EUROPE.

The steamship Cuba, of the Cunard line, Captain Moodie, from Liverpool November 30 via Queenstown December 1, arrived at this port yesterday with details of despatches up to date of sailing.

Nubar Pacha, who accompanied the eldest son of Ismail Pacha, Viceroy of Egypt, to London, has returned to Paris.

Two Austrian frigates intended for a voyage of scientific exploration, the Archduke Frederick and Donau, carrying the flag of Rear Admiral Petz, cast anchor at Gibraltar on the 19th ult. before proceeding to Tangier.

Several of the Paris journals speak of a public subscription as about to be opened to erect a monument to Rossini.

The censorship has interdicted the *Eclipse* from publishing likenesses of the five advocates who defended the accused in the affair of the Baudin subscription.

The Madrid *Impartial* of the 23d ult. published under the heading "The Honor of Spain" an article in which it energetically censured Spanish capitalists for not subscribing more readily to the loan.

Señor Ortiz, the Spanish Minister of Justice, has issued a decree reorganizing the Supreme Court of Justice, which is henceforward to consist of three separate tribunals, with a president and eight counsellors attached to each. The third court is to be specially a civil court of law.

The Imperial Court of Paris has confirmed on appeal the two judgments of the Correctional Tribunal, which had condemned MM. Dubuisson and Gaittet, successively printers of the *Lanterne*, the former to one month's imprisonment and 4,000 francs fine, and the other to two months and 2,000 francs.

The French Minister of Justice has appointed a commission, composed of former consular judges and experienced commercial men, to examine certain modifications proposed in the law of bankruptcy in France, especially as respects the dilatory character of the syndical operations and the heavy costs of proceedings.

The Rothschild family own the large island at Puteaux. In their quality of proprietors Baroness James and her children have handed the sum of 500 francs to the local authorities for the benefit of the poor of that commune on the occasion of the decease of the head of the house.

The German journals announce that the French gun factories, even those of the State, having concluded the fabrication of the Chassepots, are working actively on the improved system of weapons adopted by Austria, and that the manufacturers are to furnish the Emperor Francis Joseph's government with 600,000 muskets by the 1st of April.

ENGLAND.

FROM OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

The Social Side of English Politics.

LONDON, Nov. 28, 1868.

The topic of the day is the elevation of Mrs. Disraeli to the peerage, with the title of Viscountess of Beaconsfield. The HERALD has always held that, in spite of his party trammels, Mr. Disraeli is the ablest politician in England, and even his bitterest opponents now confess that they have secretly entertained the same opinion. Friends and enemies all join in a general chorus of congratulation upon the tact and *finesse* by which Mr. Disraeli has secured the prize of his ambition without withdrawing from active politics, by shutting himself up in the House of Lords. It has been long expected that at the conclusion of the present elections Mr. Disraeli would step from the Premiership into the peerage, and no one would have been disposed to deny that he had amply earned the right to such an honor. In fact, his opponents rather congratulated themselves upon the fact that they would no longer have to contend with the able conservative leader. Some of his own party, too, would have been glad of his retirement from motives of personal jealousy, although the great majority would not have known where to look for another commander. But Mr. Disraeli has pleased all his friends and utterly confounded his antagonists. He does not refuse the coronet; he simply hands it over to his wife to wear for him. He does not withdraw with his honors to the House of Lords; he stays to fight in the Commons and keeps his title at home for social and domestic uses.

You are, of course, aware that this act has a most illustrious precedent. The wife of Mr. Pitt became Lady Chatham long before her husband would consent to accept the rank of Earl. But everybody had forgotten this precedent until Mr. Disraeli practically revived it. The friends of Mr. Gladstone now enthusiastically declare that he will follow Disraeli's example when the time comes for him to be raised to the peerage. I am afraid that this happy time is much more distant than Gladstone's friends suppose. The liberal majority in the new Parliament will be about 110. At first sight this is enormous; but you must remember that in the last Parliament the liberals had a nominal majority of eighty and were yet unable to do anything with it except sustain Mr. Disraeli in office. I do not predict a similar result in this Parliament, because I know how anxious the liberals are to obtain office; but still I feel that Mr. Disraeli has many more cards to play before he gives up the game and welcomes Gladstone as Premier. One of these—the substitution of some liberal nobleman in the Premiership—I have already pointed out, and others will be mentioned in good time. Personally, however, Mr. Disraeli and his family would be glad to see any amount of good fortune attend Mr. Gladstone. The families of the two leaders are very intimate, and Mrs. Gladstone was one of the first to send her sincere compliments to the Viscountess of Beaconsfield. During the season the Premier and the leader of the opposition are to be seen at each other's receptions, and nothing could be more cordial than their private intercourse nor more unflinching than their public animosities.

The social side of politics would be completely bright in England if it were not for the personal piques and prejudices of her Majesty the Queen. [illegible] years ago, when she first assumed the crown, the Queen confessed to Lord Melbourne that she "hated the tories," by which she meant that she hated the tory statesmen with whom she was brought into official contact. She confessed this as a fault, and a most grievous fault in a sovereign it undoubtedly was. Years have passed, times and parties and men have changed, and now the Queen "hates" the liberals in precisely the same way. That is to say, the principal liberal leaders are personally disagreeable to her. She cannot endure Lord John Russell; she absolutely dislikes Mr. Gladstone. On the other hand, she is deeply attached to Lord Derby, and has no warmer and closer friendship than that which she entertains for Mr. Disraeli. The social circle of royalty is therefore broken in two. The Court ought to be neutral ground, where great politicians of all parties can meet and either reconcile or mitigate their differences. The Court of St. James, on the contrary, is decidedly hostile ground for the pronounced liberals, and they venture within the charmed circle trembingly and affrightedly. The Queen, they say, is with the tories. Mr. Disraeli, in his sensible way, has often hinted at the same thing during the last Parliament. The public repeated the same statement when they saw half a dozen persons of the blood royal come down to Parliament to listen to long speeches against the Irish Church resolutions of Mr. Gladstone.

Now, this fact suggests two serious considerations. In the first place, the Queen is materially impairing her legitimate influence by taking sides in party politics. Liberal politicians, believing that the tories have the Queen completely under the thumb, are constantly starting rumors prejudicial to her credit. One of these is that which accuses her of resolving to call some liberal nobleman (not Earl Russell) to the Premiership in case the present government be voted out of office. Everybody agrees that although this might be the partisan strategy on the part of Disraeli, it would be an outrageous act on the part of the Queen, for the whole country has accepted Gladstone as the next Premier. Another rumor is that the Queen is about to create a score of conservative peers to assure the rejection of the Irish Church bill by the House of Lords in case the liberal Premier should insist upon creating new peers to carry the bill. This rumor is semi-officially denied to-day. Another report is to the effect that the Queen will refuse to open the reformed Parliament in person, although such a mark of royal acquiescence in the enlargement of the constituency and in the verdict passed by the people upon the Irish Church question would be most poitic, and is, in fact, required by etiquette and the exigencies of the crisis. The liberal organ, the *Telegraph*, comes out with a leader, in consequence of this rumor, almost demanding that the Queen shall do her duty in this matter. Do it she will, I am certain; but the prevalent impression is that she will do it reluctantly, and that impression is hurtful.

In the second place, it is evident that, although the Queen is with the tories, the majority of her subjects are not. The present elections show that the liberal party expresses the genuine sentiment of the country upon the Irish Church question. The Roman Catholics of Ireland, the Presbyterians of Scotland, the dissenters and many of the churchmen of England unite in condemning that "alien church" in Ireland which Disraeli once so eloquently denounced. There can be no doubt of their views, and unfortunately these views are directly opposed to those of the Queen. Her Majesty must, consequently, give way; but in struggling to the last and in yielding with a bad grace she injures her popularity and tarnishes her crown. Already the retirement of the Queen into the sombre shadows of widowhood has lost her a great deal of her former popularity, and her present attitude of hostility to the liberal programme bids fair to destroy that popularity entirely. Americans would be surprised to hear the flippant and disgraceful manner in which Englishmen talk of their Queen, who was once their idol. Her meanness in pecuniary matters is openly ridiculed; the story that she is mildly mad is everywhere credited, even in court circles, and scandals in regard to her, which have in truth no real foundation, are circulated as freely as Joe Miller's jests. This bodes no good to Victoria nor to her dynasty. Think how quickly the revolution in Spain ripened and how peacefully it was accomplished.

Meanwhile the person who has it in his power to correct all this has neglected his social duties for stupid dissipations and is now absent upon a long foreign tour. What the English people believe in regard to the Prince of Wales may be judged from a late cartoon in the *Tomahawk*, which represents him as bidding farewell to Mlle. Lucca, dressed as Britannia and crossing over to Mlle. Schneider, dressed as an Egyptian girl. If the Prince would but establish a social court at Marlborough House he could reconcile all politicians to the seclusion of his mother, and if he would but stand by her and give her the advice of a son and a man of the world he would not only regain and insure her popularity, but would also make himself respected by the people and place his future crown much more firmly upon his head than it is ever likely to be under present circumstances.

FRANCE.

Death Among the Great—The Obsequies of Rossini—The Great Composer's Last Words—His Remains in the Church of La Trinite—Distinguished Persons Present—From the Church to Pere La Chaise—The Last Hours of Berryer.

PARIS, Nov. 24, 1868.

It was but a few days ago that friends, on meeting at public places or social gatherings, exchanged the intelligence that Rossini, Rothschild, Berryer and Havin were dying. This then struck all as being a most startling improbability, an unaccountable coincidence, as if Death could not sheave so much talent, power and fortune together in one grasp. Three of these great men are nevertheless dead—the composer, the millionnaire and the editor who has been the cause of so much detraction and envy—while the veteran speaker was rumored as dead yesterday.

These men are now going to be judged by their friends, emulators and antagonists; but the mounds are too fresh and the real truth will only proceed from their works. For once, however, the Parisians have learned that there reigns a supreme will, stronger than their own, to destroy their idols.

Your readers are perhaps not yet aware what were Rossini's last words. They were said before his long and painful agony commenced, when at last it was deemed urgent to prepare him for another world. He was asked by the spiritual adviser called in if he was a sincere Christian, if he believed. "He who wrote the 'Stabat,'" answered Rossini, "must be a believer." A few seconds after this his suffering was so intense that though his wife's name was always on his lips, still these were the last words connected with the workings of his soul.

The funeral solemnities were magnificent, and took place at the new church La Trinité, not at St. Eustache, as it had been originally settled. The body was conveyed from the Madeleine to the vaults of the Trinité the day before the final ceremony, when every street and avenue was so thronged round the edifice that at length none without admission for seats in the church, were allowed to cross the large square before it. At the last hour, however, speculators did sell chairs inside for 150f. each. No one knew how they got these tickets nor how they got to the church; but they were there and the traffic went on in silence, almost unperceived by the police officers. When high mass began with the *Introit* of Mozart's requiem the interior of the building was most imposing. There was room for 3,000, and 5,000 people had got in the nave, down the aisles, up in the tribunes, galleries, dome and organ choir. It was perhaps not all sympathetic mourning; it was immense curiosity increased by anticipated enjoyment of the singing that was to be heard. In the centre of the nave rose an edifice under which the body was placed during the ceremony. It was surrounded by four steps, above which elevation was the receptacle for the coffin, left empty, but covered with a black velvet pall showered over with silver tears. Thirty-six tapers, besides urns and funereal figures, were placed around. The *De Profundis* was sung in the vaults before the body was deposited under this short-lived monument, after which preliminary the troops came in and rendered approach near it impossible by forming a kind of wall round the catafalque. I cannot help observing here that this display of militia was welcomed with no good feeling. It was intended as a mark of honor, the Emperor being represented by his Chamberlain, by M. de Nieuwerkerke and others; but these soldiers came in as if for war, with their knapsacks on their backs and cartridges in their belts. Round the organ stood Mmes. Patti, Alboni, Nilsson, Krauss, Bloch and Ugalde. The most remarkable among the gentlemen were Tamourini, Duprez, Roger, Nicolini Agnesi, Belval Gardoni, Leiort, Delle Sedie and Faure. The right of the organ was filled by the choruses of the Conservatoire under Jules Cohen; the left by the band of the Guard. Down the nave came the deputations of Rossini's native town, Pesaro, and deputations from Bologna. Near the altar stood the Emperor's Chamberlain and Chevalier Nigra, Minister of Italy in France. Among the literati, and all of note were present, I recognized Sardou, Dumas, Emile Augier, and the musical critics Ambroise Thomas and Camille Doucet were with the officials from court.

Tamburini's son acted as master of the ceremonies. All the talent collected from every part of the world had in one word united and stood uncovered, while the organ burst forth and the three voices Rossini loved so well could not waken him from his well earned repose. Patti, Alboni and Nilsson did their best; they blended their sweet lamentations first in one melodious complaint and then sung his immortality with sublime felicitation. The *Quis est homo* duet, from the "Stabat," by Alboni and Patti, created such emotion that murmurs of continued delight were with difficulty subdued, and it was almost forgotten that the celebration was taking place round a coffin. The prayer from Moses and the supplication "Sweet Jesus" produced a no less thrilling effect. After the service the body was placed on the chariot which was to convey it to Pere La Chaise, and this chariot, with an unpretending R on it, was the same which had carried Baron de Rothschild to his last dwelling place a few days before. On the coffin lay two laurel wreaths and one made of gold, such as Dante is figured with. The laurel for one of these green wreaths was cut from a bush planted at Passy by Méry; the other was a branch from the tree shading Tasso's tomb.

The only other interesting detail is that when the procession entered the last street it had to go through (a kind of opening avenue to the cemetery) an old Italian was noticed standing at the balcony of a poor looking house. He was gazing mournfully down and had hung out his mandoline, for he is a wandering musician, and there it is to hang forever. It is all the old man has to give up, and the mandoline, which has so often been tuned to the maestro's melodies, is to bring sons in no more. "They hung up their harps," says a Hebrew melody, and the meaning of this is not more affecting than the touching demonstration of this poor Italian. Princess Mathilde and Princess Bonaparte were in one of the side tribunes of the church, and it said in secret that the Empress was thickly veiled and with them also, quite at the back. Several guests left Compiegne in order to attend publicly, while Eugénie is is said to have got in a small coupe which was ordered to keep up with that of Princess Mathilde on leaving the station.

The death of M. Berryer is the other great sensation now. Not once has his spirit been broken since he felt the approach of death, and the preparations he has written and ordained for his burial prove that he believes his soul will outlive it all. The only attachment he still shows to earthly strongholds is the love of his native home. "Take me to Angerville," he implored before he was carried there. "I must die at Angerville; I want to see my home again, to die where my father, mother, wife and all are buried." When Dr. Nelaton told him he could not stand the journey, he sighed and sent for the famous lawyer, Maitre Marie. "I wish," said he, as soon as the barrister walked up to his bed, "to wish you goodby. Nelaton says I cannot get to Angerville, and I want, in your person, to wish all the bar of France a long farewell." Then he requested to have a desk brought to him, and he added some codicils to his will, burned or destroyed all letters that could be compromising to the living. "Secrets were entombed in me, and I shall not come out beyond my tomb," he said. When he had done these things he said he wanted to go out for a time and he went. It did him good. On his return he called Dr. Nelaton in again. "I am not going to die to-day," he began. "I shall go from this to Angerville." He was accordingly wrapped in a fur cloak and conveyed to the Lyons station, for the seat of the Berryers is many leagues down towards Auvergne. When he stopped at the Brosse station there was another half hour's drive to go through, but he backed outright and left; smiled at the houses and autumn gardens, brought up lucid recollections and the spark of his youth seemed to flitter in the gray mist of his eye. When he reached the chateau, where a bright fire had been kindled and the old hall laid out to look its best, he sat down on an easy chair, refusing to be assisted, and repeating many times, "I am at home"—*chez moi*. There was ineffable sweetness in his voice. His sister, the Duchess of Riares, came and he pressed her to him in a long embrace. This caused some emotion, which for a moment weakened him, but the duchess having retired he sent for all his servants, and when he had spoken to each he slipped and fell on the floor. Two of his men stooped to help him up, but Berryer motioned them back. "This is home, and," he added, "it is comfortable everywhere, even low on the ground." He walked to his room, followed in silence to the family portraits, when, raising his eyes, he for the first time exclaimed, with bitter sorrow, "Father! Mother!"

Before M. Berryer left Paris he took the last sacrament, assisted by Father Pontlevoy, and the last letter he wrote in this capital was addressed to the Comte de Chambord.

PRUSSIA.

The Diet—Freedom of Speech—Beauties of Soi Disant Constitutional Government—Emigration Frauds—Explosive War Projectiles—South German Military Reform.

BERLIN, Nov. 23, 1868.

As usual at this season of the year King William and his courtiers are enjoying the pleasures of the chase. His Majesty having accepted an invitation to hunt in the dominion of the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, departed yesterday (Sunday) noon and does not return until Wednesday evening. He is said to have received a letter from Count Bismarck announcing the complete recovery of the Premier, who holds himself in readiness to obey the commands "of his royal master." This, at least, is the style in which the conservative press announce the Count's return to business, namely, the presiding at the meeting of the Bund Council fixed for the 30th ult. In the Diet, still engaged in the Budget discussion, the motion of Deputy Von Guérard respecting the freedom of speech passed the first reading with a large majority, though not without some ardent Don Quixotes running a tilt against it. Even the Minister of the Interior, Count Eulenburg, spoke of the great aversion entertained by the government against the motion, though for the sake of preserving unanimity with the Chamber they would make the sacrifice, and the Count finished by calling upon the conservatives to give in their adhesion to the Von Guérard motion. As before mentioned, some of the ultra conservatives could not forbear protesting loudly against giving the Chamber the same privilege as the Reichstag, insisting that it would be much more compatible with the dignity of the House if each member should feel himself responsible for what he uttered. In that case we should have less contempt of majesty, less exciting and revolutionary speeches and more candor and sincerity when the speakers know that they may be called to account. After, however, the government had given the cue which way they meant to vote very few of these ultra conservatives had the courage to continue their opposition.

At the reading of the *état* of the Finance Department it was noted that 1,000 thalers, belonging to the annual rent paid by Prussia to one of the mediatized princes, and which had been struck off by the last Diet, had nevertheless reappeared in the account. Herr Von Der Heydt, on being strongly pressed on this point, could not help admitting that the veto of the Chamber had been totally disregarded. The only way in which he tried to get out of the dilemma was by stating that the government considered the Prince to be in his right, and that therefore there was a moral obligation to pay. There is, of course, no telling whether or not these 1,000 thalers will make their appearance again in the *état* for 1870, for with so moral a government par excellence the will of the people counts for nothing.

Those deluded poor people who left the East Prussian province with a view of being colonized at government expense in the newly annexed provinces of Hanover and Schleswig-Holstein, and who were sent back to their homes by the police of this city, have been the victims, as has now been shown, of unscrupulous emigration agents who thought of kidnapping them for Chile. A rescript from the Minister of Commerce to the district authorities directs their attention to these frauds, forbids any further migration of the kind and orders the presidents to publish the necessary warnings.

It would appear that at the conferences now being held in St. Petersburg on the subject of abolishing explosive war projectiles a solution is not readily to be arrived at. So much, at least, is already certain, that the committee do not propose to include the artillery. The same exception would hold good for hand granades or rockets, which have been in use in all armies time out of mind, and for which no substitute has been found as yet. Both these have been extensively employed in the late war, and how little Prussia intends to abandon them may be inferred from the recent trials at the Spandau shooting grounds, where they formed the chief subject of experiment.

Being on military matters we may mention that the organization of the South German armies on a similar footing to that of Prussia is steadily progressing. In Bavaria, where the absence of a full complement of reserves has been the great difficulty, this is now removed, and next year thirty-two battalions, fully equipped, will be ready for effective service. The organization of the Baden force is, in every respect, including uniforms, arms and equipments, similar to that of Prussia, and Wurtemberg, while drilling and exercising the troops precisely as those in North Germany, has furnished them also with the breech-loader of Prussian manufacture. The slight difference yet existing, but which could easily be removed in case of need, is the divisions of regiments into battalions, there being in Wurtemberg three battalions to one regiment and only two in Prussia, though we see that the Hesse-Darmstadt division already belonging to the North German army has retained the system of three.

The position of the Hessian Premier, Herr Von Dalwigk, has become a peculiarly unpleasant one in consequence of his insinuations to the Emperor of Russia derogatory to the loyalty of his German subjects in the provinces of Courland and Livonia. The Czar, already exasperated against the Baltic provinces, has tightened the screw upon them, and is now altogether in the hands of the Young Russian party, which threatens extermination to the German element. Herr Von Dalwigk having sown the wind is now reaping the whirlwind, and it is credibly reported that his resignation must ensue.

TURKEY.

Lightships for the Bosphorus—The Porte and the United States American Trade in the Black Sea.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Nov. 10, 1868.

Some years since the attention of the Porte was called by Mr. Hupper, Lloyd's agent here, to the necessity of adopting measures for the prevention of accidents to vessels seeking to enter the Bosphorus from the Black Sea during stormy and foggy weather, and for extending aid and protection to shipwrecked mariners on the adjacent coasts. Mr. H. having failed to accomplish his object, which I believe was coupled with an offer of his personal services to establish the work, nothing more was heard of the project for several years, until last summer the persistent and energetic efforts of Mr. Budtka, Chancellier of Legation of Sweden and Norway, led to the formation of an international commission, and set in motion official influence which finally decided the Porte to invite the various legations to unite with it in forming an international commission, composed of a delegate from each legation, whose duty it should be to consider the best measures to be adopted for carrying out the humane design of the commission. A preliminary meeting of the delegates was held at the imperial arsenal under the provisional presidency of Admiral Mustafa Pacha, at which but few delegates appeared. Mr. Budtka, however, explained to the president and the members present the general object sought to be accomplished by the commission, and after some discussion the commission adjourned until the 29th of August, when it was finally organized at the Liman Odassi—office of captain of the port—the following delegates being present:—Turkey, Snail Bey, president; Captain Achmet Bey, Navy; England, Lieutenant H. F. Woods; United States, Mr. Page; Austria, M. Nicholich; Belgium, M. Colines; Norway and Sweden, M. Budtka; Greece, M. Miaouly; Holland, M. Travers; Prussia, M. Dingler; Spain, M. Marinitz; Russia, M. Rugavitch; France, M. Gulchon; Portugal, Mr. Schott. An executive sub-committee was appointed, consisting of Captain Achmet Bey, Lieutenant Woods and Mr. Dingler. The result of the commission up to the present time is that fourteen beacons have been erected, of which six are on the European and eight on the Asiatic side of the entrance to the Bosphorus. The former are in the form of a cone and painted in red and white horizontal stripes, the same distinguishing colors having been given to the lighthouse at Kara-bournou. The Asiatic beacons are surmounted with globes and painted light red, like the Kilia lighthouse. The elevation of the beacons is from thirty to fifty feet. A lightship has also been constructed at the arsenal, which, as soon as her equipments arrive from England, will be anchored about eighteen miles due west of the entrance of the Bosphorus. This ship will have two white fixed lights, twenty-eight and thirty feet in height. A colored lithographic print has been issued with notes in Turkish, English, French and Italian, showing the positions of the beacons.

Soundings have also been taken in the Black Sea to the depth of about 100 fathoms, for eighteen or twenty miles off the coast from Chesmedjik to Kilia, for a distance of fifteen miles on each side the strait, and the soundings and nature of the bottom carefully marked on a chart, which will be issued as soon as the lightship is put in place. We may therefore hope for an almost total cessation of the casualties which have so frequently happened through mistaking the "false entrance" for the mouth of the Bosphorus, which it so nearly resembles that many ships have been lost by running for it until too late to escape. Rocket batteries, which have also been ordered in England, are to be stationed at four points on each coast. Several lifeboats are also to be kept in the most convenient position for giving aid in case of shipwreck. For the protection of those who may be rescued from drowning on a coast where there are few habitations refuge houses have been erected at various points, in which will be kept such articles of provisions and clothing as may be needed for the relief of shipwrecked mariners. Since the Crimean war the Porte has made liberal arrangements for lighting its coast, and at every projecting point in the Black Sea, the Sea of Marmora and the Archipelago the mariner sees the "eyes of commerce" gleaming out upon him and lighting him on his way to his destination. But, alas! among the vast fleets which are constantly passing this great highway of nations how seldom do we descry the American flag! About a month ago the ships that had been collecting at the Dardanelles detained by head winds got under weigh with a fine breeze from the south, and the next day a fleet of nearly six hundred sail were to be seen with their forest of masts anchored under Seraglio Point, just below the entrance to the Golden Horn. The flags of all the nations of Europe were here to be seen—principally Italian, Greek, English, Austrian, Norwegian and Turkish; but one looked in vain for the Stars and Stripes. Notwithstanding the United States has the privileges of the most favored nations in these waters, I regret to say that among the 5,000 or 6,000 ships that have entered the Black Sea during the present year I cannot learn of a single vessel bearing the American flag. Forty years ago, when no lighthouses worthy the name existed in the Levant or along the whole north coast of Africa, our skilful and daring shipmasters might be met with in every port of the Mediterranean, and at sea the Yankee craft was a dull sailer that could not "walk away" from any vessel he fell in with. In those days an American ship was regarded by the denizens of foreign ports with almost as much veneration as a ship-of-war and her commander as only a little below an admiral, and as his taut craft, with canvas crowded alow and aloft, dashed past the merchant fleets of Europe, soon leaving them far in his wake, the consolatory exclamation came from every skipper in the fleet, "That's an American." At the date to which I allude our shipping was excluded from the trade of the Black Sea, as we had no treaty with the Porte, and consequently no authorities here to obtain the permission to pass the straits.

During the administration of General Jackson a treaty was at last concluded, a result long delayed by the preposterous demands of the Porte and the jealousy and intrigues of other Powers, especially Great Britain, which, in view of the rapid progress the American commerce was then making, feared lest we should eventually drive their flag from the ocean. The Porte set such an exaggerated estimate upon the value of the Black Sea trade that it demanded at first the modest sum of $10,000,000 on one occasion and on another had the effrontery to propose that, as a condition of signing the treaty, the United States should replace the fleet lost by the Turks at Navarino. At last, however, the Reis Effendi (now Grand Vizier) was given distinctly to understand that the United States was not a government which would buy the friendship of any nation, but that the customary presents made on such occasions would be forthcoming were a treaty concluded. The treaty was made, and how have we availed ourselves of it? Strange to say, since the navigation of the Black Sea was opened to us we have not sent on an average three ships a year through the Bosphorus. As no peculiar restrictions are imposed upon us, we being on a footing with the most favored nations, the only conclusion we can come to is that we cannot compete with other nations in the Black Sea trade.

Another fact which may have had some influence on commerce in the Black Sea is that from the time the treaty was made until a few years ago the United States Consul at Odessa was a Greek merchant, who, doubtless, with a view to his own personal interests, offered no inducements to Americans to establish themselves there. In the Turkish ports the American trade is also principally in the hands of foreigners or a class of Americans against whom the native American has no chance for successful competition—I mean the Armenians, Greeks and Jews—natives of the country and originally subjects of the Sultan, who, by a residence varying from a few months to a few years in America, have obtained passports as citizens of the United States and immediately returned here with their newborn nationality and set themselves down for the remainder of their lives, enjoying in their own persons and for their progeny to all future generations all the rights and protection of American citizens, and setting at defiance the authorities of the land of their birth. An American of this class usually associates himself in business with another member of his family who has remained subject to the Porte, so that he actually enjoys the advantages of a double nationality while evading the responsibilities of both; besides which he frequently finds the means of extending the mantle of American protection to transactions which concern his unnaturalized kindred.

SPAIN.

The State of Affairs in Spain—The Condition of the People.

[Madrid (Nov. 24) correspondence London Times.]

To introduce a truly provident and liberal government may be a very difficult task in Spain, but there is no doubt that even the mere attempt at change must have advantageous results and that the peninsula must thrive, if not by its government, then in spite of its government, more especially as, after all, political vicissitudes only affect a few thousand persons, and the great mass of the people, utterly apathetic and neutral in all quarrels, attend to their own business, which, fortunately, happens also to be the State's real business. "Perhaps no country in the world," it has been justly observed, "is so little affected by the extraordinary transitions of the government and the constantly recurring *pronunciamientos* as Spain. Whether constant habit has weakened the impression or not it would be difficult to tell, but it is a fact that these extraordinary changes, and these ceaseless revolutions produce, comparatively speaking, little or no effect on the country at large, and any one who would endeavor to follow the progress of the country by its political leaders would most certainly be grievously led astray." The truth is that no power of misgovernment can altogether withstand the progressive force of general civilization. Spain has been dragged on by the rest of Europe in spite of her government and in spite of her antiquated commercial and economical views. "The population, which in 1797 was only 10,541,221 souls, had risen to 12,286,941 in 1833, and in 1860, according to the last census, it had further advanced to 15,673,936." It is now supposed to have reached 17,000,000, and the progress of trade has kept pace with the increase of the population, inasmuch as in 1850 the imports were £6,719,936, and the exports £4,886,909; while in 1860 the imports and exports were respectively £14,833,134 and £10,982,034—both more than double in ten years. The revenue of the country, which was £17,751,553 in 1858, was estimated in the Budget of 1866-7 at £22,195,276. The development of the prosperity of the Peninsula is, therefore, as my friend said, only a question of time. Under a system of rational commercial and industrial policy its results would be seen immediately. Should the ideas of protectionism continue to prevail the progress will be slower, but still perceptible. It must not be forgotten that Spain, like Italy, must be, above all things, an agricultural community, and agriculture, although it may be aided by a good government, exhibits great powers of endurence against the influence of a bad one.

Just at this moment, however, the Spanish cultivator is laboring under the greatest calamity with which it is possible for husbandry to be afflicted—the consequences of a bad past harvest blighting the prospects of what would otherwise promise to be a good future harvest—the want of seed to be thrown on fields which all the elements have favorably combined to prepare for its reception. The accounts of the condition of the rural population are truly heartrending.

I should ascribe this melancholy tale to exaggeration, prompted by hostility to the present political state of things, had I not the evidence of my own eyes to confirm it. The sufferings of the peasantry in the province of Guadalajara, another fertile district of Castile, might be the theme of no less eloquent lamentations. The government's help is tardy and ineffacious, and as winter closes in in December and January the distress cannot fail to reach a terrible climax. In the towns thousands of laborers out of employment are provided with what is called "work." No less than 16,000 men are now doing in Madrid what might be expected from one-fourth of their number. Paid at the rate of seven reals (one shilling five and a half pence) a day, under little or no inspection, unprovided with proper implements, these poor wretches are mere beggars under the flimsy disguise of laborers. They work as little as they can manage, and they even strike" to be free from that little. They insist upon being paid on rainy days when no work is practicable, on the good ground that bad weather does not interfere with their good appetite. They will hear of no different rates of remuneration; they contend that the wages should be the same for good or bad workmen, and admit no difference in behalf of assiduous industry or skilled labor. What is done in Madrid becomes the rule for other large centres of population. Starvation in the country breeds communism in the towns. Dire necessity overrules all economical considerations. It is impossible to reason with a starving people, impossible to leave it to perish so long as the community can minister to its wants. The thing might be contrived with greater wisdom, it might be obtained on more reasonable terms; but the government has neither leisure nor, perhaps, capacity for any better course. The calamity comes down upon it at the outset. It finds it involved in endless other difficulties, grappling with other hostile agencies. The government simply "does what it can." Whether its means will ultimately be adequate to the want; whether any Treasury operation will carry it through the severe season; whether, in short, the rural population must live or die, are problems which time alone will solve, and no one can say to what extent the sufferings of the people and the violent acts which famine is apt to suggest may complicate political difficulties or aggravate financial embarrassments. Should the government come off successful from the struggle its claims upon the gratitude of the country will be unbounded.

Ambitious Designs of General Prim.

The London *Spectator* says:—We wish to record a distinct impression which we have long resisted, that General Prim is playing either for a dictatorship or an imperial crown. He is accumulating troops in Madrid, he is carefully weeding the army, he is making himself popular by every variety of military concession and military sternness, and he does not fix a date for the meeting of the Cortes. We are also greatly mistaken if he is not authorizing what the Bonapartists call tentatives, placards, articles and letters in foreign journals. A personal rule may for a time be wanted in Spain; but if Prim feels this, and feels himself competent to exercise it, and yet loves liberty, we trust he will proclaim himself King, and not Cæsar. Liberty is possible under a very strongly monarchical *regime*, but not under a Napoleonic empire.

LONG ISLAND INTELLIGENCE.

CLOSING OF AN EXTENSIVE DISTILLERY.—The extensive distillery at Bliss'ville, known as the Bliss'ville Distillery, the largest in the country, is now under distraint by Collector Carman, and will be sold on the 15th inst. This establishment commenced operations under the new Internal Revenue law on the 1st of October last, and, it is stated by the Collector, paid to the government in less than two months $150,000. The government has a claim against the distillery of $47,000, hence the sale under the hammer.

NEW YORK CITY.

THE COURTS.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT.

The Watson-Crary Whiskey Case—Verdict for the Government.

Before Judge Blatchford.

The United States vs. Thirty-eight Hundred Gallons of Distilled Spirits.—At the opening of the court yesterday the trial of the above entitled case was about being proceeded with and counsel prepared to address the jury, all the testimony having been put in on the previous day, when Judge Blatchford, addressing counsel on either side, said:—On looking at the information in this case and having heard all the testimony, and as the action is only for the condemnation of the whiskey seized on the premises as not having paid the tax and not against the premises, I shall direct the jury to find for the government. The Court so directed, and the jury, without retiring, returned a verdict condemning the whiskey—3,800 gallons. Thus ended this protracted case, which had occupied the court four whole days and part of a fifth.

The Kentucky Bourbon Case—The Defendants Fail to Appear—Postponement of the Trial.

The United States vs. Daniel Messmore and Others—The Kentucky Bourbon Company.—After the Watson-Crary case had been disposed of United States District Attorney Courtney moved for the trial of this case. It was evident, he said, that the defendants were not all in court, and the charge being one of conspiracy it was a necessity that all, if possible, at least a number of them, be had together at the same time.

The Court—The defendants in the case, as they are charged conjointly, must be tried together. Are the witnesses in attendance?

Mr. Courtney—If your Honor please, you will recollect that these cases were set down for trial by a special order of this court for the first day of the November term. On that day counsel for the respective parties under indictment appeared, together with some of the defendants, and announced themselves "not ready." In the meantime I received a letter from the authorities at Washington instructing me not to proceed with the trial of these cases, for reasons contained in that letter, which I submitted to the Court, and on which I acted. After the lapse of a week or two instructions came to me to proceed with the trial of these cases according to law. I immediately notified the parties, and they appeared here in court, some in person and some by counsel. They asked for a certain day to be fixed by your Honor, on the ground that the notice that I had given them was too short for them to prepare their case and for the purpose of getting witnesses they alleged were in St. Louis and other places West. They announced to the Court that they would be ready on the day fixed upon; a day was fixed and the cases were called, and but one of the defendants appeared—Frost. The bail bond was forfeited and a bench warrant issued for the arrest of these parties. I caused to be issued, I think, four separate bench warrants, and delivered them to separate officers for the purpose of having them executed. I was informed yesterday, and am further informed this morning, that after a thorough search, not only through the city of New York, but through the places where some of the defendants are stated to have resided, none of them can be found; and now we have the statement here this morning by counsel that they are not prepared to go on with these cases. I don't think they can be tried or ought to be tried without the presence of these defendants. I have been looking at the indictments since the suggestion made by your Honor, and I find that three of these indictments are for misdemeanors and the fourth one for a felony. Your Honor will recollect that some time ago a motion was made by my associate to consolidate those indictments. That motion was granted, and these three indictments—the one for conspiracy to defraud the United States, the other for doing business without paying a license and failing to keep a rectifier's book, and the third one for using counterfeit plates on spirits—were consolidated, all three, the fourth indictment having another additional name in the indictment from the first three that I have mentioned. The first three are against the three parties. Two of them are misdemeanors and one of them is for felony.

The Court—I was not aware of the consolidation. I did not remember it; but if that is so it stands as a single indictment, and it is made a felony.

The District Attorney—The other one is a conspiracy to defraud the United States under the thirtieth section of the Revenue law. That is a misdemeanor, not paying the tax on a certain amount of spirits distilled by them.

The Court—That is a made a misdemeanor by the section.

The District Attorney—There is a charge for conspiracy. This charge has been consolidated with the others, as there is an additional defendant in the case.

The Court—That is specially for a conspiracy. I propose to try that case.

The District Attorney—In the cases I have mentioned we are prepared to try this case I allude to. In this fourth case two of our witnesses are in Providence, the spirits having been taken to Providence from New York. We are ready to try the cases that are consolidated, but in the fourth case we are not ready, but will be on Monday.

The Court—Then you cannot try the misdemeanor case to-day for that reason. I think, in looking into the authorities on the subject, it would hardly be safe to try this case in the absence of these defendants. I find the law laid down by the Circuit Court in the First Circuit, in the case of a misdemeanor, where the punishment must be imprisonment, the Court will not proceed in the absence of the defendants. In this case it must be fine and imprisonment both, and I think that, under such circumstances, the defendant is entitled to whatever benefit there may be from having seen the jury. That is the idea in cases of felony. Felony is a case of so high a grade and the punishment so severe that the defendant is entitled to have the jury see him, and that is a privilege which the law would not allow him to waive, and therefore, in favor of personal liberty, I think it would hardly be right, particularly as there is a decision by Judge Curtis in the First Circuit on the point, although Judge Nelson decided by the case of fitting out a vessel in the slave trade, it not being declared a felony they could not properly proceed on the trial without the presence of the defendant. Yet if the defendant once appears he is here for the purpose of the whole trial. If he goes away then he is not entitled to any consideration; but here the defendant is not present, and I think I would not be justified in trying the cause. What shall be done in regard to this defendant that does appear?

The District Attorney—Your Honor will see the impropriety and the almost impossibility of trying one defendant in these cases. The nature of the whole charges is that of conspiracy on all the indictments. The charges run into that and of course we would have to show the connection throughout, and I think it would be a great waste of time to try these indictments with only one defendant present.

The Court—The defendants are not here and the case cannot be tried. I would say in regard to the defendant who has appeared here to-day, he has held himself amenable to the court and has conducted himself with propriety under all the circumstances, and therefore under these peculiar circumstances he is undoubtedly entitled to indulgence and consideration. He left his business in Buffalo to come here, ready for this trial, and he is