of the government to state upon this subject. It is impossible that the case of the government can now be brought before the House. *But the government have acted under a serious sense of their duty to themselves, to her Majesty, to our allies in the United States*, and to every other nation with whom her Majesty is in friendship and alliance, and with whom questions of this kind are liable ever to arise. Under a sense of that duty they have felt that this is not a question to be treated lightly or as one of no great importance. If an evasion of the state of the law was really about to take place, it was the duty of the government to use all possible means to ascertain the truth and to prevent the escape of vessels of this kind to be used against a friendly Power. It was their duty to make inquiries, and to act if there was good ground for seizure, taking care only to adopt that procedure which was justified by the circumstances. On the other hand, the government will act, as they always have acted, upon the principle that no seizure of this kind ought to be made, except upon evidence satisfactory to their minds of an actual violation of the law. Upon such evidence we have acted in this case. (Hear, hear.) The only question which really arises is this:—Were the government justified, or were they not justified, in taking upon themselves to say that, pending inquiries which might result in attaining, and which, in their judgment, did attain, such satisfactory evidence, they would not permit the ships to be removed until that inquiry was complete, and until they had the means of knowing whether evidence which would prove the guilt or innocence of these vessels was likely to be forthcoming? (Hear, hear.) The house will judge whether or not the government did exceed their duty; but they would certainly have been grossly wanting in their duty if, *after the experience they had had in the case of the Alabama*, and while their inquiries were pending, they had not been willing to take on themselves the responsibility of saying that they would not permit justice to be evaded until they could judge whether the ships ought to be seized or not—(hear, hear)—and if they had not relied on the fair and candid judgment of the country, knowing, as the country must know, *they had been actuated by no other motive but that of vindicating the law, and of doing to other countries that which they expect other countries to do to them.* (Cheers.)

Sir H. CAIRNS said the object in asking for the latter papers was to know what it was that Mr. Seward alleged to be an infringement of international law in ships leaving this country, and what was the answer of our government. Referring to the cases of the Alabama and the Oreto, he complained of Lord Russell's having stigmatized them as a scandal to our law, which he contrasted with certain declarations of Lord Palmerston with reference to those cases. Having stated what he thought were sufficient reasons why the House should have a full account of the correspondence between our government and that of the United States, he entered upon a severe criticism of the proceedings of the government in relation to the seizure of the rams, and, as a ground for calling for the production of the correspondence with Messrs. Laird, he charged the government with having done, on their own confession, what was illegal and without excuse, as well as without law or constitutional practice. The wretched pretence that it was done by them "on their own responsibility" had been pleaded in former times for the most violent breaches of the law. In the case of the rams the government had taken a course which, in that of the Alabama, they had distinctly declared to the American government they could not take, as it was illegal and unconstitutional.

Mr. FITZGERALD having replied (more directly to Mr. Baring), the House divided, when the motion, as regarded the first portion, was negatived by 178 to 153.

The Presidential Election.

ENGLISH REVIEW OF THE PROMINENT CANDIDATES—MR. LINCOLN'S CHANCES OF A RE-ELECTION.

[From the London Post (government organ), Feb. 23.]

In addition to the war in America between North and South, suspended by the season for the present, there is a war of another kind breaking out in the federal States which threatens to rage with equal or greater fury for the next year. The materials wherewith the belligerents in this new war will fight are not steel and lead, but gold, or, rather, the pieces of stamped paper which do duty for gold, and party influences. Some of the generals who will lead the various armies in the campaign to which we allude as about to open in advance of the campaign in the field are real military generals—generals, at least, in the American sense. The others, if not nominally generals in virtue of the rank they hold in the federal armies, are at least as much qualified by education and training for the duties which the chief of an army has to perform as the lawyers and politicians to whom commands have been given in this singularly conducted war. Conspicuous among the great captains who will figure in the contest will be found General Grant and General McClellan, General Fremont, and, we presume, General Butler—last, but not least. But these eminent performers who have hitherto fought on the same side—though for different objects and upon different principles—will now fight against each other for the same object and upon the same principle. The generals, not holding rank as such in the army, to whom they will be opposed, and who will be no less opposed to each other, are the President, Mr. Abraham Lincoln himself, and that great master of American finance, Mr. Chase, Secretary to the Treasury. And the prize to be battled for in this new struggle is the possession of the White House at Washington. At present, and for some time to come, Mr. Lincoln may be sure of holding the citadel. But even now preparations, far more vigorous than the paper preparations for the spring campaign against the South, are being made to capture the fortress and drive out Mr. Lincoln, who will have to defend it against his half dozen of besiegers. Contrary, however, to what takes place in literal vulgar warfare, Mr. Lincoln finds an advantage in the numbers of the besieging forces. If in the multitude of counsellors there is wisdom, in the multitude of assailants, in a case like this, there is weakness, since each is fighting on his own account, and as much against his co-competitors as against the immediate object of his attack. General Butler, for example, in doing all he knows and is capable of—a great deal, certainly—to get Mr. Lincoln out and take his place, would have, at the same time, to prevent General Grant and General McClellan, General Fremont and Mr. Chase from getting into it, and thereby anticipate and exclude himself. And each of these several aspirants to the highest honors to which an American citizen can attain has the same sort of polygonal duel to fight. *But, as possession is nine points of the law, or perhaps all ten points in America, Mr. Lincoln apparently stands a better chance of holding the place than any one of his competitors does of capturing it.* The President naturally possesses a very powerful machinery for insuring success at the elections which is not available to his assailants. He has, so to speak, his garrison equipped with Armstrong guns and Enfield rifles, and his fortress armored with iron plates. He has Mr. Seward for his lieutenant, and should he himself, like Alexander, sleep, there is his faithful and vigilant Parmenio, who is no more to be caught napping than the favorite American simile, the weasel. Besides which he has upon the muster roll of his armies a million of men, and actually under arms perhaps two-thirds, or at least half, of that number. A period of about nine months only lies between the present hour and the day for making the grand assault—in other words, the day of election; and there is no time to lose on either side. Operations of defence and attack will no doubt be pressed on with unflagging vigor.

The great gun upon which Mr. Lincoln will probably place the fullest confidence appears to be the "platform" (which is American for policy) of *immediate and unconditional emancipation of the slaves, the confiscation of their masters' estates, and the distribution of them among the slaves themselves and the abolitionist crusaders.* Not that Mr. Lincoln will be able, or even willing, to carry out this platform into actual practice, in case of being re-elected, and reduce it to a fixed American fact; but it is the watchword, the great war cry of the party upon whom he is dependent for support. It is the "*Vive l'Empereur*" which is to inspire his armies, and keep them up to the proper pitch of enthusiasm. The party on whose banners this motto is inscribed is already in the field, and fighting with a zeal which does credit to its working powers, and affords evidence of the possession of sound and robust lungs no less than of glib tongues and the pens of ready writers. There are the sappers and miners who work underground, as the phrase is, *by means of bribery and other occult means of political strategy.* There is the heavy artillery of the lecturer and the stump orator, thundering forth their "platform" of "Buncombe" from platforms of wood. * * * There are some who see, or think they see, a tendency to moderation and compromise in the President, who will neither carry out the abolitionist policy to extremes, nor throw the cause of emancipation overboard entirely and yield every point to the South. And certainly it must be admitted that, so far as want of decision and the absence of a definite vigorous policy constitute moderation, the party now in power have been moderate enough. This sort of moderation, however, might appear to some minds as being referable to extremely moderate capacity rather than to any other cause; that it was attributable to an absence of judgment and intellectual power rather than to the possession of a well regulated will. There is the philanthropic party, who thinks it would be a recreant betrayal of its religion to let the South go without extermination. *With the extreme abolitionists Mr. Lincoln will need all his tact to hold his ground against Mr. Chase*, whose views on this head are known to be as "thorough" to their way as Strafford's.

Some of the arguments put forth for the re election of Mr Lincoln are redolent of smartness and ingenuity. For instance, we are told that he was elected President of the whole United States; but since then the Southern States have seceded, so that during almost his entire term of office he will not have been monarch of all he surveyed when entering upon it, but only of the remnant of the old Union which lies north of the Potomac and west of the Mississippi. Therefore, it is argued, he ought to be re-elected, to the end that he may have a chance of reigning over years over all his legitimate dominions. If this reasoning is to secure the next Presidency to Mr. Lincoln, it will prove a weapon which will equally secure his re election for probably a long series of four yearly terms. The desire to see him continue in office has caused the abolitionist party to discover that there is great wisdom in the policy of their enemies, the Southerners, who have resolved that their President be elected for six years instead of four. In short, they are catching at any straw that they think will serve their purpose. The remainder of the rivals who aspire to rule what remains of the old Union for the four years next after the expiry of Mr. Lincoln's present term of office are also at work each in his own way. If General Butler could only have surprised Richmond and burned it, and massacred the inhabitants, or taken them prisoners, or even liberated the Northern prisoners detained there, it would have worked wonders in his favor. But, unluckily for him, the attempt was an ignominious failure. General Grant will not make much progress in the good graces of the electors unless he makes a good deal more progress in penetrating into the South than seems at all likely. *General Fremont seems to be in the position of a horse entered for the Derby, but which it is known, from former failures, has no chance of winning. The not improbable collapse of some of Mr Chase's financial rivals* would place him outside of the competitors, who will even have an opportunity of joining in a general scramble for the office which is soon to be vacant. But at the eleventh hour perhaps the most powerful of Mr. Lincoln's rivals will unite their forces to eject him, and to put a joint stock nominee of their own in his place.

Seven Hundred Irishmen for America.

[From the Dublin Freeman's Journal, Feb. 24.]

Yesterday evening fifty-six young men left the North wall by the steamer St. Columbia for Liverpool, *en route* for Boston, United States. The emigrants were engaged by an agent here from America as workmen on a line of railway now said to be in the course of construction, and by the conditions of the agreement the emigrants cannot work save at the railway; but it is stated that *they will be granted permission to join the federal army.* They will be inspected at Liverpool prior to embarking in a ship chartered to take seven hundred Irishmen to America.

The Privateers.

A PRIZE TO THE ALABAMA.

[Mauritius (Jan. 12) correspondence of the London Times.]

The Reward (British brig) is reported as having been condemned at St. Mary's, being leaky. She was bound here from Foulpoint with a large quantity of the cargo of an American vessel, said to be the Sea Bird, captured off the Cape of Good Hope by the Confederate steamer Alabama, and sold at that place. The American vessel had been ordered out of St. Mary's, and was at anchor at a Malagasi port north of the latter place. The cargo on board the Reward had been discharged.

THE CREW OF THE SHIP EMMA JANE LANDED FROM THE ALABAMA.

COCHIN, Jan. 20—6 P. M.

The steamer Alabama landed the crew of the Emma Jane at Anjengo. She is supposed to have passed this port to northward yesterday.

JANUARY 21.

The following telegram from Captain Jordon, dated Cochin the 22d of January, has been placed at the disposal of the London *Times*:—The Emma Jane was taken by the Alabama and burnt off Anjengo on the 14th. The crew and myself were landed at Anjengo, and came up here destitute of everything.

THE FLORIDA—HER ESCAPE AND CREW.

[Paris (Feb. 28) Correspondence of the London Army and Navy Gazette.]

For many months the Florida lay in Brest harbor, undergoing repairs; and, though she has long been ready for sea, she could not put out, being in want of hands. Great difficulty was experienced in getting men, as the English market was almost closed by international law. The old hands had departed gunwale down with plunder, but they were either unable to get back to the saucy craft at Brest, or had shipped for another port. Complete at last, but with the Kearsarge closely watching her, the Florida, after trying the power of her engines, waited an opportunity of giving the federal cruiser the slip. A few days ago she left Brest during a fog, and without being perceived. The next day the Kearsarge set off in pursuit; but the sea is wide, and the Florida has good heels. *La France* assures its readers that before leaving Brest the captain of the Florida called the crew aft and told them that he had agreed to meet the federal vessel outside French waters, and to try conclusions with her. According to *La France*, this determination on the part of the skipper was received with cheers by the crew. However, the statement of *La France* is improbable, for the Florida's duty is to damage Uncle Sam in his pocket, and not to run the risk of a single combat with a frigate even of her own size. The Florida and her depredations will soon be exasperating New York and Boston. She has been fitted for sea in a French port, and was even allowed into an imperial basin by the Brest authorities. No stir appears to have been made as yet by the Rappahannock at Calais.

THE WAR IN MEXICO.

Details of the Imperial Programme.

[From the Memorial Diplomatique, of Paris, Feb. 21.]

While the Mexican deputation are engaged in receiving the complement of the votes collected by the Ayuntamientos of the principal cities, the Archduke and Archduchess Maximilian will go to take leave of the Belgian royal family and pay a visit to the two courts of the Tuileries and Windsor.

The Princess Charlotte has already left Miramar, and will await the Archduke at Brussels, where his Imperial Highness is expected on Monday evening or Tuesday morning next. They will quit the Belgian capital together, and reach Paris on Thursday. Their Imperial Highnesses will alight at the Tuileries and occupy the Pavilion Marsan, on the express invitation of the Emperor Napoleon.

If no unforeseen circumstances arise, the Archduke and Archduchess will cross the channel and reach Windsor at the same time as the King of the Belgians, to be present at the baptism of the infant Duke of Cornwall, which ceremony is fixed for the 10th of next month.

On quitting England their Imperial Highnesses will return direct to Vienna, where the official reception of the Mexican deputation will take place. Immediately the deputation shall have received the formal assent of His Apostolic Majesty, it will proclaim the accession of Maximilian I. in the name of the Mexican people. The Emperor and Empress of Austria, as well as the other members of the Imperial family, will go to Trieste to witness the departure of the new Sovereigns for Vera Cruz. Their passage will be made on board the steam frigate Elizabeth, in which the Archduke made his last voyage to Brazil. Before finally quitting Europe their Mexican majesties will touch at Civita Vecchia, whence they propose to go to Rome to implore the benediction of the Pope on the mission they are about to accomplish beyond seas. The functions of grand master and grand mistress of the new Court of Mexico are confided to Count Joseph Zichy de Vasonykeo and the Countess his wife. The Count bears one of the most illustrious names of the Hungarian nobility, and the Countess is sister of the Prince de Metternich, Austrian Ambassador at the Court of the Tuileries.

Financial Prospects of the Archduke.

[From the London Times (city article), Feb. 24.]

With regard to Mexican affairs, it is stated that Senor Arrangoiz quitted Paris for Brussels on Sunday night, to meet the Archduke Maximilian, who was to arrive there to-day, and accompany him to Paris on Thursday. The scheme of settlement of the foreign debt is alleged to be to give £60 of five per cent stock for every £100 of the existing three per cents, and £30 of five per cent stock for the 20 overdue coupons of £1 10s. each—the dividends thereon to commence in July next. At the same time there is to be an entire surrender by the bondholders of their present lien on the customs duties. As it is impossible that anything can be definitely arranged without the concurrence of the Archduke and his advisers, every report on this subject must be looked upon as hypothetical, and the active speculation at present going on in the stock should induce all persons to weigh each statement that may transpire with more than ordinary caution.

Four Millions of Dollars of American Gold for Pay of the French Army.

[Mexican City (Jan. 17) correspondence of London Times.]

Messrs. Rothschild & Sons have just completed a large contract with the Paymaster of the French forces, having imported four millions of dollars in American gold (*two millions of dollars from California and two millions of dollars from New York*), for which they receive bills on the French Treasury.

THE SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN WAR.

A Hamburg telegram of the 21st ult. announces that the Prussians had evacuated Jutland.

The allies were busily engaged in demolishing the Dannewerk at Schleswig.

The following from the official *Staatsanzeiger* of Berlin shows that the alleged retreat from Jutland is not correct:—"After the retreat of the Danes from Wonseld Gen. Mulbe ordered the advanced guards of the Prussian cavalry to ascertain whether Kolding had also been evacuated, and to reconnoitre the east and west on the Schleswig territory. A hussar patrol and Reinshing, with the Danish cavalry, advanced during the engagement to the rear of Kolding. Gen. Mulbe subsequently received orders to keep possession of Kolding, but not to advance beyond that point."

A Copenhagen telegram, dated February 22, nine A. M., says:—"This morning at daybreak a Prussian reconnoitering party in force attacked our whole line. A regiment of our advanced guard was driven in, and the Prussians took the village of Duppel. Another of our regiments, supported by our forces behind the intrenchments, continued the engagement. The action terminated at noon to-day, when our forces had reoccupied their former position."

A Copenhagen telegram announces that a blockade would be declared by Denmark of all ports on the eastern coast of Holstein and Schleswig, except Neustadt, from the 25th of February.

A Flensburg despatch states that on the 17th of February the German Civil Commissioners issued a decree abrogating the constitution of the 18th of November, and another on the 19th of February annulling the royal Danish rescript relative to the use of the Danish language.

The Danish frigate Niels Juls continued to cruise in the English Channel in search of German vessels.

A subscription in aid of the Danes had been set on foot in England.

The London *Morning Post* of the 22d ult. says there is no truth in the statement that the Austrian and Prussian fleets are about to attack Copenhagen. Austrian cruisers are only to be despatched to the Adriatic, Mediterranean and the English Channel for the protection of German commerce.

"A single word," says the London *Times*, "from France, Russia and Sweden would have prevented the invasion of the duchies; but the ties of gratitude for all services do not bind France, a common nationality and a common danger cannot move Sweden, treaties and alliances are alike lost upon Russia. These Powers will neither do anything now nor tell us what they intend to do hereafter. It is their boast that England is isolated. Meanwhile the Danish monarchy itself seems to be threatened. Nothing would be easier than to send the Channel fleet to the Baltic. But it is not by sea that the fate of Denmark will be decided, and our small land force could not permanently influence the decision of a war carried on by 40,000 to 50,000 men against States which could, if necessary, place ten times that number in the field; and calm reason steps in to remind us that it is no part of our duty to redress all the injustice which is committed under the sun."

The Vienna correspondent of the London *Times* says that the Prussian government is about to make a demonstration against Saxony by placing a *corps d'armee* in one of the Prussian provinces which, previous to 1815, belonged to Saxony.

There was an engagement before Duppel on the 22d ult. A special telegram to the London *Times* gives the following version of the affair:—The Prussians, at seven o'clock on the morning of the 22d, drove in the Danish outposts and occupied the village of Duppel. They were dislodged by a cannonade from the bastions. The action lasted four hours. Two Danish regiments were engaged. Two hundred men are dead and wounded, with many officers. The Prussians left many dead and wounded on the field. The Danish army is in high spirits.

The following is the official Prussian account of the engagement.—

BERLIN, Feb. 23, 1864.

An official despatch published to-day says that at daybreak yesterday the Roder, Caustein and Groben brigades, accompanied by artillery, made a reconnoissance towards the intrenchments of Duppel, within range of the guns.

Field Marshal Von Wrangel, the Crown Prince, and Prince Frederick Charles were on the field.

Our loss was three killed and twenty wounded.

We have several officers and two hundred rank and file of the enemy prisoners, and have taken several flags.

It is said that the Ambassadors of Austria and Prussia at Paris and London have given explanations tending to show that the invasion of certain districts of Jutland had been necessary for strategic purposes, and not for political combinations.

A CONFERENCE PROPOSED BY ENGLAND AND ACCEPTED.

A special telegram from Berlin to the London *Times* says:—England has invited the German Federation and the Powers who signed the 1852 treaty to a conference in London. No suspension of arms. General Manteuffel has gone to Vienna about Jutland affairs.

The London *Times* also publishes the following despatch:—

VIENNA, Feb 23, 1864.

The conference proposed by England for a settlement of the question relative to the German Duchies has been accepted by Austria and Prussia. Orders will be issued not to advance further into Jutland.

The London *Times*, in a leader, says:—The above news will encourage those who believe that there is a public conscience in Europe, and that a country like our own may, by honest and persistent endeavors, influence the counsels of foreign monarchies and rebuke the passions of a people without drawing the sword. We may now hope that the Danish question may be settled on a basis which will give tranquillity to the duchies, and yet preserve the unity of an ancient and dignified monarchy.

The London *Times* alludes to the change of opinion in France on the Danish question, and asserts that the brave persistence of the Danes to superior forces has enlisted the sympathies of Frenchman in their behalf.

The acceptance of the proposed conference by Austria and Prussia is confirmed by the Vienna *Gazette*.

It is stated that a treaty has been signed between Prussia and Oldenburg, giving to the former Power an extension of territory on the Jade.

The Danish Blockade.

HAMBURG, Feb. 21, 1864.

The official *Berlingske Tidende* of Copenhagen publishes *in extenso* the Danish regulations for the blockade of the German ports.

According to these regulations, a provisional embargo is to be laid, until the 1st of April, upon all ships carrying an enemy's flag anchored in the ports or bays of Denmark. After that date such ships may withdraw with safe conducts to non-blockaded ports, upon condition that the States to which they belong will exercise reciprocity. Orders relating to the capture of hostile or suspected vessels follow. As regards the blockade itself, it is said:—

The blockade is to be held to have commenced when one or several vessels blockade a port in such a manner that merchantmen can neither enter nor issue without running evident risk of capture. Commandants of ships charged with the blockade are immediately to summon neutral vessels anchored in hostile ports to state when they will leave the blockaded port.

The German Conference at Wurzburg.

PARTIAL RECOGNITION OF THE DUKE OF AUGUSTENBURG.

[Wurzburg (Feb. 20) correspondence of the London Times.]

The Foreign Ministers of Bavaria, Saxony, Wurtemberg, Baden, Hesse Darmstadt, Brunswick, and Nassau, and the Duchies of Weimar, Saxe-Gotha, and Saxe Meiningen held conferences in this city yesterday and the day before, at the Crown Prince Hotel. The above named States possess seven out of the sixteen votes belonging to the German diet, viz:—Bavaria, one vote; Saxony, one; Wurtemberg, one; Baden, one; Hesse-Darmstadt, one; Brunswick and Nassau, one conjointly, forming thirteen curie; Weimar, Saxe-Gotha, Saxe Meiningen and Altenburg, one conjointly, forming twelve curie.

I may observe that the vote in the Diet belonging to Brunswick and Nassau is exercised by either State alternately, during a period of six months, the rule being that a vote once given by either State cannot be altered by the other when it becomes its turn to vote.

Weimar has a casting vote should the duchies forming the twelfth curie be equally divided in opinion. Altenburg, however, is not represented at the present conferences.

The Foreign Ministers here present are Baron Schrenck, for Bavaria; Baron Beust, for Saxony; Baron Hugel, for Wurtemberg; Baron Roggenbach, for Baden; Baron Dalwigk, for Hesse Darmstadt; Baron Campe, for Brunswick; the Prince Wittgenstein, for Nassau; Baron Wartzdorf, for Weimar; Baron Siebach, for Saxe-Gotha; Baron Uttenhopen, for Saxe-Meningen.

These ministers have come to the conclusion, it is believed unanimously, to *trancher* the question of the Holstein succession *by acknowledging and admitting to a seat in the Diet the envoy who may be nominated by the Duke of Augustenburg.*

The Allied Invasion of Jutland.

OPINION IN BERLIN OF THE IMMINENCE OF A GENERAL WAR.

[Berlin (Feb. 21) correspondence of London Times.]

We seem now to be just at the most critical point of the Danish question that has presented itself since the passage of the Elder by the Austro-Prussian forces. Suddenly, quite unexpectedly as far as Berlin is concerned, and in opposition, it is fully believed, to the wishes of Austria, the Prussians have entered Jutland. In addition to the Copenhagen despatch received by way of London, a telegram from Hadersleben of Friday night says that the Prussian guards were then still at Kolding, and that the decision whether they should retire thence, or whether there should be a general forward movement into Jutland, was expected to come from Berlin. The official and semi-official papers are very reserved upon the subject. Last night's *Gazette* gave the London telegram without comment; the *Cross Journal* talks of a disputed frontier, and says that the south part of the town of Kolding, as well as the places south of Kolding-Au, are situate within the debatable distinct. The Bismark organ says, but not in an authoritative or seemingly official manner, that it is natural the allies, being once at war with Denmark, should not limit their operations to Schleswig; while the *Cross Journal* supposes that they will not go beyond Kolding and places on the same line. On the other hand, it has been for some days understood that the Prussians desire to effect a diverson, so as to facilitate the attack on Duppel, and it is manifest that in order to do so they must enter Jutland. A Copenhagen despatch says there had been a cavalry skirmish at Gudsoe, considerably to the northeast of Kolding, and a good part of the way to Fredericia; but a doubt is cast on this by a Berlin journal, which would fain make it appear that the frontier was crossed only in the heat of pursuit, and after a skirmish which occurred in Schleswig. This does not agree with the alleged presence of the Prussian Guard at Kolding. A short time, however, must clear up all these doubts. *Great importance is naturally attached to the solution they may receive, and should it prove that the invasion of Jutland has really taken place, and is to be persisted in, it will here be considered that the probabilities of a European war have greatly increased, and indeed that there is scarcely a hope of its being avoided.*

The Latest News.

BERLIN, Feb. 24, 1864.

It is stated in diplomatic circles that the conference for the settlement of the Dano-German question was proposed by England, with the concurrence of France, and that the proposal was supported by Russia.

Prussia and Austria, as already stated, have accepted the conference, to which a representative of the German Diet will be invited.

The same Powers have refused, however, to grant an armistice, and hostilities will not be discontinued during the conference.

HADERSLADEN, Feb. 23, 1864.

The Danish outposts are stationed opposite the Prussian Guard at Judsoe. Unimportant skirmishes are continually taking place. The Danish force occupying Fredericia numbers 6,000, many of whom are said to be Schleswigers.

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 23, 1864.

Government has published the following official communication:—

Vessels have been ordered to the Mediterranean and the English Channel to cruise in search of Danish ships. The secretaries of the Danish Legation at Berlin and Vienna have been recalled. The Secretary of the Austrian Legation at Copenhagen has already left. The authorities at Hamburg have seized the money in the Danish Post Office in that city.

BERLIN, Feb. 24, 1864.

It is stated in diplomatic circles that the conference of the Dano-German question was proposed by England with the concurrence of France, and that the proposal was supported by Russia. Prussia and Austria, as already stated, have accepted the conference, to which a representative of the German Diet will be invited. The Powers have refused, however, to grant an armistice, and hostilities will not be discontinued during the conference.

THE DANISH CRUISER IN THE CHANNEL.

PLYMOUTH, Feb. 24, 1864.

The Danish frigate Niels Juls has filled up with coal, and is about to resume her search for prizes; but it is reported she will shortly go to Copenhagen.

Commercial Intelligence.

THE LONDON MONEY MARKET.

The funds on the 23d of February were steady. Consols closed firm at 91¼ a ⅜.

Money was growing more abundant, and the tendency in the discount market was towards a reduction of rates. Bills were done at ⅜ a ½