AFFAIRS IN EUROPE.

Lord Monck and the North American Delegates to England on Confederation.

Dislike of the United States to the Action, and North America as the Future Home of the English Race.

AUSTRIA AND THE EASTERN QUESTION.

&c. &c. &c.

THE CANADIAN QUESTION.

Banquet to Lord Monck at Portsmouth—Speech of the Governor General on the Situation and Loyalty of the Colony—A North American Delegate on the Dislike of the United States to Confederation—North America as a "Future Home" of the English Race.

[From the London News, Feb. 1.]

The banquet given to his Excellency Viscount Monck, Governor General of Canada, in Portsmouth, yesterday, was merely complimentary. Mr. Emanuel, the Mayor, was one of his lordship's leading supporters when he represented Portsmouth; and the entertainment was the private act of his worship. It was the costliest and most imposing banquet that has been given in the borough for many years. The King's Rooms were most handsomely decorated, and the chief tables were covered with massive silver plate brought expressly from London. Leading politicians of all parties in Portsmouth and the neighborhood were invited, and their presence was of course an indication that general politics would not be touched upon in the after dinner proceedings. A selection of opera music was played by the fine band of the Sixty-ninth regiment.

The preliminary toasts having been given,

The MAYOR proposed Lord Monck's health. He begged to inform his lordship that his former constituents had marked with special satisfaction the able manner in which the affairs of Canada had been administered. High officials, both in that great province and at home, had expressed their admiration of his tact and ability. We in England were deeply sensible that his lordship's conduct had done much *to assuage jealousies with the United States.* (Cheers.) The inhabitants of the borough were glad to recognize the mark of favor bestowed upon him by the peerage. The toast was drunk with much enthusiasm to the musical accompaniment of "Auld lang syne."

Viscount MONCK in returning thanks thanked the Mayor for his "splendid hospitality," and his old friends for the heartiness with which they had received him. It was, he said, most gratifying for him to find that absence had not interfered with the kindly feelings the inhabitants of Portsmouth had always entertained towards him, and that his career since his connection with the borough was severed had met with their approval. His sensations of pleasure were, however, tinged with a certain degree of sadness. He could not look around the table without noticing the absence of many a familiar face and seeing the gaps time had made in the ranks of his once steady supporters. Least of all could he stand in the room and forget the loss they had recently sustained of him who formerly shared in the representation of the town (Lord Northbrooke). In passing he felt bound to acknowledge the gratification he felt at knowing that the inhabitants of Portsmouth intended to commemorate the memory of their former member by a permanent memorial such as could the distinguished object of it be consulted, would most have pleased his benevolent heart. (Hear, hear.) They all knew him (Lord Monck) as one who, while he repressed and chastened strong political feelings, which he never hesitated to express. At the same time he always endeavored to conduct his contests so as to leave no trace of personal asperity, and it was an additional source of gratification to him now to see among the guests who had met to do him honor some of his old and sturdiest opponents. The Mayor had been good enough to refer to the manner in which he had administered the important office his Sovereign had intrusted to him in a manner which far transcended his merits. It would be pure affectation in him, after the testimony that had been borne to his administration in several quarters, to refuse to believe that some success had been achieved. (Cheers.) As far as his personal qualities had tended to secure that success, the credit must be shared by the inhabitants of Portsmouth, by whose favor and confidence he was sent to graduate in that grand school of political freedom, the British House of Commons, where he learned those principles of free government the application of which in Canada had been at the root of any success he might have earned. He should not, however, be doing justice to his own feelings if, in the presence of Canadian politicians of *both parties*, he did not openly state that the defence of that country would have been unavailing if it had not been for the loyal, candid, intelligent support he had experienced during the whole of his administration, without a single exception, from both parties. It had been his fortune to be connected with almost every public man of eminence in official life in Canada, and he could never forget the hearty manner in which his motives had been appreciated, his shortcomings overlooked, and his earnest endeavors for the good of the province seconded by all politicians and by the population in general. It was just ten years since his political connection with Portsmouth ceased, and during the whole of that time he had been out of what might be called the political running in England. Not being possessed of a seat in either house, and being out of the country, he had had the opportunity of looking at English public affairs *ab extra*. If he were asked to name the chief points upon which all parties had been agreed, he should mention the most complete personal and political liberty; non-intervention in the domestic affairs of foreign states and in foreign wars, unless the interests of England were absolutely and directly engaged, and in colonial matters the concession to the colonists of the most complete right to manage their own affairs. (Cheers.) During the ten years there were three European wars and one American. Half a century ago it would have been difficult for England to keep out of either of them; but *most fortunately* for us we did manage to keep clear of them, and we had learned the wisdom of the principle *that obliged us not to interfere in foreign affairs.* With regard to the colonies, he could remember when it was first proposed to allow them to do for themselves what we should rebel if we were not allowed to do in this country—namely: to manage our own affairs. He claimed no credit for political prescience; but that was not the view he took; and, most fortunately for England, the system of self-government in the colonies was adopted. Speaking only of the colony with which he was connected, he had been compelled twice to throw himself on the loyalty of the colonists for the purpose of maintaining British loyalty in Canada, and could say with the most perfect truth he believed the *entire property of that colony would have been offered in the defence of British territory* and the maintenance of British institutions, although the quarrel was not theirs, but was brought upon them solely from their connection with the British empire. (Cheers.) He did not mention these things in any vainglorious or boastful spirit. We all knew that the blessings we enjoy, whether political or moral, were derived from a higher than human source; but in speaking in that way we should always remember that Providence worked by means, and that the laws regulating the political and moral world were as fixed as those that guided the solar system. It was the duty of intelligent men to use the understanding which God had given them to find out what were the laws which He in His providence had devised for the moral and political as well as the material world. It was, therefore, useful from time to time to take stock as it were of our position and try to ascertain by the light of experience whether the principles upon which administrations had been carried on were sound and efficient. (Cheers.) The events of the past ten years (upon some of which his lordship had dwelt in detail) showed strongly that the principles upon which our affairs had been conducted tended to the advancement of the country and to the establishment of the unspeakable blessings of peace within her walls and prosperity within her dwellings. (Loud cheers.)

The healths of the Mayor and Corporation of Portsmouth were then drank.

The Hon. Mr. McDOUGALL, of British Canada, proposed "The House of Lords and the House of Commons." In the course of his speech he said he could state as a fact that if the public men of British America were asked, from their experience in the New World, their opinion of the legislative machine in England, it would lead them at once to dissuade us from making any changes that might tend to abolish the House of Lords, or infringe upon the privileges of the House of Commons. (Cheers.) He feared the last observation might have been misunderstood. (A laugh.) He was not present for the purpose of making remarks upon the political discussions now going on in England, although he had his own opinion upon them. He did not mean to say the House of Commons could not be improved—(hear, hear)—even as it had been in the past. He was speaking of the two bodies only as portions of our legislative machine to give effect to the wishes of the nation. He and his friends were in England for the purpose of asking Parliament to give them in British America a *new constitution*, and they showed their appreciation of the principles upon which the English constitution had been constructed by asking that theirs should be made as much as possible like it. He had associated a good deal with the leading statesmen in America, and *had never met with a public man in the United States, from President Lincoln to the smallest village politician, who had not admitted that for the great ends and purposes of government in England the House of Lords and the House of Commons were the best forms suited to the English people.* If in past times British America had been favored with governors general, educated in the same school as Lord Monck, understanding as he did the principles of British liberty, and desirous of giving the same privileges to British subjects in the New World, we should not have had to cope with the difficulties, expenditure and troubles that have grown up in Canada. It had fallen to Lord Monck's lot to govern Canada under different administrations; at one time under a liberal, at another under a conservative, and at present under a coalition government. (Laughter.) But under all circumstances the noble viscount had acted as became the representative of the Queen. All parties had received full justice at his hands, and there was no complaint made of any part of his administration. If it was possible the colony sincerely hoped to have the advantage of his experience and skill in the consolidation of British America under one government. (Cheers.) While not intending to anticipate the statement Lord Carnarvon would make in the House of Lords in a few days with respect to the government of British America, he could say that leading men of all parties had come to the conclusion *that a change in the system of colonial government was necessary to be in unity with the existing institutions and directions.* (Hear, hear.) Some of them had perhaps felt a little dissatisfied at the remarks made with respect to the connection of our colonies generally with the mother country. Some thought the colonies were a disadvantage to England, and that the empire would be stronger when it was not so large as at present. In the New World they could not understand such views; there they thought that *by spreading her power over the colonies, and securing the attachment of those who were ready to pour out their blood and treasure in her behalf, England would add to her prestige, dignity and power.* They had come to lay their petition at the foot of the throne, asking for that which would strengthen their position; and if the people of England told them they had better start for themselves, they would consider the propriety of doing so, but he trusted their proposals would receive general approval here. (Cheers.)

Mr. B. CARTER, M. P., responded for the House of Commons, and Lord MONCK for the House of Lords.

Lord BURY proposed the toast of "The Colonies of British North America." He said he had had long experience of colonial and Canadian life, and could add his testimony to the manner in which the British government was admired in all our colonies. He knew from from long observation the many difficulties that surrounded a governor general and the intelligence and patience he required to manage satisfactorily, and allay the suspicions and doubts with which his conduct was liable to be viewed at home. *The British dependencies in America were extremely important, occupying, as they did, one-half of that enormous continent. In speaking of America we were apt sometimes to consider that it belonged to the United States only, forgetting how large a proportion our own was.* In future years no doubt the resources of British North America would be developed and the population increased in a manner we were at present quite unable to compute, *and the day would probably come when the province would be the home of the English race, when momentous changes had passed over Western Europe.* In the United States and in British America England had had the opportunity of establishing her laws and institutions on a firm and magnificent scale. When the war of independence lost us the United States there yet remained the splendid country in which we had been able to develop our institutions in a new and untried form, until they had borne noble fruit. (Cheers.) His blood boiled sometimes when he heard people depreciating the value of the colonies. With regard to British North America he thought *the strength and honor of England were concerned in the establishment of a great confederation.* (Hear, hear.) We ought scrupulously to respect the loyalty of the colonies, and not attempt to hasten the time when a separation would occur. Our duty was to render that day as distant as possible, and he hoped a warm connection between the colonies and mother country would be kept up for many a year on both sides of the Atlantic. (Cheers.)

The Hon. Mr. CARTER responded to the toast. He narrated the efforts made by the colonists to obtain a confederation, and said they had been told by various governments in England that if the people in Canada could agree upon a scheme of confederation no objection would be raised by the home government. A plan had now been agreed upon, and it had been widely discussed in the English press. (Hear.) The ministers of the crown, he believed, had in the main given their approval, and he and his friends hoped that when Parliament met the scheme would be ratified and allowed to pass into operation. If the plan were not approved the British Parliament would take upon it elf a grave responsibility. The readers of American newspapers would perceive *that the people of the United States were not in favor of confederation, because they saw in it the certainty of strength and power not only to Canada, but England.* He hoped when the scheme came before Parliament it would not be considered in a party spirit. Canada desired only to be strengthened in order that the monarchy should be strengthened also. (Cheers.)

The usual concluding toasts were given, and the company separated about midnight.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

Diplomacy and Position of Austria.

[From the Augsburg Gazette, Jan. 12.]

It appears that the Austrian Premier, full of contradictions as is his policy, has notwithstanding been successful in making the Oriental question a principal subject of diplomacy in Europe. The Austrian Chargé d'Affaires in Paris is entrusted with a mission to secure united action on the part of the Great Powers toward the Sublime Porte, ostensibly for the purpose of adjusting the political and religious differences existing on the Balkan peninsula and the final arrangement of the rights of the Christian populations. While the result of further concessions from the Porte toward its discontented subjects cannot be doubtful, the real purpose of such a proceeding is easily understood. Concessions are demanded exceeding all the boundaries of reason and practicability. If the Porte agrees to them he commits suicide, and by refusing an ultimatum she becomes the disturber of peace, hostile to civilization and consequently deserving of a dissolution brought on by herself. We hope, in the interest of Austria and universal peace, that all steps taken by Baron von Beust will prove a failure. This new Minister of State ignores entirely the disastrous consequences experienced by his predecessor from his taking the initiative in Polish affairs, and Austria to-day is less able to make good her words by deeds. In spite of Baron von Beust's accomplished diplomacy, of which he has given in London such eminent proofs, words without deeds are of no avail. The conflagration existing in the East is fast approaching the frontiers of Austria. Diplomacy cannot extinguish it, but will increase its violence.

Since 1856 repeated conferences have taken place, and each one ended by shaking the foundation of the structure of the Turkish government. To assemble at present around a green table the guardian powers of Turkey's fate means no hing but to remove the keystone of the Osmanic arch across the Bosphorus. But a breach on the Dardanelles, the crescent waning in Europe will benefit Austria, and this Herr Von Beust knows, as everybody else who, like him, is versed in writing notes and giving cheap advice to the Porte. There are many and influential men in Austria who see alone in a most intimate alliance with France the way of salvation. The history of former French alliances, our last year's experiences have not in the slightest degree altered these views. Even the Venetian experiment could not improve this perception. Already Count Beal has thanked the Emperor of the French for his services to the cause of European order. Again he is implored to restore order in the Occident and Orient. Anxiously his friendship is cultivated and fortified. A commercial treaty by which Austrian taxpayers shall dry up the tears of Lyons and come to the relief of the starving laboring classes of Alsace has just been concluded. The natural inclination of the modern Cæsar to congresses, national tribunals and peace courts is well known. An opportunity is offered to him to show once more to the world his greatness as a peacemaker and in forming States. If Herr Beust's intention were to go as nothing but evidence of personal convenience we would pity him and be silent, but his policy appears to us pregnant with dangerous consequences, and the call for peace will awaken all the slumbering elements and array them on the great theatre of the pending war. We should think the internal questions of Austria to reconcile many races, struggling each one for ascendancy, would absorb all the cares and attentions of the Premier in Vienna. To attempt to raise a cry in aid of the East through congresses and diplomacy is in vain. The interests of Austria are the interests of Germany. This solidarity has not been altered by radowa. The North German Bund cannot create new laws for the intercourse of nations nor alter the laws of progress and civilization. The mission of culture and civilization of the German people never proceeded from a political unity. The Danube is the natural channel to the East for German industry and German ideas. It is not a mere Austrian stream, and will forever be allowed to become Slavonian. The existence of Austria demands the independence of the valleys of the lower Danube and the Adriatic shores. The mouth of the Danube can never be allowed to become dependent either on Russia or France. It would be a deathblow to the development of commerce and industry in a state requiring nothing but regeneration. For the same reason the existence of the State requires the maintenance of the supremacy of the Adriatic. With the line formed by Dalmatia it commands the Mediterranean. As soon as the Albanian coast and Bosnia fall into other hands the possession of Dalmatia is not only put in jeopardy, it is lost. What France has to accomplish in the Orient can never be brought into Germany with the designs of Austria. The imperial policy will never acknowledge the mission of Austria. We might as well look for Czar and Cæsar shaking hands, or that the Anatolic dogma would submit to Athenasian unity. Austria to-day has not to seek her influence in the labyrinth of the intrigues of Hannibal nor to deal in church patronage, concordats or capitulations. The interests of Austria in the Balkan peninsula are of an entire concrete nature. They are real, practical, visible and geographically defined. Prussia, with Providential energy, has placed its advanced posts near the sea. The day will come when this distant outpost of civilization will render service to the German nation, when the one day's throne of Rumania will prove a strong wall against the grasping hands of the Muscovites and the French. The chalk rocks of Istria form forever the Germanic frontiers sure. The new German flag must be raised in Trieste or Germany forever resign any participation in the world's route over the Isthmus of Suez. That is the course marked out for a healthy Austrian policy. Much has been already said about the dissolution of the Turkish empire. In case of a sudden explosion wiseacres and hairsplitters have pointed out the gravitation of the scattered fragments. An opinion is prevailing that nothing but an understanding of the Great Powers is required and the whole misery is at an end. As soon as the cross is raised on the spire of St. Sophia liberal pensions will be allowed and the Sultan is to enjoy the life of an Indian rajah. Sinecures for Fuad All and Omar Pasha will be found. Like the sice tree, suddenly out of the chaos of the night will spring a whole batch of sovereign States. All that is required is to furnish proper sovereigns. A Diet, after the pattern of the famous but happily defunct organization of Frankfort, will hold its sessions in Belgrade, Bucharest or a Serajewo. In spite of the Babelonic confusion of languages, religion, rivalry of races the plenipotentiaries of the Bulgaro-Greco-Slavonian-Latin population will wisely rule by majorities. It is supposed that with the introduction of Christian sovereigns the dissenters will unite with the adherents of orthodoxy and that Popery will introduce Franciscanism; that the Techernagogians will cease cutting of noses, and the Arnauts will suddenly be seized with an extraordinary respect of property. A Russian and French fleet constantly kept in the respective waters will form, it is said, in all difficulties that may arise the final tribunal of the great Powers.

And now let us look at the two Cæsars. Their only aim, of course, is justice. All they require is the chasing back to the Bosphorus the Mahometans and to save Christianity like modern crusaders. After having transmitted to the Wallachians, Serbes, Bulgarians, Greco-Slavonians, Montenegrians and Arnauts their proper location, they will return to the winter palace and the Tuileries, gratified with having performed a great duty. Nobody can entertain for a moment the slightest idea of these people going to war with and annihilating each other. That the possession of the Dardanelles, the dominion over Asia and Europe has lost all its charms for the triumphant crusaders, nobody will earnestly assert. In the whole of Illyria such a thing is incredible. Already preparations are being made, therefore, after the first great battle to become either Russian or French. Whoever will pay best for a timely homage is already anxiously waited for. The man before whom Europe trembles is silent. It cannot be endured longer that Austria shall raise the whirl of war in a wanton manner. Her wand may be easily turned into the broom of the mastiosa's apprentice. Neither French nor Russian, not even European policy, is the proper sphere for a statesman in Vienna. German policy can alone furnish Austria the means to resist pressure at home and from abroad. In fact, German policy can alone save Austria.

CHINA.

Native Estimate of the Labors of Foreign Missionaries.

The Chinese Governor has issued the following note:—

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION FOR THE PROVINCE OF HOO-NAN.

Alas! depraved discourses are daily gaining ground, and right principles are gradually on the wane; strange doctrines are perversely advancing and the minds of men are all in agitation.

As to these insubordinate English, who live on a contemptible mud bank in the ocean and are ruled sometimes by a female and sometimes by a male, their specific character is half human, half beast, described in the silent records as the "Naked Reptile," and termed in China *Tu-jin.*

Under the Ming government they made little progress. In the period Souen-th (1426-1435) Matthew Ricci, Jules Aleni and others first introduced their national religion of Jesus the Lord of Heaven, misleading the people. At that time there were some men of intelligence, who secretly connived at their proceedings, till the Emperor being memorialized to expel the intruders, they were forced to return to their own countries.

Our dynasty carrying to the extreme its benevolence towards men from afar, permitted them to open a trade at Canton in 1775. Now our sacred sovereign entertained no thoughts beyond that, nor did he look for any advantage from them. Who could have imagined the unfathomable character of their wolfish hearts? The chasm of their covetous nature is difficult to fill; they pay no regard to superabounding, all-enduring favors, but on the contrary give free course to their wild and insane imaginations.

Those who have come to propagate religion, enticing and deluding the ignorant masses, print and circulate depraved compositions; daring by their deceptive extravagancies to set loose the established bonds of society, utterly regardless of all modesty. At first, when they feared that people would attack them, they disseminated their principles in private; but now in every place they are holding forth their inducements, deliberately practising their perversions in open day; trouble and disturbance pervade all quarters, and the feelings of the people are in incessant commotion. When the conflagration has commenced where will the calamity end? If the young serpent is not crushed what can be done with the full grown reptile? Why hesitate or delay in squeezing it to death? We here point out some of the reprobate principles of these people.

COAL IN INDIA.

[From the Friend of India, Dec. 22.]

The coal fields at present discovered in Chindwarra extend over a surface of upwards of fifty miles, and varying in thickness of good coal from three to thirteen feet. There can be little doubt that these coal fields are the most important discoveries that have been made in India for years. The official report gives a very high opinion of the coal as a fuel, its freedom from iron pyrites and the great facility in working it. It would be needless to say more about the character of the coal after such an elaborate report by the Geological Survey officers; but it is our wish to show its value to the province and more especially to the approaching Nagpore Railway.

THE FASHIONS.

The Reception at the Tuileries and Dresses Worn at Court—A Novelty or Nothing—Costume of the Empress—The Prevailing Colors—New Style of Hats—Cut of Sleeves—Diamonds, Feathers and Bands, &c.

PARIS, Feb. 1, 1867.

The event of the week is the second reception at the Tuileries. Three thousand invitations were given out, and the three thousand attended, in the richest toilets. All the gentlemen wore tight silk stockings, ending in a buckled shoe. Their leggings, or *culottes*, are made of white cloth and the tails and collars of their coats worked with gold. The shade of the coat is blue.

The enumeration of the ladies' dresses would be but a repetition of the fashions I have described since the opening of the season. The great feature was satin, which is made *à fourreau*, with the most extravagant lengths of train. A little oval front piece, under the waistband, not larger than the width of two hands, and which I should call an apron, if it were large enough, is the great novelty. No one knows what it is meant for, nor its origin; no one says it is pretty, but all call it *chic*, and that is supposed to mean something enviable in our degenerate idiom. There were oceans of snowy white organdies worked with floss silk and gold; plenty of plain tulles covered with white ruche and vaporous underskirts, entirely without any other trimming beyond pearl bead lace. All were flat in front, and there were velvet and satin bodies with basques cut in one, very low, either round or square. The low chemisette is pleated and edged with an insertion and valenciennes.

As I have frequently said, sleeves are mere bands—a puff or anything that will trim round an arm hole. A pretty dress I did admire, because it contrasted with the gorgeous glitter around me. It was made of tarlatan, cut in three flat skirts which were sewn in the waist like flounces of the old school. The bottom of each was scolloped round wide and lined with pink tarlatan, which gave the dress a rosy appearance. The back of the skirt was ornamented only with a long sash which widened gradually till it became a train at the bottom. Both flounces and sash were bordered with slightly twisted pink and white. The sleeves were *à la suisse* like wings. The headdress was a cordon of apple blossoms.

The Empress wore a yellow satin robe, trimmed with bouillons of tulle, under which shone forth diamonds in flowers. She had a diadem of the same in her hair. The imperial family entered the Salle des Maréchaux at nine o'clock, and advanced straight to the throne chairs, between rows of standing and courtesying guests. To the right of the Empress there sat Prince Napoleon, to the left of the Emperor Princess Mathilde. The ladies of the palace, ambassadresses, &c., took seats round their Majesties, all according to rank and station. At twelve they rose and walked through the different reception rooms, after which they entered the galerie de Diane and supped.

After supper they retired, but the ball was kept up till three in the morning.

Emeralds are the favorite jewels this season; green silk is also in great demand. The great idea is to wear a large quantity of bead and jet embroidery round waistbands on afternoon dresses; some end in very long glass bead fringe. Black poult de soie waistbands with square basquines, Vandykes and folly points are fanciful trimmings.

Never was foulard so much sought after as it is now, and no fashion can be more welcome. It is as pretty as satin and not half so expensive; it is made in the loveliest shades of which the following are the prettiest at night:—Primrose, wallflower, Parma violet, roseleaf and pea-green. When cleaned they look like new, when creased they are ironed, when stained they can be washed.

Feathers and feather bands are and will be fashionable for some time to come. Striped silks are trimmed with plaited ribbon, *en tablier*, and round the bottom; crape plaits are much worn round bonnets and left to hang entwined with flowers. I cannot admire them. Our spring bonnets will either be very flat or all "Bolivar" shape—high up in the air, like coal scuttles, and flat behind.

The prettiest hat will be Côrès, a kind of Watteau, trimmed with bunches of brown berries in a garland of frosted leaves, tied on with maize or straw colored strings. Bonnet strings will be narrow.

ASIA.

OUR IRKOOTSK CORRESPONDENCE.

The Coming Union of Western America and and Eastern Asia—Fate of the American Ship General Sherman—Trading Object of the Vessel and Particulars of the Outrage—Life and Commerce in Irkootsk, &c.

IRKOOTSK, EASTERN SIBERIA, Nov. 30, (Dec. 12), 1866.

The NEW YORK HERALD has got correspondents all over the world, so I don't see why it should not have one in this out-of-the-way place. Irkootsk is no *terra incognita* to Americans, and thanks to the United Western Telegraph Company, who are working away with true Yankee energy at the wires, which are to place Western America within speaking distance of Eastern Asia, we may soon hope to be more closely connected. The object of the present letter, however, is to give you some details concerning the fate of the American ship General Sherman, which have been received here from Vladivostock, (a Russian port on the frontier of Corea,) and which may possibly not have reached you from other parties.

You are aware that after the massacre of the Roman Catholic missionaries in Corea, the French Ambassador at Pekin applied to the Chinese government for redress, but was informed that, although Corea was tributary to the Celestial empire, the latter did not interfere in its domestic affairs or its relations with foreign States, and that the French must, therefore, obtain satisfaction of the Coreans themselves. On receiving this answer the ambassador immediately ordered the admiral commanding the French squadron in the Chinese waters, to repair to Corea and inflict signal punishment on the offenders, and meanwhile declared publicly at dinner that in ninety days Corea should be open to international trade. Relying on this promise, and expecting to drive a profitable traffic in the newly opened ports, some English and American merchants in Tien-tsin chartered the General Sherman, loaded her with merchandise and silver and despatched her to the coast of Corea to await the arrival of the French men-of-war. But July, August and September passed without anything being heard of the French squadron, and it then began to be rumored that the General Sherman had been wrecked on the coast, and both crew and passengers murdered.

The rumor that was first brought to Chifoo by a French gunboat that was cruising in the vicinity has proved but too true. It appears that the General Sherman got aground near the shore, and the captain not being able to get her off, resolved to apply to the inhabitants for assistance, offering to pay them well for their trouble. The person chosen to bear the message was an English missionary by the name of Thomas, who understood Chinese, Japanese and a little Corean. The inhabitants agreed to afford the required assistance, but on condition that all the arms on board should be piled together and locked up in the cabin in their presence, and that the crew and passengers should have their hands tied behind them, after which, as soon as the natives had got the ship off the reef and taken the money, which was to be placed in readiness for them, they were to retire to their boats, leaving one of their number on board the General Sherman to unbind the Europeans as soon as his comrades were out of gunshot. The reason assigned for this proceeding was that they were afraid that after they had got the ship afloat the Fanqui (foreign barbarians) would have them shot from their big guns. Notwithstanding the danger and humiliation involved in the process, the passengers determined to submit, probably seeing no alternative but to trust themselves voluntarily into the hands of the Coreans, or to have their ship broken up in the first gale, when they would anyhow be at the mercy of the wreckers.

Mr. Thomas returned to the vessel with two or three natives, who removed all the arms and then gave a signal to their countrymen in the boats that everything was ready, whereupon they boarded the General Sherman, massacred both passengers and crew and plundered the ship, which they seem to have scuttled immediately after. The intelligence of this bloody catastrophe has caused great sensation, and the public are anxious to know what the American government will do to revenge such a dastardly murder. It is stated that your Minister in Pekin refused to give the General Sherman a certificate of American citizenship on the ground that she was a smuggler and not entitled to the protection of his government; but it is certain that the captain and a portion of the crew were Americans, whom, whether smugglers or not, your people will hardly allow to be slaughtered with impunity.

Of Irkootsk itself there is, I fear, but little to tell you that would interest your readers. We live very quietly, but not uncomfortably, suffering less from the cold than you do in New York; one day is the exact counterpart of the other, and it is but seldom that our stereotype condition of monotonous tranquillity is interrupted by such an event as the revolt of the Polish exiles last fall, which occasioned tremendous excitement and produced a perfect panic among our rich merchants. For you must know that our city is a very considerable commercial emporium. The whole trade between Russia and China passes through here, as well as the fur trade from Northeastern Siberia and the Amoor, and there is, perhaps, not another city of twenty-five thousand souls in the world that numbers so many millionaires among its inhabitants as ours.

Nor are we without pretensions to literature. We have a theatre, a geographical and a medical society, five political and scientific journals, and there is a prospect of our soon having a university, which Mr. Sidoroff, the great Siberian Crœsus, who began life with ten copecks, and is now worth as many million roubles, has offered to endow with the handsome sum of a million in silver. The telegraph between here and St. Petersburg has been completed for more than a year, and if the wires are kept clear all the way I might at this moment despatch a telegram to you which would, or could, arrive in New York twelve hours before it left Irkootsk, the difference in longitude being exactly 180 degrees, or half the earth's circumference. But the operation would be rather expensive, and so it may be as well to wait till the line is opened that will connect us with the United State more directly via Kamtschatka, Russian America and British Columbia. According to the contract with the Russian Ministry of Ports and Telegraphs it is to be finished by the year 1869, and from the vigor and ability hitherto displayed by the American company we have every reason to anticipate the complete success of this magnificent undertaking.

CONNECTICUT CONGRESSIONAL CONVENTIONS.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE HERALD.

Democratic Nomination in the Fourth District.

BRIDGEPORT, Feb. 20, 1867.

The Democratic Congressional Convention for the Fourth Congressional district assembled in this city to-day. Owing to the severe snow storm there was not a very large attendance. One hundred and fifteen delegates were present, however, the full complement being one hundred and forty-two. John H. Glover, of Fairfield, was appointed temporary president, and E. A. Woodward, of Norwalk, and Henry B. Graves, of Litchfield, were appointed temporary secretaries. The usual committees were appointed. A motion prevailed to refer all resolutions to the Committee on Resolutions without debate. The following were the permanent officers of the convention:—

President—Hon. Wm. D. Bishop, of Bridgeport.

Vice Presidents—Tenth district, Wm. Samuel Johnson; Eleventh district, Milo Lee; Twelfth district, E. B. Hughes; Fifteenth district, Rowland Hitchcock; Sixteenth district, Glover Sanford; Seventeenth district, John Cotton Smith.

Secretaries—Elbert A. Woodward, Truman Richmond, Jr.

On taking the chair, Mr. Bishop made a speech, brief, but to the point.

An informal ballot was then taken, with the following result:—

Whole number of votes	115
Wm. H. Barnum	72
Wm. F. Taylor	38
James S. Taylor	3
William D. Bishop	2

Another informal ballot resulted as follows:—

Whole number of votes	112
William H. Barnum	59
William F. Taylor	45
James S. Taylor	8

The Convention then adjourned for dinner.

On the reassembling of the Convention one of the Vice Presidents took the chair, and Mr. William D. Bishop addressed the Convention at some length, claiming that Wm. H. Barnum, of Salisbury, was the man to defeat P. T. Barnum, and announcing that he was authorized to withdraw the name of Wm. F. Taylor. He then moved that Wm. H. Barnum be nominated by acclamation. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Committee on Resolutions reported the following:—

Resolved, That we hereby ratify the resolutions adopted by the Democratic State Convention recently held in Hartford, and pledge to the candidates placed in nomination by the said convention our unqualified support.

Resolved, That we heartily endorse the nomination of Wm. H. Barnum, of Salisbury, as our candidate for Congress, and respectfully invite men of all parties, who regard an unblemished character, strict integrity, executive ability and business qualities of the highest order as desirable qualifications for a member of Congress, to give him their support; and that we call upon the workingmen to rally around him as one from their own ranks, who, starting out a poor working man, has by a life of honesty, integrity, industry and energy, secured his present enviable and honorable position.

Democratic Nomination in the First District.

HARTFORD, Feb. 20, 1867.

The democrats of the First Congressional district, in their convention held in this city to-day, unanimously placed in nomination Richard D. Hubbard as their nominee for Congress. Mr. Hubbard appeared in the convention and accepted the nomination. The resolutions passed by the convention approve the nomination of James E. English, and also of the resolution passed at the late Democratic State Convention denouncing the revolutionary schemes of the radicals as alarming, and characterize the passage of the Gold ers' Bounty bill as unjust and sectional in its character and oppressive upon the people, already overburdened by taxation.

Mr. Hubbard is a lawyer, and is much esteemed by his associates of the bar for his pleasant social characteristics. He has never taken an active part in politics. During the war he attended several Union meetings, and wrote a letter acknowledging the justice of the cause. This was very unpalatable to some of the democrats. The friends of Colonel Deming feel confident of carrying the district, notwithstanding the democrats have placed in nomination their strongest candidate.

Democratic Nomination in the Third District.

NORWICH, CONN., Feb. 20, 1867.

The Democratic Convention for the Third district met in this city to-day and nominated Mr. Earl Martin, of Killingly, for Congress.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Gen. J. Gould, of Rochester; ex-Gov. Coney, of Maine; Gen. S. F. Carr, of Ohio; C. F. Trigg, of Memphis; Samuel Galloway, of Ohio, and H. C. Lord, of Cincinnati, are stopping at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

Gen. A. Horsy, of Nevada; John H. Kemper, of Albany; Col. J. H. Baldwin, of Indianapolis, and Dr. G. B. Graff, of Nebraska, are stopping at the Metropolitan Hotel.

Congressmen Roscoe Conkling and R. S. Hale, of New York, and Col. Pomroy, of Pittsfield, are stopping at the Hoffman House.

List of Americans registered in Paris for the week ending January 24, 1867:—From New York—Mr. J. O. Isaman, Mr. D. A. Wickham and wife, Mrs. Joseph Noble, Miss Stone, Misses Kinsel, Mr. W. W. Clarke and family, Mr. Edward Mortimer, Mr. Samuel French and wife, Mr. T. Henry French, Miss Marie Gould, Mr. Sheldon Leavitt, Mr. Sheldon Leavitt Jr., Mr. W. L. Brooks, Mr. F. M. Braggiotti, W. E. Johnson, M. D., Mr. Alex. Holland and family, Mr. A. Berkel, Mr. Henry Stanfield, Mr. U. D. French, Mrs. French, Mr. D. C. Blodgett and family. Boston—Mrs. C. L. Gibson and family. Mr. T. W. Guild, Mr. A. E. Seaman, Mr. B. A. Boardman Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Eben Dale, Miss M. H. Young, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Bates, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Odiorne. Philadelphia—Mr. Theo. H. Renkire, Mr. H. C. Bispham, Dr. and Mrs. Jas. Lawes. Cincinnati—Mr. and Mrs. S. N. Pike, Mr. L. Pike, Mr. G. P. Bowler. Chicago—Mr. J. H. Dunham, Mrs. and Miss Dunham, Mr. Horatio O. Stone and wife. Baltimore—Mr. R. G. Rieman. Wilkesberre—Mr. Washington Lee. Rochester—Mr. E. G. Robinson. St. Louis—Mr. A. C. Chapman and family. Worcester—Mr. R. L. Bawes and wife. Troy—Mr. W. B. Tibbetts. Buffalo—Mr. S. V. R. Watson and wife. New Bedford—Dr. Stickney. New Britain—H. E. Russell. Cambridge—J. C. Fernald. Salem—Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Cheever, Miss Cheever, Dr. and Mrs Shreve. San Francisco—Mrs. B. Taft, Miss Taft, Mr. A. A. Cohen, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Clarke. California—Mr. Edgar Mills, Dr. E. Crowell and wife, Mr. Charles Crowell, Mr. A. J. Murphy. Illinois—Mr. S. C. Gibson, Mr. R. L. McArthur. United States Army—General A. Ames, General F. Starring. United States Navy—Surgeon W. K. Scofield. Paris—Mr. Edward G. Buffum, Mr. Felix Foucou.

SENTENCE OF A MURDERER.

BOSTON, Feb. 20, 1867.

The jury in the case of Frank W. Rounds, who has been on trial for the last two days for the murder of Adolph Traget in September last, returned a verdict, at noon to-day, of guilty of murder in the second degree. He was sentenced to the State Prison for life.

THE SOUTH.

VIRGINIA.

OUR RICHMOND CORRESPONDENCE.

The Red String Organization—Murder of Two of its Members—Suicide of Lieutenant Newman—Government Rationing Negroes and They Cannot be Induced to Work in Consequence.

RICHMOND, Feb. 18, 1867.

I have information that two men of the "Red String" organization who were on a radical electioneering tour through Carroll and Grayson counties (West Virginia), were brutally murdered in the latter county. The circumstances of the murder had not transpired, nor had the murderers been arrested.

The affair has created much excitement, and serious apprehensions of trouble exist, as the "Red Strings" are very strong in that section.

There is some excitement here among the military caused by the supposed suicide of Lieutenant Alfred S. Newman, Twelfth United States infantry, at the Ballard House. He arrived in the city on Thursday last from City Point, to undergo a trial by court martial for drunkenness while on duty as officer of the day.

The trial was to take place this morning. Deceased had been drinking freely since his arrival, and last night swallowed a large dose of laudanum, from the effects of which he expired during the night in his room, where he was found this morning.

An inquest was held, and a verdict of "Death from an over dose of laudanum" returned.

Deceased was a native of Philadelphia, about twenty-five years of age and of attractive appearance. He had challenged a member of the burial corps to fight, which affair of honor was pending his trial.

From points further south I learn that the spring season is just opening. The earliest trees are beginning to put forth their tender shoots, and planters are trying to make contracts with freedmen for this year's crop—trying, mark the word; alas! how few of us have succeeded. Laborers are more plenty and less desirous to work than last year at this time.

Some planters are now offering to give half of the crop and furnish everything for help to cultivate their lands, and they do not obtain it even on those ruinous terms; and why? Government is furnishing negroes with two months' rations, and, of course, they will not work so long as this supply shall last, which would render help too late for this year's crop.

As long as government shall support freedmen so long will cotton growing prove unsuccessful.

In Florida, for instance, there are negroes enough at present to supply all demands for this year's crop; but why should they work if government will support them without labor. No negro can be argued out of that.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

OUR CHARLESTON CORRESPONDENCE.

Disorganization of the Labor System the Chief Cause of Distress, &c.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 10, 1867.

The distress of Southern communities at the present time arises mostly from the disorganized system of labor, and until a new system