THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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&c. &c. &c.

The new steamship Hermann, Captain Wenke, from Southampton, on the 20th December, arrived here yesterday with three days later news from Europe.

The Times' Paris correspondent says:—General Schofield has returned to Paris after a visit of nine days to London. He has obtained a year's leave of absence, and he purposes spending the winter in Paris. He seems much pleased with his first visit to England.

There has been a slight increase of the deaths from cholera in Paris since the last returns made, up to the 11th.

The cattle plague is still rapidly increasing in England, and the last returns estimate the total loss at forty thousand head of cattle.

The Hon. Wm. Grey, Secretary of the British Embassy at the Court of the Tuileries, and brother of Earl Grey, died in Paris on the 19th of December of cholera.

THE MESSAGE IN FRANCE.

Opinions of the Debats, Siecle, Avenir National, Opinion Nationale, Patrie and Constitutionnel.

OUR PARIS CORRESPONDENCE.

PARIS, Dec. 19, 1865.

Some extracts from the French papers will be interesting to you at the present time.

The almost always judicious *Débats* says:—

A perusal of the President's Message will, we doubt not, dispel any prejudices which may yet exist against Mr. Johnson, and which the enemies of the American republic sedulously propagated by every means in their power. The message evidently emanates from no ordinary man, and one possessing political sagacity in a large measure. It expresses his opinions upon the events of the day with a clearness and precision rarely found in documents of the like kind issued by European governments. One sees that the head of a State whose chief magistrate is speaking to a free people, whose sovereignty he understands to be a reality, and his words contain more than one lesson which we inhabitants of the old continent of Europe might study with profit. Such, for instance, are the reasons given by the President for not thinking fit, when once the rebellion was crushed, to prolong the duration of martial law in the secessional States. Not only, in his opinion, would he have thereby exasperated the vanquished party, but a continuance of the military *régime* would have had the inconvenience of fostering a military spirit, and thereby endangering the purity of the general administration and the liberties of the States which had remained faithful. Who can fail to see in this trait the very essence of the American character and the good sense of a nation which wills and knows how to be free! Time and space fail us to-day to appreciate this important document in all its phases. The paragraph which interests us the most is that which treats of the foreign relations of the United States. We leave aside for the moment that passage relating to the difference between the governments of Washington and England to notice the general views expressed in the message, and which may be understood in a certain measure as bearing upon the Mexican war. Mr. Johnson calls to mind that the United States from their foundation have ever stood aloof from the monarchical or democratic revolutions which have from time to time agitated the Old and the New World, and have steadily abstained from republican propagandism, leaving to every people the right to govern itself in its own way. Such has been and such will be the line of conduct of the Union, and she will not depart from it unless foreign governments, instead of recognizing the wisdom of this system of non-intervention which should be reciprocal, shall force them to take up arms to defend the republican form of government against a manifest attack. There is nothing in this interpretation of the famous Monroe doctrine of a nature, in our opinion, to affect our friendly relations with the United States.

The *Siecle* greatly applauds the message, and makes the following observations:—

One would say that several years had passed since the day when the news came, almost simultaneously, to London of the triumph of the American republic and the catastrophe which deprived President Lincoln of the only reward his great soul aspired to—the power of reconstituting upon more solid bases than ever that grand inheritance of Washington which he had so gloriously defended. The news of the fall of the South was received in England with more surprise than satisfaction, and the new President—Mr. Johnson—was made very sensible of the bad humor of our neighbors. How times have changed! Now the English press covers American statesmen with flowers. Everything on the other side of the Atlantic now seems admirable in English eyes. We quoted the *Daily Telegraph* yesterday, and to-day we find the *Times*, *Globe*, *Morning Post* and *Standard* commenting upon the message in the most honeyed accents.

The following extracts are from the *Avenir National*:—

President Johnson's Message is the great event of the day. In reading it one cannot but be struck with the contrast presented by this frank and complete communication, made by a great citizen to a great nation, with the reticent productions called speeches from the throne in Europe. The American people are honestly and fully initiated into their own affairs. Their mandatory renders a faithful and full account of the mandate confided to him.

After a quotation the *Avenir National* continues:—

These noble words are quite refreshing, and we feel in reading them that the New World is preparing the regeneration of Europe. American news is now daily assuming more and more importance. A few years ago we scarcely paid any attention at all to what was passing on the other side of the Atlantic. But now every new document from that quarter excites intense interest in every reflecting mind, because they understand that the future of humanity must be studied on the American continent.

The *Opinion Nationale* complains that the United States journals which brought the text of the message were kept back for the nefarious purpose of giving the Havas agency the monopoly of the first translation. The *Monitor* published this translation, which was so atrociously garbled one, and gives no idea of the real character of the message. The paltry object which the French government hoped to obtain by such contemptible manœuvres was to get their own version alone read by the public while the excitement of novelty remained. A great many people will not take the trouble to read a long document twenty-four hours after it has been first talked of.

The government journal—the *Constitutionnel*—has nothing more to say than this:—

The text of President Johnson's Message is now known. A glance at this document is enough to show the inaccuracy of the version sent us by private telegram, in so far as it relates to the federal government. The passage relating to foreign affairs does not affirm those extreme and absolute doctrines which the earlier telegrams ascribed to President Johnson.

The *Patrie*, which always took sides with the South during the war, and now never misses an opportunity of yelping and snarling at the United States, says:—

After an attentive reading of the message it is impossible not to regret its useless length, the obscurity of its declarations and the absolute absence of new political views. * * * As to the paragraph concerning foreign affairs Mr. Johnson seems to think that Europe is hostile to the republican institutions of the United States themselves. Where he got such an idea one cannot imagine, and one cannot help asking the object of the reiterated declarations that the ancestors of the republic left the Americans of the present day "responsible to their fellow citizens for the success of the republican form of government." In maintaining that England did an unneighborly act in according to the South belligerent rights, and saying that the issue of the struggle showed how little ground there was for such recognition, Mr. Johnson makes a palpable mistake. The issue of the civil war proves simply that the South has not been able to establish its independence as a State; but neither England nor France ever recognized it as such. They only said that a section of eight millions of people, having an organized government, ships at sea and powerful armies on land, had a right to be recognized as a belligerent. Upon the whole, it is to the decisions of Congress that we must look for indications of what the new policy at Washington is to be, for Mr. Johnson's oldest is marked by an implied confession of impotence.

OTHER NEWSPAPER COMMENTS.

[From L'Opinion Nationale, Dec. 19.]

The President treats the foreign question with considerable skill, but without compromising the traditional policy of the United States. England, according to the message, comprehended the rights of neutrals in a manner which would not be justified before any tribunal of nations. * * * As regards France, the message is somewhat vague. * * * We hardly expected to see President Johnson employ language more full of prudence and moderation. He has not pronounced a word which can excite the least anger or which can wound the susceptibility of the French government. Yet, in accordance with the spirit popular in the United States, he reaffirms the Monroe doctrine in general terms—that is, as applying to the whole of America.

[From the Constitutionnel, Dec. 19.]

As to what concerns the Powers of Europe, the thoughts of the Chief Magistrate of the American Union come forth with clearness. Mr. Johnson declares that his constant object will be to maintain peace and amicable relations with foreign nations, and he adds that he believes those nations similarly disposed to the United States.

The acts of the Washington government have confirmed the Presidential declarations in advance. Since the end of the war the effectiveness of the army and navy of the United States has not ceased to undergo considerable reduction. * * * The language of the President, then, is but the official expression of his ideas already manifested by his acts.

Mr. Johnson thinks, moreover, that with regard to foreign nations a full should be imposed to which no one of the enlightened governments of Europe will refuse to subscribe. He declares, as many of his predecessors have done, his wish to maintain the traditional policy of the United States, which is never to interfere in the internal affairs of European nations, and he asks the nations of Europe, on their side, to observe the same rule with regards to the American Union. * * * We will seek in vain for any European Power which ever could have conceived the thought of interfering in the internal affairs of the United States. We know of none against which the Americans will ever be called to defend their institutions. The message, then, contains the most reassuring declarations as to the maintenance of good relations between the great republic of the New World and the European Powers.

THE BELGIAN SITUATION.

Burial of the Dead King.

OUR BRUSSELS CORRESPONDENCE.

BRUSSELS, Dec. 16, 1865.

The Funeral Ceremonies of the King of Belgium—Appearance of the City—The Procession—The Funeral Car—Foreign Sovereigns and Representatives—Carriage of the American Minister—Distinguished Personages in Brussels, &c., &c.

Had Leopold I. lived till to-day instead of dying last Sunday he would have been seventy-five years old. As it is, in place of celebrating his birthday he has been buried in magnificent style. Brussels has not witnessed such a sight for many a year, and it will be long before she sees such another. It is said that more than two hundred thousand people, from other countries and from different parts of Belgium, had come to see the funeral, and thousands, unable to obtain lodgings in the hotels, spent the night in the streets. All the foreign princes and great dignitaries who intended to participate in the funeral ceremonies had arrived the previous evening and were stopping at the various hotels. The King of Portugal and the Prince of Wales, the Prince Royal of Prussia, and a large number of princes and dukes of the little German states, had come.

At an early hour this morning the streets upon the line which the procession was to take were crowded with people, and presented a very solemn and funeral aspect. The façades of nearly all the houses were draped in black and exhibited black flags at the windows. The palace in which lay the mortal remains of the great monarch had been very heavily hung with black cloth, decorated with the coat of arms of Belgium. The solemnity of the scene was very much added to by the illumination about the street lamps, the ghosts of which were covered with crape. The day itself was a funeral one, dark and overcast, and the booming sound of cannon, some of which was heard every five minutes during the day, made it seem gloomier.

The procession began to move about eleven o'clock, and was led by a brigade of the Garde Nationale and deputations of all the different army corps of the Kingdom. The drums were muffled, but there was no music. After the military came the judges of the tribunals in long robes of black and red, the members of the Senate (the legislative body) in uniform, and the Ministers of State, who immediately preceded the funeral car. This was a tolerable moving monument, about twenty-five feet high and fifteen wide, surmounted by a crown, over which was hung the mantle of the king. Upon the sides were the royal arms, and at the four corners were gilded urns holding incense which was burning. It was drawn by eight horses, all draped with crape and led by grooms dressed in red coats with black sashes over them. Following the car was the King's horse—a handsome sorrel—saddled and covered with crape. Then came a detachment of the clergy, and after these the royal family and foreign princes and representatives, in the following order:—In the first carriage the new King Leopold the Second, the King of Portugal and the Comte de Flandre. In the second the Prince of Wales, the Prince Royal of Prussia, the Archduke Joseph of Austria and the Prince of Wurtemberg. In the third the Prince George of Saxe, the Grand Duke of Baden, the Prince Louis of Hesse and Arthur of England. In the fourth the Prince Auguste of Saxe-Cobourg-Gotha, the Prince de Joinville and his brothers, the Duc d'Aumale and the Duc de Nemours. In the fifth the Prince of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen and the Duke of Cambridge. First followed the foreign ministers in uniform, in carriages. None made a better or more appropriate appearance than that of our Minister, Mr. Sanford, drawn by a pair of handsome black American horses. Mr. Sanford's military uniform was also exceedingly rich. The carriage and trappings of the Russian Ambassador presented a very singularly striking appearance, the carriage being entirely covered, even to the spokes of the wheels, with crape, and drawn by a pair of milk white horses. Then came the foreign councils, deputations of the various civic associations, Jewish and Protestant clergy, students, representatives of the guilds, all following on foot. The procession was about two miles long, and was an hour and a half passing a given spot. It had a march of about four miles to Laeken, where, upon its arrival, the funeral services were performed by a Protestant clergyman, in a temporary chapel erected by the side of the old Catholic church, beneath whose chancel the body of the King was laid by the side of his wife.

The King of Portugal lodged in the palace, the Prince of Wales at the Bellevue, and all the other princes and dukes and great people at the different hotels. To show you how they advertise these dignitaries here I translate a portion of the leading column of the *Independance Belge* of this morning:—

"At the Hotel Belmonte are the Duke de Bassano and the Marquis de Havrincourt, representing the Emperor of the French. General Grey, aid-de-camp of Queen Victoria, and an old friend of the Court; the Baron de Beaulieu, Envoy Extraordinary of the Duke of Saxe-Weimar. At the Hotel de Flandre are staying his Royal Highness the Prince of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha; his Royal Highness the Prince William of Baden; Lieutenant-General Rappilin, first aid-de-camp of his Majesty the King of Wurtemberg; the Comte de Bylandt, grand officer of the Court of his Majesty the King of the Netherlands; Monsieur Edward Gould Buffum, correspondent of the New York Herald; the Prince de Joinville, the Duc d'Aumale and the Duc de Nemours.

I saw these last named princes a few minutes ago, as they were passing into their apartments adjoining mine. They dress, of course, in citizens' costume.

Inauguration of the Live King.

OUR BRUSSELS CORRESPONDENCE.

BRUSSELS, Dec. 17, 1865.

From Mourning to Joy—Inauguration of the New King—The City Decked with Flags—The Royal Procession—The Scene in the Chamber—Appearance and Decorations—Entrance of the Queen—The Foreign Sovereigns and Princes—The King and His Speech—The American Minister and Guest, &c.

"*Le Roi est mort—Vive le Roi.*" Yesterday one Leopold was laid in his tomb, to-day another Leopold has been inaugurated King. The transition in the appearance of the city between to-day and yesterday is very striking. After the funeral procession passed the black drapings and flags were removed from the houses, and this morning, upon going out, I found the whole city peopled with foreign and national flags, and the national colors—yellow, red and black. Scarcely a house but from whose window floated the Belgic flag, and many of them were decked in the colors, while some bore the words "*Vive le Roi*" and "*Vive le Belge*" and the national arms. At an early hour the town was astir, and the influx of strangers seemed to be even greater than yesterday.

A little after ten the new King left the palace at Laeken on horseback, and surrounded by his Ministers, likewise mounted. The Queen had preceded him in a carriage, and both were obliged to stop and receive and make addresses to the burgomaster of the little village, which bears the same relation to Brussels that Versailles does to Paris. Then upon entering Brussels the King made a little complimentary speech to the burgomaster, who politely presented him with the keys of the city, which he as politely requested the burgomaster to retain, as he did not believe they could be intrusted to any better hands. The military display in the procession was very fine, and the King, as he rode along, hat in hand and bowing upon one side and the other, was greeted with one prolonged universal shout of "*Vive le Roi!*" from windows crowded with people, roofings covered with them, and sidewalks so filled with them that circulation was impossible. Handkerchiefs were waved, and ladies threw bouquets in the pathway of the royal cortège, which proceeded by the same route which the first King Leopold took to the Palais de la Nation, where the Senate and House of Representatives meet, and where the King was to take the oath of allegiance.

Through the kindness and courtesy of the American Minister, Hon. Henry S. Sanford, I had been furnished with a ticket for one of the reserved tribunes in the *salle* where the ceremony was to take place. These tickets were sought after very eagerly, and, as the chamber is very small, but a very limited number were issued—there being not more than a hundred and fifty places to be disposed of. A full dress was required to all visitors, and about half-past eleven I entered the tribune, which was a gallery directly over the seats of the representatives and in front of the throne. This was raised about two feet above the general level, and was surmounted with a canopy bearing a crown, with curtains of rich red velvet, strewn with the Belgic lion in silver. In the centre was the throne chair, also of red velvet and heavily gilt, and bearing upon the cushion of the back the Belgic device, "*L'Union fait la Force.*" Upon the right of this was a tribune also hung with red velvet, and intended for the Queen and the foreign princes. In front were seated the ministers in their official costumes, profusely decorated with gold lace, the foreign representatives in uniform, bishops and cardinals in purple and red, senators in costume and representatives in simple black. It was a splendidly brilliant scene, but was soon made more so by the entrance of the Queen and the foreign sovereigns and princes.

At a quarter of twelve a chamberlain announced "La Reine." Everybody rose, and the Queen, preceded by two chamberlains and followed by her ladies of honor, entered the tribune. She was dressed in deep mourning, and wore a bonnet of black crape. With one hand she led her little son, the Comte de Hainault, and with the other her little daughter, the Princess Louise. The Queen carried also a large bouquet, made principally of white camelias, and which was the gift of the burgomaster of Laeken, and the Princess Louise carried a bouquet made of artificial flowers in Brussels lace, presented by the burgomaster of Brussels. The scene upon the entrance of the Queen was one of the most indescribably enthusiastic that I have ever witnessed. The whole assembly standing shouted at the top of their voices "*Vive la Reine!*" and her Majesty bowed her acknowledgments all round and seated herself. The continued shouts, however, brought her up again, and she rose and bowed and seated herself and rose and bowed again half a dozen times before the enthusiastic subjects would allow her to remain at her ease. The Queen is very beautiful; not so tall and graceful in form as the Empress Eugenie, but in feature I think quite as handsome, and there are marks of intelligence in her countenance which rather incline me to the belief that such a model, as sing may be employed about such great people—that is the case, as in many others, what they may be before long.

When she had been seated a few minutes two young men entered the tribune. The first was physically a good looking person of about twenty-three, blonde, with blue eyes and light hair, dressed in a military uniform, his breast covered with orders, and wearing boots which reached nearly to his hips. This was the Elder of Brunswick. The other was the red type of an English land marshal, and his face was covered with a full growth of silky brown beard, considerably improved in point of manly appearance since I saw it before. This was the Prince of Wales. By his side came in a handsome boy of fourteen, dressed in the costume of a Highlander and looking exceedingly bright and intelligent. This was the young Prince Arthur of England. With them came in the burly Duke of Cambridge and their brother-in-law, the handsome Frederic William of Prussia. The tribune was soon filled with the dukes and princes of the little German Powers, who had come to pay their last tribute to their brother monarch. The Count de Flandre, the younger brother of the new King, was also in the tribune.

At precisely the hour prescribed—half-past twelve o'clock—after the announcement of the Chamberlain, King Leopold the Second entered. He was most enthusiastically received with loud and prolonged shouts of "*Vive le Roi.*" The King, who is tall and emaciated, and looks very ill and weak, bowed very stiffly and awkwardly, and then ascending the throne turned and faced the assembly, and, stretching out his right hand, uttered, in a solemn tone, the constitutional oath—"I swear to obey the constitution and the laws of the Belgian people, to maintain the national independence and the national integrity." When the applause had subsided the King seated himself and read his discourse, which being frequently interrupted with applause he rose and bowed.

When he had finished his discourse the King rose, bowed stiffly and awkwardly again to the Queen, the foreign princes and the assembly, and retired. The Queen and her entourage soon followed him, and the proceeding proceeded amidst immense enthusiasm to the palace.

In the evening the city was illuminated, and the King received the foreign ministers at the palace, and said a few words to each one. To the United States Minister, Mr. Sanford, the King expressed his gratification at the closure of the war and expressed the hope that Belgium and the United States would continue, as they always had been, upon terms of amity and friendship.

I should not be satisfied with myself in closing this letter without expressing my thanks to Mr. Sanford, the Minister, and Mr. Shaw, the United States Consul in Brussels, for many acts of courtesy and kindness and much invaluable assistance during my stay. Mr. Sanford, whose official duties are not, I presume, particularly arduous, is entitled to the elegant manner in which he contemporizes for this by hospitable attentions to his travelling countrymen. Mr. Sanford, who fortunately is not obliged to confine himself to his pay, probably throws in more service than any American representative in Europe, and to him and his beautiful, intelligent and accomplished wife Americans in Europe are much indebted for kindness and hospitable courtesy.

THE MEXICAN QUESTION.

Publication of the Mexican Correspondence by the French Government.

PARIS, Dec. 18, correspondence London Telegraph.

La France writes:—We have reason to believe that the notes which have been exchanged between France and the United States on the subject of Mexico, to which reference is made in the President's Message, will be published by the French government before the appearance of the Yellow Book. That publication will take place at the same time in Washington and Paris.

Le Constitutionnel also again devotes a few lines to the subject of Mexico, and, after asserting that all the reports of the resignation or retirement of Señor Hidalgo, Mexican Minister here, are false, and that he has been hourly called to Mexico on a coup, in order that the Imperial master might consult him—which, I happen to know, is the case—goes on to state that Mexico, by the aid of M. Langlais, who is to arrange that Juarez's loan question be pay, is now raising very rapidly a mixed army of native troops and foreign contingents, which will speedily complete the work of our military expedition." That, of course, means that we shall very shortly see the bulk of the troops return from Mexico, the requisite corporal's guard always remaining.

THE CHILEAN QUESTION.

Mediation of France and England Accepted by Spain.

FEARS THAT CHILE MAY REJECT THE TERMS—SPECULATIONS AS TO WHAT AMERICA MAY DO.

[From the London Times, Dec. 18.]

The good offices of England and France have been accepted by the Spanish government, and, unless Chile should prove more implacable than Spain herself, the least profitable of modern wars may yet be terminated by friendly mediation. The practice of international dueling is beginning to be denounced by public opinion, and the Chilean affair may probably be quoted hereafter as one of the latest instances of it. Wars of race, wars of religion, wars of succession, wars of which the object is conquest, and wars which grow out of inveterate national antipathy or rivalry, are each more or less excusable. In the great majority of cases they are neither just nor necessary on the side of the aggressor; in almost every case they entail far greater injury on both parties than any which they purport to redress or prevent; in all cases, without exception, they retard civilization, and, for every month of active hostilities, undo the work of years or generations of peace. Such wars, however, including even those which proceed from the national instinct of self aggrandisement, are not wholly irrational; they may be wicked, they may be utterly futile, but they are produced by motives which are ultimate facts in human nature. It has been reserved for Spain and Chile to furnish in the present age a perfect example of a war as gratuitous and reckless as the fantastic encounters of Don Quixote, a war of which the only pretext is a string of punctilios, and for which it would puzzle the subtlest jurist to invent an intelligible *casus belli*. So far as we can gather it from Admiral Pareja's demands and M. Bermudez de Castro's declarations, the head and front of Chile's offending was an undisguised sympathy with Peru during the rupture between the latter and Spain. This sympathy was alleged to have been shown by the permission to recruit for the Peruvian fleet and the refusal of coal to the Spanish fleet, and though it was not asserted that either of these acts was done at a time or under circumstances which rendered them breaches of international law, they were represented as merits which Castilian pride could only wipe out in blood. The Chilean government, as is well known, did offer ample satisfaction, but it was not the satisfaction which the representative of Spain considered sufficient, but M. Pareja's sense of honor was too blunt for his superiors, and Admiral Pareja was sent to cut short negotiation with an *ultimatum*. *So far Spain appears to have been wholly in the wrong; but it must be confessed that a nation less Spanish in its temperament than the Chilenos might, even at this moment, have found a pacific solution of the difficulty.* Chile, however, proved herself a true daughter of Spain. Having disclaimed any intention to insult the Spanish flag, she had obstinately refused to make the first advances by saluting it, or even to accept the compromise of a simultaneous salute. To this refusal she adhered all the more inflexibly because the Spanish admiral adopted a menacing attitude, and so a dispute as trivial in its nature as any that might arise across a country town dinner table has swelled into the proportions of a war, and has already inflicted quite as much damage on neutrals as if there were something real to fight about.

This view of the matter is strongly confirmed by the letter which we publish to-day from "A Chilic Merchant." Our correspondent, who was present at Santiago while M. Tavira was still in correspondence with the Chilian government, assures us that nothing short of an unconditional surrender of her claims by Spain will ever satisfy that haughty and sensitive people. In common with the other South American republics, they look upon the Spanish expedition to the Pacific as a buccaneering expedition, sent out for the purpose of avenging the war of independence and levying blackmail on these republics which they can attack with impunity. They are, therefore, resolved to do and say nothing which bears the faintest resemblance to an apology, and they rely on the support of their neighbors, if not of the United States. Nor have they altogether miscalculated their strength in the opinion of our correspondent. *The enormous distance from which Spain has to operate against the coast of South America gives Chile an immense advantage, and we feel which the former can long maintain in the Pacific will be able to blockade effectually every port along eighteen degrees of latitude.* Being an agricultural country, Chile is not dependent for necessary supplies on foreign trade, while she may commission privateers enough to cripple the commerce of Spain. At the same time, our correspondent has little hope of Spain retiring from the position which she has taken up, and is led to the inevitable inference *that a prolonged war, only to be terminated by the exhaustion of one combatant—probably of Spain—is sure to be repeated.*

Our present information justifies us in distrusting this gloomy prediction, and hoping that the patience of neutral Powers will not be taxed beyond endurance. Every independent State has doubtless a "right" to make war; every belligerent has a "right" to proclaim a blockade, and when a blockade is once proclaimed a neutral has no "right" to insist upon acting as though it did not exist. But these "rights" are, to say the least, of a very imperfect character, and we may safely say that if two such Powers as the ancient republics of Genoa and Venice were to interrupt the commercial intercourse of the whole civilized world by their traditional and transitory feuds, the higher right which justifies intervention in self-defence on adequate occasions would be enforced by the great maritime nations of Europe. Now, here is really a burlesque or caricature of war, carried on between two States belonging to opposite hemispheres, without any legitimate cause or any prospect of decisive result, but with ruinous effect in the meantime to neutral interests. The blockade of Valparaiso and the other Chilean ports cannot starve out the Chilians, if they are in earnest, but it paralyzes the copper mines and the traffic in that metal with this country. The memorial of the Brassmasters' Association to Lord Clarendon, which appeared in our impression of Saturday, exhibits the probable consequences of this disturbance, and the way in which it will affect the mills and manufactories in certain districts of Great Britain. *It is stated that forty-seven thousand tons of copper, or more than your tenth as much as is yielded by our own mines, were shipped last year from those of Chile, and there is reason to fear that, even if peace should be forthwith restored, much time will elapse before the smelting establishments can resume full work.* The great difficulty appears to be not so much the act of getting the copper shipped from Chilean ports, the smaller ports which are still open as that of procuring coals enough for the voyage. Of course the shipping interest suffers enough, and we published a few days ago a long catalogue of British vessels which had been notified of the blockade and turned back on Valparaiso between the 25th of September and the 25th of October. France is not equally prejudiced by the war, but even France is by no means indifferent to the inconvenience which it entails, and has earnestly supported our remonstrances at Madrid. We need hardly add that the United States have political as well as commercial reasons for regarding the proceedings of Spain with extreme jealousy. The proclamation of war by Admiral Pareja was calculated to wound republican sentiments in the highest degree, and was not unlike a defiant protest against the Monroe doctrine. It was not at the occupation of American soil by Europeans, but against the interposition of European monarchies in the affairs of American republics, that this celebrated doctrine was originally aimed. Such interference has lately become a part of Spanish policy. Spain has interfered in Mexico, in San Domingo and in Peru, and she is now sending, under a lesser of politeness, as the Admiral calls it, simply because Chile, without actually violating neutrality, sympathized with the sister republic of Peru. *It remains to be seen what representations may have been addressed by the American government, in its own responsibility, to the Court of Madrid. We have no reason to doubt, however, that President Johnson will gladly hail the thankless task of mediation in the hands of France and England, and welcome any settlement which removes the Spanish fleet from the waters of South America.* On the other hand, it would be a suicidal act if Chile were to reject offer of mediation which Spain has had the condescension to accept, and which, if successful, will not only avert the immediate evils of war, but may establish a salutary precedent for the peaceful adjustment of quarrels on points of honor among sovereign States.

HAS CHILE BEEN SOLD OUT BY ENGLAND?

[From the London Evening Standard, Dec. 18.]

The *Times* announces that the Spanish government has accepted the mediation of England and France in her dispute with the republic of Chile. So far there is cause for general satisfaction. No one can desire the prolongation of that here that are a serious interruption to a branch of British commerce, and which are fraught with ruin to Chile, and cannot enhance the military position of Spain. We fear, however, judging from the article in the *Times*, that the English government has not gained a diplomatic triumph, and that the good offices of England and France have been accepted though our government agrees to resume the exercise of Chile. After for some time past condemning Spain with contempt, and praising the conduct of Chile as immaculate, our contemporary is now forced to confess "that a nation less Spanish in its temperament than the Chilenos might even at this (Pareja) juncture have found a pacific solution of the difficulty." * * * That she obstinately refused to make the first advances? What are we to infer from this? Have the need more prejudiced the case? Is there an honorable understanding that the Chilean government is to say to the Chilians that they are wrong, and that they must swallow the Spanish leek? If so, it is likely enough that Chile will have to submit, unless she is supported by the government of the United States, but at this moment a very probable contingency. We do not have give any opinion upon the merits of the dispute, but if the *Times* has duly well informed latest about the policy of the government, has, on the other hand, very favorably with the and certain information, we think expressing our sincere regret that the government should again have to recede from a strongly avowed policy. A formal retraction is sent to Madrid, and the reply is "Go to your own business!" Then comes the diplomacy of France and Spain is willing to submit to an arbitration, but if the Chilenos accede it "is insisted" that before the English government has taken its two words and plunder a guilty for the client. *The officer said be clearly assumed by the people of the United States, and will probably be very unfavorable impression.* In the last resort peace we cannot allow it to be supposed that such when Spain treats us with contempt and refuses a moment our representations, we not only bow to the rebuke but take the rod. It may be that the *Times* is not correctly informed, and that our government has agreed to act at the of the mediators without giving any pledge to force Chile to consent to the demands of Spain. The circumstances, however, are suspicious, and we are sorry that *Fe* demands to set affairs.

Secretary McCulloch's Report.

ENGLISH OPINION OF OUR FINANCES—MR. M'CULLOCH RECOGNIZED AS AN ABLE FINANCIER.

[From the London Times, Dec. 18.]

The report which Mr. McCulloch, the Secretary of the Treasury, has addressed to the House of Representatives is a very long but a very able document. Its length is a necessary consequence of the financial position of the Union. As long as the war lasted the first and main object of each successive Secretary was to get money; the Federal Executive were in the position of a man whose house has caught fire, and who therefore sends a distress for suppressing the flames without any very nice "haggling" of the market. He makes the best terms he can, and if he has not ready money at his banker's he is prepared to go into debt at the loss of the credit; and it must be confessed that the United States did go into debt in a very royal, or, perhaps we should say, in a very republican fashion. Now, however, the great danger is removed, a time has arrived for reviewing calmly what was done during a period of great excitement, and for bringing order out of the confusion which has followed the hasty measures and legislation of the past. Mr. McCulloch has a great task before him, and it is obvious that it is his policy as well as his duty to make the Congress fully acquainted with the existing state of affairs. This he has accomplished in a report to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, which is very voluminous; but is more remarkable, among similar official documents of the States, as being grounded on sound financial principles. There are, indeed, some passages in it of questionable soundness, some anticipations which are, perhaps, too sanguine to be fully realized; *but we see quite in Mr. McCulloch a real financier, applying to the facts before him methods warranted by reason and by the experience of other nations.*

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[From the London Times, Dec. 19.]

The labor which the American Secretary of the Treasury has set about is so prodigious that success would be impossible were not the auspices of his undertaking unusually favorable. As it is, however, *there are many reasons which make it probable that he will achieve much of what he desires.* The nation is still under the exaltation of a great effort, and is willing to assume unusual burdens; the Congress shows an overwhelming republican majority, increased by the exclusion of the representatives of Southern States; and the absence of Mr. McCulloch himself from the field of debate will be compensated in some measure by his exhaustive and able report on the finances of the Union. His dissertation, for it is nothing less, on the evils of an inflated currency, the effects which it produces on prices, the consequent derangement of foreign exchanges, and the subversion of settled industry, *is the work of an accomplished student of economic science;* but the proposals he founds upon it are so hostile to many considerable existing interests that they would never be sustained, except by a triumphant majority, backed by the enthusiasm of the people. The circumstances of the time encourage bold efforts, and we hope that Mr. McCulloch will find his pressing recommendations of an immediate and continuous contraction of the currency abundantly successful.

The currency may within a short period be reduced to reasonable limits; but the debt and taxation of the Union must long remain subjects of contention. It is a matter of congratulation that the elements of the discussion are capable of clear and exact statement. The total federal debt will soon attain its maximum amount of six hundred millions. It is estimated that the revenue of the Union, supposing the existing taxes preserved without alteration, would amount in the year ending the 30th of June, 1867, to £70,000,000, and the recent receipts justify this estimate. The expense of government in the same year, excluding the interest on the national debt, is estimated at £28,000,000, and there is, therefore, an estimated surplus of more than £40,000,000 applicable to the payment of the interest upon and the reduction of the capital of the national debt. It is acknowledged that the whole system of federal taxation requires revision; but it is said that the same or even a larger revenue may be raised from fewer and lighter imposts judiciously selected. At present the internal revenue contains an income tax levied in a modified form, excise duties imposed with reference to the convenience or course of industry of manufacturers, stamp duties which impede almost every form of hiring or selling, besides a multitude of minor taxes which worry the taxpayers without bringing any net produce into the Treasury. The customs tariff is equally infested with the heresy of protection. It is easy to see that the revenue laws of the Union might be simplified so that the same net revenue might be raised with less pressure upon taxpayers, and a possible surplus of fifty millions may therefore still be assumed after every necessary modification has been effected. How much of this surplus will be absorbed by the interest on the national debt depends upon the terms upon which the debt may be funded. * * * * * * *

The temper of Congress depends upon so many circumstances incapable of determination at this distance that it would be hazardous to predict anything with reference to its action. *It seems probable, however, that with the feeling of the nation still excited by the struggle through which it has passed Mr. McCulloch's proposals will be accepted, and a resolution will be passed pledging the Union to set aside an annual sum of forty, or, if need be, fifty millions for the payment of interest and the reduction of the debt.* But it is impossible to bind future Congresses, and the difficulty will be to maintain a resolution so heroic. There are, indeed, not wanting reasons of much weight for adopting a course entirely different from that recommended by the Secretary of the Treasury. The resource of a debt may be lessened either by its redemption, or by an increase in the wealth of the people bearing the burden. If the same requisite in taxation were raised, it would always be politic to abolish or reduce taxes, instead of paying off a portion of the capital of a national debt, for it is clear that individual citizens may at the end of their income find the old charge for the reduction of burdens compared upon a reduction of debt. * * * We must wait the progress of legislation in the United States before we can venture to affirm that the views which the American people have manifested so great cross is sufficiently strong to withstand the wear and tear of ordinary life, the small economies and petty calculations of self interest of which make up the struggle for existence.

Fenianism.

PRISONERS OF THE GOVERNOR OF RICHMOND BRIDEWELL.

[Dublin (Dec. 19) correspondence of London Times.]

The various parties that caused alarm, there for responsibility of taking care of the political prisoners in Richmond Bridewell have been throwing responsibility and throwing the blame upon one another, but without these inquiries, explanations and recriminations, the fact remains that the Board of Superintendence persons against being held accountable for their errors, allowing that unconditional look the responsibility upon itself, and they demanded an inquiry into the whole matter by an independent commissioner. The answer they received was that the government had made the inquiry through the proper functionaries, the Inspectors General of Prisons, and that in accordance of their report the prisoner in the Bill is dismissed, and the superintendent of the Bridewell relieved from all the duties in the Bridewell.

SUPPOSED FRENCH CAPTAIN IN CORK.

[From the Liverpool Courier, Dec. 16.]

A curious story is told by some people regarding stepdown, the Fenian leader. It is supposed that he has been lately in Cork in the employ of the new comers, and that he now appears in the middle. Having been taken, however, it was absolutely necessary to keep up appearances for the sake of the Fenian cause, and so he was allowed to have his own way in the matter. Other stories are current in Cork, and the Fenian leader is said to have his "brethren" in Cork. This may be a mere theory, but it is to some extent supported by the fact that the Lord Lieutenant has refused to release the prisoner to inquire into the case. On the other hand the fact that the Government in Ireland has been threatened with a counter inquiry by the Fenian supporters adds to the mystery. For the present it will be waiting in the quiet retreat of the corporation. The Fenian Government, and the Fenian leader, the Fenian leaders, the Fenian leaders, and the Fenian leaders, and the Fenian leaders, and