THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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EUROPE.

Arrival of the Australasian with Three Days Later News.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE IN ENGLAND.

ITS EFFECT.

The Wisdom, Moderation and Statesmanship of Mr. Johnson Universally Commended.

English Mediation Accepted in the Chilean Question.

Maximilian Anxious to Resume Relations with the Pope.

No Mexican Recruits to be Had in Europe.

IMPORTANT FROM PARAGUAY.

LOPEZ READY TO COME TO TERMS.

Position of Affairs at the Belgian Court.

THE JAMAICA MASSACRE.

The Fenian Armada Expected in Ireland.

&c. &c. &c.

The mail steamship Australasian, which left Liverpool at nine o'clock on the morning of the 16th, via Queenstown on the evening of the 17th inst., arrived here yesterday.

It is stated that Admiral Goldsborough, commanding the United States squadron of evolution in the European waters, had gone to Villafranca, near Nice, for winter quarters, where it was expected three more ships from America would shortly join him.

The King and Queen of Portugal had arrived in England on a visit to Queen Victoria.

On the night of the 13th the mail steamer Samphire, while crossing from Dover to Calais, was run into by the American bark Fanny Buck, of Boston, bound from Rotterdam to Cardiff. The steamer was struck in the fore compartment, which immediately filled, and a gentleman and two ladies were drowned in the fore cabin. The rest of the passengers, among whom was Prince Christian, of Augustenburg, the betrothed husband of Princess Helena, were saved, and the damaged steamer was towed to Dover by a Belgian mail steamer. The Fanny Buck was also towed into Dover, with the loss of her stem and cutwater.

It is announced that Sir John Romilly, Master of the Rolls, and Sir Francis Baring, who has filled various ministerial offices, including those of Chancellor of the Exchequer and First Lord of the Admiralty, are to be raised to the dignity of the peerage.

Among the passengers who sailed from Southampton for New York in the Saxonia were the groom and his wife—the daughter of a clergyman—whose elopement and marriage a short time ago attracted so much attention.

The notorious Yelverton case is not yet finally disposed of, Miss Longworth (Mrs. Yelverton) having given notice of her intention to move for a new trial of her case against the *Saturday Review*.

The cattle disease continues to increase. The official return for the week gives the number of cases at 5,356, being 1,528 in excess of the previous week. A conference, at which a number of agricultural societies were represented, was held in London on the subject of the cattle plague. Resolutions were passed calling upon the government to adopt more stringent measures for arresting the progress of the malady and urging the formation of a National Assurance Company, with a state guarantee.

Earl Russell has quite recovered from his indisposition.

Count di Nigra, Italian minister at the Court of France, died at Turin on the 12th inst.

So far from the supposed reconciliation between the Emperor Napoleon and his cousin having been consummated at Compiègne, they are not likely to meet for some time; for it is now said that Prince Napoleon and the Princess Clothilde will remain at Prangins, in Switzerland, till the middle of January, 1866.

A trial in Liverpool, in which the plaintiff sought to recover his insurance on the laying of the Atlantic telegraph, has resulted in a verdict for the plaintiff for the total loss. Leave has been given to remove the case to the court above.

The China arrived off Crookhaven about one A. M., and reached Liverpool about midnight on the 15th.

The Louisiana arrived at Queenstown at nine A. M. on the 15th.

THE BELGIAN QUESTION.

Our Brussels Correspondence.

BRUSSELS, Dec. 15, 1865.

Brussels in Mourning for the King—The Crowd Visiting the Body—The Entrance and Staircase—The Late King's Billiard Room—The "Chapelle Ardente"—The King Lying in State—His Appearance—Preparations for the Funeral—Distinguished Visitors and Participants—Condition of Parties in Belgium—Elements of Dissolution—The Two Great Parties—Singular Arrangement for the Burial of the King—The Heir to the Throne, &c., &c.

"Belgium's capital" is in mourning for the King who for thirty-four years has ruled over the people with so much tact and wisdom. On all the public and most of the private buildings black flags, and national flags draped in mourning, protrude from the windows. Many of the shops are closed, and nearly all of them half closed—that is, each alternate shutter is up, and between them the goods can be seen. In this way the shopkeepers at the same time pay a decent respect to the memory of the King and have an eye to business. On the corners of the streets are still posted the announcements issued immediately upon his death, by the City Council, stating, in large, staring, black letters, "*Le Roi est mort!*" In the streets men and boys are engaged in selling little medals bearing the effigy of the late King. Every fifteen minutes a gun is fired from the park in front of the palace, and in the streets the throng all sets one way—towards the palace—in which the first King of Belgium lived and where he now lies in state awaiting his burial.

The body of the dead King was brought in on Tuesday evening from the Chateau Laeken, about four miles from here, where he died, and deposited in a *chapelle ardente* in the palace. On Wednesday morning the public were permitted to enter to see the body, and yesterday and to-day the throng has been immense, and up to the present time it is said that more than a hundred thousand persons have passed through the palace and taken a last look at Leopold the First. The public are admitted from nine to four; and this morning, at half-past eleven o'clock, I found the crowd falling into the *queue*, which was formed on the site of the palace, about two hundred yards from the entrance, and awaited my turn. I have been in a goodly number of crowds in Europe, but this was the worst regulated and the most unruly one I have ever seen. "They manage these things better in France." There, on occasions similar to this, everything is orderly and well arranged. Here all was confusion and turmoil. A crowd of eight or ten thousand people, huddled together in front of the palace, in a rank of twenty or thirty deep, pushing, crowding, swearing and talking loudly in a horrible mixture of French and Flemish, paying but little attention to the police and the military endeavoring to keep them in order; men, women and children jammed in together as thick as pork in a barrel, swaying and surging back and forth, laughing and shouting, and yelling, and seeming in no manner to realize the solemnity of the occasion—this was the appearance and action of the crowd of this morning.

Having succeeded in wedging myself between two Flemish lasses with crinolines on, and thus making myself to a certain degree "iron-clad," and materially softening the pressure around me, in the course of two hours I reached the palace door, into which persons were admitted only one by one. Passing through the door we entered a vestibule, the columns of which were heavily draped with black, and passing by six lackeys dressed in red coats with black scarfs crossing the breast, and black velvet knee breeches, we mounted the stair, the balusters of which, as well as the steps themselves, were entirely clothed in black, as was also the wainscoting, upon which was hung at intervals the arms of Belgium and of the King. At the top of the staircase the first room we entered was the bilhard room, a very pretty room hung with pictures, and in the centre of which was a billiard table, and around the sides racks containing cues. I discovered that his late Majesty must have played the "American game," for the table was a much larger one than the little bagatelle boards which are called billiard tables in Paris, and whereas the latter have no pockets, this one had six. Next to this room was a parlor containing a fine picture of the Temptation of St. Anthony. After this we crossed a large hall and then entered the grand *salon jaune*, which has been transformed into a *chapelle ardente*.

The *coup d'œil* was very striking and solemnly brilliant. The light from the windows was entirely excluded by heavy curtains of black cloth. Four large chandeliers, hung with crape and blazing with burning candles, emitted a brilliant light, which contrasted strangely with the mourning dress of the room. At the head of it, lying upon a *lit de parade*, and surmounted by a dais of black velvet, trimmed with ermine and dotted with the Belgic lion, lay the body of the King. He was dressed in the full uniform of a general officer, and had in his right hand, stretched by his side, his chapeau. Upon his breast the principal decorations which he bore were hung, and upon a table by the side of the bed a large number of others were placed. On one side of the bed was the table, upon the other a large crucifix, and upon either side were three officers, with drawn swords, standing as a guard of honor over their dead King.

The bed was raised at an angle of about thirty degrees, so that as the crowd filed by it the features of the King, lighted up by the glare of a hundred candles placed in stands at the head, could be distinctly seen. The body has been embalmed, and the face looks very natural. There is scarcely any emaciation, and as the King lies there one might well imagine that literally he was "not dead, but sleeping."

The funeral is to take place to-morrow, and already not only is the town crowded with ordinary visitors to attend it, but there will be some great people in the procession. The Queen of England will be represented by Lord Sydney, Grand Chamberlain, and five general officers, while the Prince of Wales and his brother, Prince Alfred, will represent themselves. The Emperor Napoleon will be represented by the Grand Chamberlain, the Duke de Bassano; the King of Prussia by his son, the Prince Royal Frederic William. Prince Louis of Hesse and the Prince of Wurtemburg will be here. The Archduke Charles Louis, brother of the Emperor of Austria and of the Duchess de Brabant, will represent the former. The King and Queen of Portugal arrived here last evening, and have stopped at the Hotel Bellevue.

The King will be buried at Laeken, and, as he was a Protestant, the funeral ceremonies will be performed there in the Protestant church. Places at windows along the line of the procession are renting as high as a hundred francs each, and are difficult to get at that. It is supposed that at least three hundred thousand strangers will be in Brussels to-morrow to witness the funeral ceremonies, and many will remain to see the entry of the new King on Sunday. The price of everything is doubled in Brussels for the occasion, and those who come and stay will pay dearly for it. It is a new thing for the Belgians. They have never had a king die before, and, as kings do not die every day, they mean to make the most of this occasion. In fact, in the government circles and in the bureaus, where the arrangements are being made for the burial of the old King and the inauguration of the new, there is said to be much excitement and confusion, as they are entirely without precedents, and do not exactly understand the management of the thing.

Brussels used to be a cheap place to live in, but, in common with many other continental cities which once enjoyed that reputation, it has gotten bravely over it; and the individual who compiled the "Murray's Guide Book," which I have before me, and who states that "the expense of living at one of the principal hotels ought not exceed twelve francs a day, including a bottle of Bordeaux wine," would probably be surprised at the change which has taken place since his time. To be sure, the charges made at present are no fair criterion, but in ordinary times they are from twenty to fifty per cent higher than they were ten years ago.

The funeral of the King takes place to-morrow, the 16th of December. He was born on the 16th December, 1790, and consequently will be buried exactly seventy-five years, to a day, from the date of his birth. The Court goes into mourning for six months.

There is no reason to believe that any difficulties or dangers to Belgian nationality will immediately follow the death of the late King and the inauguration of the new one. The telegraphic despatch sent by the Emperor Napoleon, on the evening of the King's death, to the Duc de Brabant, the heir apparent, has had a very calming effect upon the spirits of the people. This is just what it was intended to have. It simply meant that at present the Emperor Napoleon does not intend to interfere with the nationality of the people—that he is not yet prepared to take action in their case. As a Belgian gentleman expressed himself to me yesterday, it was an "*affaire de Bourse*"—merely done to prevent a sudden alarm.

It is very evident, however, that there is among the people but very little faith in the permanence of the dynasty which Leopold founded; and, in reality, but little faith in the preservation for a long time of Belgian nationality. Indeed, the country and the people seem to contain within themselves the elements of dissolution. There is no national language, about one-third of the population (five millions) speaking French and the remainder Flemish. The great division of parties is between the ultra Catholics and liberals—the latter being not confined entirely to Protestants, who form but about twenty per cent of the entire population, but composed of Protestants, liberal Catholics and free thinkers. These two great parties hate each other with a holy hatred, and each has long been struggling for the mastery. The clerical party demand for the Church the control of the schools—which has been taken from them and education secularized—they ask the restoration of the Jesuits, and in general the acknowledgment of the controlling power of the Church in the government. This the liberals have fought long, hard and valiantly against, and are now in power, having a majority in both Chambers and a ministry of their own.

Leopold the First was a Lutheran, but he steered with such tact between the dissensions of the two opposing parties that he was personally popular with both. The fact of his being a Protestant leads to a singular arrangement in his funeral ceremonies. He is to be buried in the church at Laeken; but the church at Laeken is a Catholic church, and the Church has no service for the burial of those who die without its pale, even though of royal rank. The difficulty is to be gotten over in this way: a temporary wooden edifice is now in process of construction by the side of and connecting with the church at Laeken, and in this the Protestant religious ceremonies will be performed, and the body will be taken into the tombs under the church through a hole cut in the side, so that it will not cross the sanctuary itself. When Leopold ascended the throne it was provided that his children should be educated in the Catholic faith, and the heir to the throne, the Duc de Brabant, is said to lean strongly toward the ultramontane party. If this be so, with a liberal Chamber and Senate against him, there will be trouble. The present liberal Ministry will, it is said, resign immediately after the new King has taken the oath.

A large portion of the French speaking population and many of the ultra Catholic party are in favor of annexation to France. Then there is a Dutch party, which would like to go back to Holland, and who hate the French speaking population. There is, indeed, no homogeneousness among the people, and my private opinion is that, within one year from now, Belgium will be missed from the map of Europe. There is undoubtedly a thorough understanding between the Emperor Napoleon and the Count de Bismark upon the matter. There is no enthusiasm among the people for their new King. He is a weak, sickly young man, who for the past three or four years has been obliged to quit Brussels in the winter on account of the cold weather. Last winter he went to China, and, it is said, is now in such a bad condition of health that he will be obliged to leave Belgium immediately after his inauguration. Surely this is not the type of man to hold together a people in whose bosom so many elements of discord are seething. For some time to come this little kingdom and its affairs will afford an interesting field of observation.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The Effect in England of President Johnson's First Message to Congress.

OPINIONS IN LONDON.

[From the London Times, Dec. 16.]

The passage in President Johnson's Message which especially concerns this country ought, we think, *to be accepted in a friendly spirit*. He could not do less than review the history of the Alabama claims; and in reviewing them he could hardly say less, at least to an American Congress, than he has said. There are, however, some things which the President did not say, and which are, nevertheless, very material. No one can deny, for instance, that "the accordance of belligerent rights to the insurgents was unprecedented." Lord Russell admitted as much in his correspondence with Mr. Adams; but the question is whether the civil war was not unprecedented too; whether the United States did not assert belligerent rights without consulting precedents, by declaring a blockade; and whether a neutral State could do otherwise than follow their example. Further, *it is perfectly true, as a matter of fact, that England furnished more efficient aid to the Confederates than any other Power.* It could not be otherwise, considering that England, of all maritime countries, lies nearest to America, and possesses the largest private docks in the world; but it is equally true that, being also the best market for arms and ammunition, she contributed more than any other nation to the suppression of the rebellion. Again, *it is an undoubted fact that cruisers built, though not equipped, in our ports "drove American commerce from the seas and transferred it" to neutral bottoms;* nor can we be surprised that some confusion should have existed, in the minds of the merchants who suffered thereby, between this consequence and the motives of our government. It should have been remembered, however, even by those who were least disposed to rely on our good faith, that in this respect the interests of our shipowners were opposed to those of every other class in the community. Liverpool does not dictate our national policy to the exclusion of Manchester and the great manufacturing districts, which lost far more by the continuance of the war than was ever gained by our mercantile marine. We ought not, therefore, to be suspected of favoring the creation of a Confederate navy on selfish grounds, and the failure of our government to prevent evasions of our law in one or two cases ought not to be recorded without some recognition of its successful intervention on other occasions. The advocates of the Confederate States have never ceased to protest against the oppressive construction, as they allege, which the law officers of the Crown fastened upon the Foreign Enlistment act, and the embargo laid upon the two iron-clad rams was certainly an arbitrary exercise of executive authority. These considerations should not be forgotten, even in America, and the conduct of Great Britain during a period of unparalleled difficulty should be measured, not by the losses inflicted on American trade, but by the duties of neutrality.

The President has candidly appreciated the reasons upon which alone we have declined Mr. Seward's proposal of arbitration. Our liability or non-liability for the ravages of the Alabama and her consorts turns on no disputed facts or points of honor, such as may properly be referred to a third party, but "on questions of public law." The position, however, taken by Lord Russell on behalf of England is not quite accurately stated by Mr. Johnson. We are not aware that any British Minister has hitherto "rested his justification on the ground that the municipal law of a nation and the domestic interpretation thereof are measures (that is, conclusive measures) of its duty as a neutral." No one conversant with international law and practice would venture, we should think, to advance so unqualified a proposition; nor does our case at all depend upon it. To put an extreme supposition, it would be simply absurd to contend that a neutral might take an active part in warfare without forfeiting neutral rights, because no municipal statute prohibits it. Nor, coming nearer to probabilities, would any one for a moment argue that a decision of its own law courts, however perverse, could shelter a neutral against the just demands of an injured belligerent? What has really been asserted on our part is that, so long as we have violated no obligation, any loss incurred by the United States is, as against us, *damnum sine injuria*. President Johnson and Mr. Seward will hardly demur to this proposition, and, if they do not, it is for them to show what obligation we have violated unless it be a general obligation, unknown to jurists, to insure foreign belligerents against any damage by the acts of British subjects. The utmost that can be said is that a neutral is bound to have a stringent Foreign Enlistment act, and to enforce it rigorously; to which we reply that we have such an act and have enforced it with a strictness almost inquisitorial, but that *no Foreign Enlistment act, however stringent and however rigorously enforced, can effectually prevent the agents of a belligerent from purchasing in neutral ports ships capable of easy conversion into men-of-war.* The Americans themselves found it impossible to do so when Portugal was at war with her colonies, and we know of no means, consistent with the spirit of English or American institutions, by which this object could be secured. We have not, however, declined to discuss this point, but only to pay an indemnity for what, as it is, we could not prevent. On the contrary, we have expressly offered to entertain any modification of the law existing in both countries which may be suggested by the American government. If such a conference should take place, there does not seem to be any good reason why it should be confined to England and America. A code of rules for the future guidance of neutral nations in time of war would be of great value to all maritime nations, and if one could be drawn up by an international commission representing all the great Powers a similar misunderstanding could hardly occur again.

Mr. Johnson does us no more than justice in attributing to us the same earnest desire for peace which he professes himself. Even when the causes of mutual exasperation were at their height there never was a war party in this country. There were those who feared that war might be forced upon us as a dire necessity, but there were none who deliberately contemplated that contingency without horror. Our pacific sentiments have not, indeed, as yet been tested by provocation as severe as that which the Americans at one time fancied they had received, but they are tested at this moment by a grievance far from imaginary. The very same mail which brings us the President's Message to Congress also brings us news of a very strange proceeding within the territory of the United States. We are duly informed that a Fenian Senate, or rather "the Fenian Senate, is in session at New York;" that the Fenian President is about to issue bonds bearing the signature of the Irish republic; and that a constitutional difficulty has arisen between him and the Senate on this financial operation; while in the meantime the Governor of New Brunswick has received information of an intended Fenian raid on that province. All this, we need hardly say, is of a piece with what we have been hearing for months past, and we have ceased to be startled by the intelligence that American citizens are openly preparing for an invasion of her Majesty's dominions under the very eyes of their government. There is here no question of neutrality, for the rights and duties of neutrality are wholly derived from a state of hostility; it is a simple case of individuals levying private war, without disguise, against a friendly Power. The cruisers launched in British waters were at least commissioned from Richmond. It was thence that they received their orders, and thence that they were provided with the implements of war. But Fenianism is American from first to last—in its origin, in its character, in its objects, in its organization. *To say that it has its basis of operations in the United States is little; for it is notorious that it derives from the United States its whole strength and its very existence.* Why, then, do we not remonstrate angrily against its being tolerated, and demand redress at Washington? Because we know that *President Johnson ought not to be held responsible for anything which the laws of a free country do not enable him to check, or for everything which they do enable him to check, but which it might be premature to check at the present moment.* We do not ask, or need, equal forbearance in respect of our own shortcomings; but only that which Mr. Johnson concedes to us, the credit of having acted up to our own views of honorable neutrality.

[From the London Post, Dec. 16.]

So far as we are enabled to judge from the telegraphic summary before us, the Message of President Johnson *is temperate and statesmanlike.* At home he proposes to take such measures as may be deemed most expedient by Congress to effect a complete reconstruction of the Union, and prevent any future attempts to occasion its dissolution; abroad, he declares his intention of preserving, so far as lies in his power, the existing friendly relations with other States. The abolition of slavery in the United States and non-intervention in the affairs of foreign Powers constitute the most salient features in his domestic and foreign policy. By the former he hopes to prevent all future occasion for secession, and by the latter to enable the republic to recover from its exhaustion, develop its resources, and pay off its debts. The ratification of the constitutional amendment in each State which has hitherto tolerated slavery is accordingly made a condition precedent to the admission of its representatives to Congress; and although this mode of coercion can scarcely be defended as constitutional, yet even the most straitlaced lawyers would scarcely contend that the dominant party were not legally justified in adopting reasonable precautions to prevent the recurrence of evils which it cost them so much to overcome. Although slavery was not directly placed in issue by the secession of the Southern States, there can be no question that, *but for its existence in the South, secession from the Union, with all its unhappy consequences, would never have taken place.* If slavery is now finally abolished it is obvious that *the same motive for dissolving the Union can never again actuate any section of American citizens.*

The much disputed question, whether secession was in truth a crime, Mr. Johnson now proposes to determine by law, the operation of which it is, however, hoped will not be retrospective. Treason, he tells Congress, is a crime, and traitors should be punished and crime made infamous, and "it should be judicially settled that no State can secede." We cannot bring ourselves to believe that the President means to dictate to the judges the decision they shall pronounce in a matter which is still *sub judice*, and we can therefore only conclude that it is his intention to propose a law which shall clear away all future doubts on what is at present considered an open question. The most convincing evidence of his pacific intentions is afforded by the President, not only to his fellow citizens, but to the rest of the world, in the large reductions which have been made during the past nine months in the military and naval services of the republic. Since the commencement of the current year the navy has been reduced from five hundred and thirty vessels, carrying three thousand guns, to one hundred and seventeen vessels, carrying eight hundred and thirty guns; while the army will be placed on a peace footing of fifty thousand troops, so organized as to admit of being increased to eighty-two thousand. As regards the estimates for both services, they have been reduced from upwards of £100,000,000 to about £6,500,000. The entire expenditure of the United States did not before the war amount to double the sum now to be voted in the military and naval estimates; but nevertheless the reduction on the war estimates is far more considerable than even the most sanguine had ventured to anticipate.

In Europe the Message will be scanned chiefly with the object of ascertaining the policy which the American government intend to pursue towards England in respect to the claims arising out of the depredations of the Alabama and her sister cruisers, and towards France in consequence of her intervention in Mexico. On both these heads *the language of the President may be regarded as reassuring.* Mr. Johnson repeats the error of his ministers by insisting that, but for the gratuitous recognition by England of the confederacy as a belligerent Power, the Southern rebels would never have been invested with belligerent rights, and even goes so far as to say that the accordance of those rights was not only unprecedented, but found no justification in the final issue. It is certainly curious that, after the voluminous correspondence which has passed between the English and American Cabinets on this subject, the President should continue to ignore the fact that the declaration of blockade not only preceded our recognition of the Confederates as belligerents, but that *two English vessels were actually captured for attempting to run the blockade before the intelligence of our having recognized the South had reached Washington.* After alluding to the fact that a reference of the claims to arbitration had been rejected by England, and that a commission with limited powers had been refused by the American government, Mr. Johnson adds some pertinent observations on the necessity of establishing by a more satisfactory standard the measure of those obligations of neutrality by which friendly States are bound to each other. It is, however, significant that he offers no suggestion to Congress for the modification of the American Foreign Enlistment act, which is almost identical with our own, and even goes so far as to say that he would not approve of any immediate legislative interference with existing laws. On the subject of Mexico the language of the President is as cautious and ambiguous as the most astute diplomatist could desire. If the United States are challenged to defend republicanism against foreign interference, *they will respond to the challenge;* but we are left in the dark whether the establishment of an empire in the southwest corner of the North American continent will be interpreted as such. *On the whole, the tone of the message may be regarded as satisfactory, and it justifies us in assuming that the American government are desirous of keeping on good terms with those whom they acknowledge to be their friends.*

[From the London Daily News, Dec. 16.]

The Congress of the United States has assembled under circumstances which lend the highest interest to its proceedings. It is only a few months since thousands of observers in this and other countries firmly believed that, as part of the actual government of the old Union, that body would never meet again. Now that it does so, with undisputed authority, the Union is larger than ever, having been increased during the war by the addition of several new States. * * * President Johnson's references in his message to the relations of his government with foreign Powers appear to have been *friendly in their tone and intention.* The Alabama claims make, as was to be expected, a great figure in his address, and the case is urged from the American point of view *with much tenacity.* Mr. Johnson announces that his government has declined Earl Russell's proposal to refer to a commission the claims which the two governments make upon one another. He appears also, from the telegram, to have declined Earl Russell's suggestion to provide for future contingencies by legislation; observing that "the future friendship of the two countries must rest on the basis of mutual justice"—a proposition unquestionably true, but one which suggests no reason for declining to provide each government with the best means of doing justice. *It is satisfactory to know that President Johnson, while maintaining the validity of the demands of the United States, declares that it will be his constant aim to promote peace and amity with foreign nations, and gives them credit for the same disposition;* while, as to the claims on England, he declares that they were not made with a primary view to the compensation which he believes an arbitrator would have awarded, but for the sake of settling a principle of international law. *It will be interesting to learn exactly what the President said concerning Mexico and France.* He appears to have maintained the old policy in the United States popularly, but inadequately, called "the Monroe doctrine," and to have plainly intimated that the United States must not be challenged by the interference of European governments to defend republicanism on the American continent. The correspondence with France respecting Mexico is to be laid before Congress, and *cannot fail to prove of the highest interest.*

[From the London Telegraph, Dec. 16.]

As the first President's message addressed to the Congress of the United States since the termination of the great civil war the document, of which we publish a telegraphic summary, has a really historical interest and significance. And it is, upon the whole, *not unworthy of the occasion. We know nothing grander than the way in which the North has used its triumph and the South accepted its defeat. The moral influence of the war has been most admirable. It has raised the standard of political thought and action throughout the whole community,* and, above all, it has made the various sections of Americans acquainted with each other's wishes, virtues, qualities and claims. * * * *

If the first Presidential message after the final overthrow of the Confederate armies had been somewhat vaunting in tone, or had proposed to deal out hard terms to the vanquished foe, the best friends of America would certainly have read it with regret, but not with wonder. This of Mr. Johnson, however, *is calm, temperate and statesmanlike. The bitterest enemy of the North cannot charge it with harshness; nor could the warmest Southern partisan reasonably look for better terms than those which the President formally proposes to extend.* It cannot be expected that the North, after making such enormous sacrifices, would consent to re-admit the South to its old political privileges on any other condition than that of absolute submission. It cannot be expected that, till the Southern States ratify the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery they should be allowed to resume their places in Congress. To abolish slavery, it is true, was not the primary object for which the federals battled, but none the less did the war give slavery its deathblow; and it would be treason to the best interests of humanity for the North to allow the infamous institution to be revived, or to be satisfied with anything short of its abolition by means of a constitutional decree. Accordingly President Johnson announces once more that that is the price which the Southern States must pay for the restoration of their lost political privileges. Nor can the countrymen of Davis and Lee wonder at those sharp sentences which Mr. Johnson utters on the subject of treason and secession. * * * * * * *

To this country, as well as to the South, Mr. Johnson devotes a portion of his message; and *the one has as little reason to complain of his remarks as the other.* Of course he censures England for her conduct during the war, and repeats what Mr. Adams has so often said in his despatches. Our recognition of Southern belligerency is still the theme of reproach, and is stigmatized as unprecedented. * * * * While, however, we entirely differ from President Johnson in this matter, it must be confessed that he speaks of this country in no bitterness of tone. Nor can we be surprised that he gives prominence to the escape of the Alabama, and the consequent injury inflicted on American commerce; or that he firmly insists on the right of his countrymen to compensation. *But it is satisfactory to find that he does not charge us with bad faith, or advise any present attempt at redress. Refusing to waive the claims for compensation, he will not press them.* It is, no doubt, rather uncomfortable to know that a great country keeps a little bill against us for presentation, if need be, at some future day; but we have good reason to hope that, when the passion of conflict has cooled down, the United States will see how strictly our conduct has accorded with the precepts of international law, as interpreted by its own jurists, and as put in force by its own statesmen.

Whether France will view the Message with satisfaction may be doubted. Still, while Mr. Johnson pronounces the usual American shibboleth, while he gives the Monroe doctrine its annual airing, he in substance declares that *America simply desires to be left alone.* The States have work enough to do between the Atlantic and the Pacific; they would rather Europe could manage to keep out of their way altogether. Meanwhile they are disposed to be friendly—to refer disputed points to arbitration—to see established a clearer code of international law. If Europe, nevertheless, will interfere, President Johnson must speak to his friends, Ulysses Grant and Robert Lee. *There is not a touch of swagger in the Message; but the President hints plainly enough that there is a considerable reserve of fighting power behind him, while he expresses his earnest hope that it will never again be called into action.* Such are the chief points of the Message. Other features of it will deserve further consideration when we have its full text before us—notably the proposed measures of finance. Meanwhile we do not hesitate to declare that, on the whole, the document *reflects the highest credit upon its self-taught author and upon the people who called him to power; that it furnishes the world with satisfactory auguries of peace; and that it illustrates a spirit of manly, straightforward honesty and fair play, which is infinitely better than the labored diplomacy of the old school.*

[From the London Star, Dec. 16.]

The important portion of President Johnson's message, so far as regards Europe, is his treatment of the two great questions in which England and France are interested. The one relates to the demands made upon us for the damage occasioned by the privateers; the other, which more nearly affects our neighbor, to the intervention in Mexico. It seems that the privateer question has advanced another stage without the Foreign Office regarding it as at all necessary to follow up the despatches already published with the further important information. The *Gazette* several weeks ago informed us that Mr. Adams had requested our government to specify the claims which it was willing to refer to a joint commission; and the reply of Earl Russell was that time would be required for the preparation of such a list. Since then we have heard nothing from that quarter; but the message of the President dispels our ignorance. The government have finally declined to submit the privateer claims to the commission, "and the proposition in that very unsatisfactory state has been declined." What is the consequence? Are we to have a war steamer bearing a special commissioner with an ultimatum? *Does this republic, which has just given so startling an example of its warlike power, threaten us with the horrors of war as the only means left by which its honor may be vindicated?* The President, we must recollect, is that gentleman of whom many denunciations will be found recorded in the columns of some of our contemporaries as a violent, sanguinary, restless demagogue, only eager for a cause of quarrel with other nations. No better cause is likely to present itself during his tenure of office, but Mr. Johnson does not exhibit any eagerness to plunge the two nations into war. He has apparently arrived at the conclusion that the refusal of national demands does not necessarily require an immediate appeal to arms; that nations may differ even about important questions without hurling their armies to mutual destruction and striving to crimson the sea with blood. He does not recommend any present attempt at redress, but prefers that the question shall stand aside until it is hereafter looked at by our people in what he regards as a more just and equitable light. * * * * * * * *

We are not of opinion that England can fairly be held responsible for many of the claims preferred against her by the United States. We believe if the cases had been fairly investigated by a commission mutually chosen, that of the Alabama would alone have been of any gravity. *And it would have been better for us to pay a dozen times over for the destruction caused by that privateer, which Lord Russell admitted to the House of Lords had escaped through the treachery of some of our own officials, than to have on the books as a rule established by ourselves that a nation ought in no case to submit to discuss claims directed against her in relation to breaches of neutrality. The continuance of such an unsatisfactory state of international law is a worse menace against England than any position which the President or the American people are ever likely to assume.*

The Mexican question is treated with the same calmness and moderation, but with much greater firmness. * * * We do not believe the Emperor Napoleon entertained any design in his Mexican expedition so vast and visionary as the propagandism of imperial ideas. He placed an emperor on the throne simply because nothing but an iron despotism gave foreign intervention a chance of success. But if the American people choose to take the presence of his troops on their borders and the deliberate preference by the invader of the monarchical to the republican form of government as a menace to their institutions, *who has a right to rebuke them?* Certainly not France, for if the Monroe doctrine of America for the Americans be immoral, as some of our politicians assert, she cannot uphold the morality of that doctrine which proclaims that American Mexico is for the French. President Johnson is not unwilling to make France conscious of the fact that when the dangerous game of meddling has once been begun more than one nation can engage in the play, and so he adds—"The United States cannot foresee, nor are they willing to consider what opportunities might present themselves, or what combinations might offer to protect them against designs inimical to their from of government." This threat is judiciously vague; *but that it will be carefully pondered by the sagacious ruler of the Tuileries we hope no doubt.* It means no present war, it does not alter the policy of the United States on this question in any degree, it betrays no determination to bring the events in Mexico to a speedy issue; *but it does mean that the French intervention is now, as it has hitherto been, regarded by the American government with a disapprobation and dislike which will only be removed when the French troops have been withdrawn.*

[From the London Standard, Dec. 16.]

Though the message may not be all that could be wished, *it is as moderate and satisfactory as could be reasonably expected or hoped.* That the President should treat England with injustice and anger was to be taken for granted. It is satisfactory to learn that the President has no idea of pursuing the imaginary claims of his government to a diplomatic rupture. And we quite agree with him that it would be very desirable that the state of international law on the subject should be made the topic of serious consideration. The exploits of the Alabama showed that the old law does not answer its whole purpose; that in the present state of maritime skill and science it is possible for a merchantman to sail unarmed from a neutral port, and, without entering any other port, to appear as a hostile man-of-war on the high seas. This is an evasion of the intent of the rule, which was that warlike expeditions should take their departure only from belligerent territory, and it is desirable that this whole branch of public law should undergo revision. The new rules, however, which might be agreed on could have no retrospective force, and would not affect the conclusive answer given by England to the American claims.

OPINION IN MANCHESTER.

[From the Manchester Guardian, Dec. 16.]

It is gratifying to find that, so far as a very imperfect summary of the great state paper of December enables us to judge, the character which Mr. Johnson's policy has already earned appears likely to be fully sustained. * * * By the rapidity with which they are dissolving the enormous warlike establishment which they found on their hands at the close of the war, the American government are certainly *performing a task in which no other country could hope to rival them.* Since the commencement of the year the navy, we are told, has been reduced from five hundred and thirty vessels, armed with three thousand guns, to one hundred and seventeen, armed with eight hundred and thirty. In the army the reduction has not been at an equal rate, and previous reports have exaggerated the extent to which it has been actually effected; but Mr. Johnson, nevertheless, ventured to fix the permanent level to which the vast host existing early in the year is to be brought down at the very low figure of 50,000 men, with an organization enabling them to be raised to 82,000 on occasion. The President will probably find few European financiers to share in his hopes of discharging the national debt of the United States within thirty years. *But it must be owned that the immense difficulties of this problem are worthily confronted by the energy and adaptability with which the federal government are contracting their expenditure.* * * * *The temporary differences between ourselves and America are discussed in a tone which seems to leave nothing to be desired; and, so far as can be judged from an oblique allusion to France and Mexico, it may be inferred that President Johnson discerns no greater danger of any disturbance of the peace from difficulties in that direction.*

THE MEXICAN QUESTION.

Maximilian's Relations with the Pope—His Recruiting Difficulties in Europe.

[From the London Shipping Gazette, Dec. 16.]

It is stated that negotiations for a Concordat with Mexico have been resumed by the Roman Court. The Emperor Maximilian has modified his views to some extent, and has sent a new agent—the Abbé Fischer—to Rome with fresh instructions. The object of his journey is stated to be *to assure the Pope of the Emperor's wish to come to some amicable arrangement*, and to explain the difficulties in the way of his making as many concessions as could be wished. M. Fischer is said to be far better qualified than Mgr. Meglia, the Papal Nuncio, to give a truthful account of the state of the Church in Mexico.

[Paris, Dec. 12, Correspondence of London News.]

The *Patrie* gives to-night as "news" that, independently of negotiations with Austria, the Emperor Maximilian is about to make arrangements to enlist soldiers in other States of Europe, and more particularly in Switzerland and Bavaria. This is a *pendant* of a story several years old. Austria is under engagement to supply him with two thousand men a year for five years. An attempt has been made to induce Austria to furnish these men by anticipation, and send a contingent of ten thousand once for all. Switzerland, although famous for supplying mercenaries, refuses, so far as her government has any voice in the matter, to supply troops for the propagation of anti-republican principles on the American continent, and the French recruiting sergeants who act in the name of the unlucky Maximilian have met with no better success in Bavaria. It is in vain to canvass Europe to supply the place of the French army in Mexico. *When that army goes, as it most certainly will do, though I cannot pretend at this moment to prophesy what will be the decent pretext selected for the inevitable evacuation, Maximilian will have to go too.*

THE CHILEAN QUESTION.

Spain Accepts the Mediation of England.

[From the London Star, Dec. 16.]

We have reason to believe that the dispute between the government of Spain and the republic of Chile is on the eve of amicable arrangement. The mediation of England has been accepted by Spain, and there is every reason to believe that that Power is quite prepared to abide by the propositions which England may suggest as the means of a friendly termination to the unfortunate dispute.

THE TERMS OF THE JOINT NOTE FROM FRANCE AND ENGLAND.

[Paris (Dec. 13) Correspondence London Times.]

The note amended by the French government, and accepted by the English, containing certain propositions for the settlement of the quarrel between Chile and Spain, was received at Madrid on Saturday, and its reception acknowledged the same evening by telegraph to Paris. It is, I hear, drawn up in terms which should—though they may not—put an end to further hostile proceedings. These terms I have no precise knowledge of, but I believe that, among other things, the note proposes that the vessels captured from Chile by the Spanish Admiral Pareja shall be given back, and that no money payment in the shape of indemnity be demanded. There was another delicate and, considering that the Chileans are as punctilious and as sensitive in all that touches their national honor as the Spaniards, from whom they are descended, a very difficult point—namely, that of the salutes. The Chileans were called upon, with some arrogance, by Pareja to fire a salute to the Spanish flag in the first instance, and were told that when this was done he would propose his conditions. This act of submission and of acknowledgment of the justice of the Spanish demands, which up to the last has been energetically denied, was rejected by the Chilean government. By way of getting over this difficulty it is now proposed that, instead of a continuous salute to the Spanish flag, originally required as the indispensable preliminary to negotiation, *the salutes shall be alternate; that is, the first gun of the Chileans shall be immediately answered by the Spanish Admiral, and so on, gun after gun, to the last.* This arrangement would, perhaps, satisfy the Chileans; whether it will satisfy the Spaniards I do not venture to affirm. It brings nothing to the Spanish treasury; and the Spanish treasury at this moment is in a condition to prefer hard dollars to honors that end in smoke. The affair with Peru is not yet quite over, and the Chinchas may again be considered as a good material guarantee for the claims on that republic.

The next mail from Valparaiso is awa