EUROPE.

The Opening of the New British Parliament.

THE FRENCH COURT AT COMPIEGNE

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF GREECE

The steamship Australasian, of the Cunard line Captain W. W. Rundel, from Liverpool December 12, via Queenstown the 13th, arrived at this port yesterday. From our correspondents abroad we are enabled to present an interesting and varied collection of important and attractive European information.

Lord Stanley, before resigning his office, awarded £5,000 to Mr. Rassam and £2,000 each to Lieutenant Prideaux and Dr. Blanc as compensation for sufferings while held captives in Abyssinia.

The friends and admirers of Mr. Charles Dickens, at Liverpool, are going to give him a public banquet when he goes to that town to read.

It is announced from Paris that Queen Isabella has purchased for £72,000 a magnificent residence on the Boulevard du Rol de Rome, and paid a forfeit of £2,400 to be off the purchase of the two houses she had previously taken in the Champs Elysées.

The *France* of the 11th says there is every reason to believe that before the delay given to Greece by the Porte expires a satisfactory understanding will be arrived at. According to the *New Free Press* of the same evening, Herr von Becke, the Austrian Minister of Finance, will probably be appointed Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople in the room of Baron Prokesch, who is about to retire from the diplomatic service.

A dreadful boiler explosion occurred at Newcastle on Tyne, December 11, by which three men have been killed and three others severely injured. The boiler was that of a steam wherry, on the Tyne, which, when near Gateshead, blew up with the disastrous effects thus briefly narrated.

The *Northern Ensign* says that gold has been found in the county of Sutherland. The discovery has not yet so affected the public mind as to lead to a "rush to the diggings," but it has raised sufficient interest to justify such an amount of "prospecting" as will put an end very soon to all doubt on the subject.

The *Liverpool Post* of the 12th says that the workingmen of London have determined to abandon the idea of giving a banquet to Mr. Reverdy Johnson. There are sufficient reasons for this, no doubt; but they might have conducted their proceedings at the meeting at which this resolve was come to in such a way that the resolve might not appear to be due to the discovery that Mr. Johnson was not so popular in the States as they, the workingmen, supposed him to be. It has been a clumsily managed affair all through.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* of the 12th states:—An underground railway is projected from the Marble Arch, along Oxford street and Holburn, to the General Post Office. According to Mr. Hawkshaw there would be nine stations on the line, about a third of a mile apart. The railway would be worked by stationary engines, and thus the vibration would be reduced to a minimum. It is supposed this railway can be made without interfering with the traffic of Oxford street.

It is said that the Railway Commissioners' report, which recommends the government management of Irish railways, was presented to the Treasury on Thursday afternoon. At the first Cabinet Council it will be among the first questions to be considered, Mr. Gladstone having expressed his desire that it should also be one of the first dealt with.

The proceedings in Parliament on the 11th were again of a purely formal character. The Speaker appeared at the bar of the House of Lords, announced his election, and preferred the usual claim for freedom of speech and freedom from arrest for the members of the Lower House, to whom he carried back the royal confirmation of all the privileges granted by her Majesty's predecessors. The swearing in of members of both houses was proceeded with.

ENGLAND.

FROM OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

The Opening of the Reformed Parliament.

LONDON, Dec. 12, 1868.

The new reformed Parliament assembled on Thursday at Westminster Palace, and when I went in to see the members I found a number of very portly, comfortable, conservative looking gentlemen, instead of the collection of roughs and revolutionists whose election was predicted at the time of the passage of the Reform bill. A few gentlemen in cocked hats and flaming scarlet robes, and the new Lord Chancellor, Sir Page Wood, in his judge's dress—for he has not yet received his new title of Lord Hatherley officially—acted as a commission on the part of royalty and declared the Parliament open. Mr. Dennison, a liberal, was forthwith elected speaker unanimously, the new Lord Advocate proposing him on the part of the liberals, and Mr. Walpole, formerly Home Secretary, seconding him on the part of the conservatives. None of the members of the new Ministry were present, having lost their seats by accepting office. Mr. Disraeli headed his colleagues on the opposition benches. There was a crowd of people outside and considerable cheering for Gladstone and groans for the tories.

Yesterday the proceedings were very formal. Black Rod appeared in the Commons and summoned the Speaker and the members to the bar of the House of Lords. Then came the usual schoolboy race and rush on the part of the Commoners, and Black Rod, Speaker and members burst into the House of Lords pell-mell. The speaker was dressed in evening costume, but did not wear his robe. In front of the throne, but behind the wool sack, were seated the Lord Chancellor—still in his judge's dress—the Duke of Argyle, Earl Kimberley, Earl de Grey and Lord Sydney, the royal commission—the last four peers being again attired most gorgeously in scarlet robes and cocked hats. The following strange utterances—which will remind many Americans of their experiences in the Sons of Malta—then took place. Mr. Dennison, the Speaker, advanced, bowed and said:—

MY LORDS—I have to acquaint your lordships that, in obedience to her Majesty's commands and according to their undoubted rights and privileges, the Commons have proceeded to the choice of a Speaker, and their choice has fallen upon myself. I now present myself at your bar, and submit myself, with all humility, to her Majesty's gracious approbation.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR—Mr. Denison, we are commanded to assure you that her Majesty is so fully sensible of your zeal for the public service and your ample sufficiency to execute the arduous duties which her faithful Commons have selected you to discharge, that she does most readily approve and confirm you their speaker.

THE SPEAKER—I submit myself with all humility and gratitude to her Majesty's most gracious commands; and it is now my duty, in the name and on behalf of the Commons of the United Kingdom, to lay claim to all their ancient and undoubted rights and privileges. I most humbly petition her Majesty for freedom of speech in debate, freedom from arrest for their persons and servants—above all, for freedom of access to her Majesty when occasion may require, and that the most favorable construction shall be put on all their proceedings. And, with regard to myself, I pray that if any error should be committed it may be imputed to myself, and not to her Majesty's loyal Commons.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR—Mr. Speaker, we have it further in command to inform you that her Majesty doth most readily confirm all the rights and privileges which have ever been granted or confirmed by her royal predecessors on her Commons. With regard to yourself, sir, though her Majesty is sensible that you stand in no need of such assurance, her Majesty will ever put the most favorable construction upon your words and actions.

Wondering how the Queen, who is still at Windsor, could have so soon heard the speech of Speaker Dennison and prepared her reply, the new members of the Commons rushed back to their own hall, carrying the Speaker along with them, and there the initiatory ceremonies were completed by the following address, which the Speaker delivered standing, with his bowwig on his head, but without his robes of office:—

"I have to report to the House that in the other house of Parliament her Majesty was pleased, by her commissioners, to approve the choice which the House made of myself to be their Speaker. I then, in their name and on their behalf, laid claim to the recognition by her Majesty of all their ancient rights and privileges—freedom of speech in debate, freedom from arrest of their persons and servants, access to the presence of her Majesty whenever occasion should require, and that the most favorable construction was to be put on all their proceedings; all which her Majesty, by the said Commissioners, graciously was pleased to allow and confirm in as ample and complete a manner as has ever been allowed or confirmed by herself or by any of her Majesty's predecessors. Once more I offer my thanks to the House and remind them that the duty of every member now is to proceed to take the oaths prescribed by law."

Speaker Dennison then took the oath and entered his name upon the record of the House, and the other members began to follow his example. They are sworn in by dozens at a time—"religious platoons" Sidney Smith called them—but the work goes on very slowly, especially in the House of Lords. Still, nothing else can be done until the swearing is over, and then the Queen's speech will be the next thing in order. That will be very brief and very formal, and after it has been heard Parliament will adjourn until after Christmas, and the re-election of the members of the new Ministry will take place in the interval. There are a number of disputed seats, petitions of bribery and corruption and accusations of undue influence which will have to be tried before the reformed Parliament is fully complete; but according to the new law that will be the work of the new judges, and will no longer fall within the province of Parliament or of Parliamentary committees.

You have already received the names of most members of the new government, but I annex the full list published to-day, contrasting it with Mr. Disraeli's Ministry:—

THE CABINET.

First Lord of the Treasury.	
Mr. Gladstone.	Mr. Disraeli.
Lord Chancellor.	
Lord Hatherley (late Sir W. Page Wood).	Lord Cairns.
Lord President of the Council.	
Lord de Grey and Ripon.	Duke of Marlborough.
Lord Privy Seal.	
Lord Kimberley.	Earl of Malmesbury.
Chancellor of the Exchequer.	
Mr. Lowe.	Mr. Ward Hunt.
Secretary for the Home Department.	
Mr. Bruce.	Mr. Hardy.
Secretary for Foreign Affairs.	
Earl of Clarendon.	Lord Stanley.
Secretary for the Colonies.	
Earl Granville.	Duke of Buckingham.
Secretary of War.	
Mr. Cardwell.	Sir J. Pakington.
Secretary for India.	
Duke of Argyll.	Sir S. Northcote.
Secretary for Ireland.	
Mr. Chichester Fortescue.	Colonel Wilson Patten.
First Lord of the Admiralty.	
Mr. Childers.	Mr. Corry.
President of the Board of Trade.	
Mr. Bright.	Duke of Richmond.
Postmaster General.	
Lord Hartington.	Duke of Montrose.
Poor Law Board.	
Mr. Goschen.	The Earl of Devon.
Lord Steward.	
The Earl of Bessborough.	The Earl of Tarkerville.
Lord Chamberlain.	
Viscount Sydney.	The Earl of Bradford.
Master of the Horse.	
The Marquis of Ailesbury.	Duke of Beaufort.
Mistress of the Robes.	
Duchess of Argyll.	Duchess of Wellington.
Master of the Buckhounds.	
The Earl of Cork.	The Lord Colville.
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.	
Lord Dufferin.	Colonel Taylor.
Commissioner of Works and Buildings.	
Mr. Layard.	Lord J. Manners.
Joint Secretaries of the Treasury.	
Mr. George Glyn,	Colonel Taylor.
Mr. Ayrton.	Mr. Sclater-Booth.
Third Lord of the Treasury.	
Mr. Stansfeld.	
Lord of the Treasury.	
Mr. Adam.	Sir G. Montgomery.
Board of Trade.	
Mr. Lefevre.	Mr. Stephen Cave.
Under Secretaries—Home Department.	
Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen.	Sir James Fergusson.
India.	
Mr. Grant Duff.	Lord Clinton.
Foreign Affairs.	
Mr. Otway.	Mr. Egerton.
Attorney General.	
Sir Robert Collier.	Sir J. B. Karslake.
Solicitor General.	
Mr. Coleridge.	Sir R. Baggallay.
Lord Advocate for Scotland.	
Mr. Moncrieff.	Mr. Gordon.
IRELAND.	
Lord Lieutenant.	
Earl Spencer.	The Duke of Abercorn.
Lord Chancellor.	
Mr. Justice O'Hagan.	Mr. Brewster.
Attorney General.	
Mr. Sullivan.	Dr. Ball.
Solicitor General.	
Mr. Serjeant Barry.	Mr. Ormsby.

In this list of Mr. Gladstone's government you will observe a preponderance of whig noblemen that has given rise to much ill feeling here. The radicals declare that they have been swindled. They only have Mr. John Bright in the Cabinet, and he is in the very subordinate and unimportant position of President of the Board of Trade. Mr. Hansfield has been made Third Lord of the Treasury—a new office—in order to get him into the government. Earl Granville will lead the House of Lords, although he is only Colonial Secretary. Next to the disestablishment of the Irish Church, the strong point of the new Ministry is to be retrenchment in all the departments of the government, and it is with this view that Mr. Lowe has been selected for Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Cardwell as Secretary of War and Mr. Childers as First Lord of the Admiralty, or Secretary of the Navy. These three men are the most economical officials in England, and they will not let a penny slip through their fingers without knowing where it goes to, what it goes for and who gets it. This fact explains these appointments, which have excited some surprise here. Mr. Gladstone made his fame as a financier, and financiering is to be the strong point of his administration.

The Gales on the Eastern Coast.

The London *Globe* of the 12th says:—Yesterday seven men were landed in Great Yarmouth from the brig Esther, of Jersey, which was lost on the Newcome Sand on Thursday night. The crew were picked up by a French schooner. On Thursday the paddle steamer City of Hamburg, belonging to the General Steam Navigation Company, struck on the North Sand, near Great Yarmouth pier. The passengers and crew escaped. The steamer was warped off yesterday and brought into harbor. The schooner William, of Great Yarmouth, which left Great Yarmouth for the North some three weeks ago, has not since been heard of, and it is feared that all hands have perished. On Thursday afternoon a fishing lugger ran into the brigantine Ion, of Shields, which was lying at anchor in Great Yarmouth Roads. The crew of the lugger got on board the Ion. The latter, however, unfortunately parted from her anchors and drove ashore. The lifeboat stationed at Yarmouth succeeded in rescuing both crews.

A Vessel Wrecked on the English Coast—Several Lives Lost.

[From the Liverpool Post, Dec. 12.]

The ship Gossamer, of Liverpool, from London for Adelaide, was wrecked on Prawle Point, South Devon, on Thursday afternoon, when the master, his wife and eleven other persons were drowned. She was under orders to call at Plymouth for passengers. The only passenger on board was Mr. George Dale, who, with Mr. William Dale, surgeon, joined the ship at Gravesend. Mr. Dale was saved. The only passenger waiting at Plymouth to embark was Miss Jane King, but on the ship's arrival a telegram was to have been sent to the Rev. James Jefferies, at Bristol, who with his wife, four children and two servants intended going out in her. The wreck is in charge of Lloyd's agent at Dartmouth, and the London charterers, Messrs. Houlder Brothers, have despatched one of their firm to Prawle Point. The Gossamer had an iron frame, planked, and was built at Glasgow in 1864. She was a first class ship, being A1 for fifteen years, and of 735 tons register. A correspondent sends us the following by telegraph, dated yesterday evening:—"I have just returned from the wreck of the Gossamer. The bottom of the ship is gone. The top sides of the stern and bow are high and dry at low tides. The cargo has been all washed out, and is strewed over half a mile of the beach. The coastguard and police are in charge. A large quantity of goods has been saived, consisting chiefly of bale goods, drapery and wearing apparel, malt and hops. Lloyd's agent had not arrived at three o'clock this afternoon. The men saved say the pilot was drunk; the wreck otherwise is unaccountable. All hands would have been saved if they had stayed in the stern of the vessel. A good deal of cargo is saved in good condition. A representative of the underwriters would render valuable assistance and probably save property of great value. The wreck lies in the bay four miles west of the Start."

FRANCE.

Rumors Regarding the Emperor—The Pleasures of Compiegne—Press Regulations and Prosecutions—Napoleon and the Newspapers—Efforts in Behalf of the Working Classes.

PARIS, Dec. 9, 1868.

Not long since a report was started in the French press that indifference had become the leading trait in the Emperor's character; that in his sixty-first year all things had become unimportant in his eyes, and that he was solely bent upon passing his time away from the cares of state, amid the frollicking amusements of his court at Biarritz, Compiègne, &c. Such a report appears all the more remarkably silly as it is confronted with the facts. True, the pleasures and pastimes of the imperial court were somewhat varied and prolonged at Compiègne this season. Three different series of invited guests, among whom were ambassadors, senators, writers, *grandes dames*, in short, all the most illustrious and fashionable of Paris, enjoyed, during the November just passed, the most luxurious hospitality at Compiègne. But during all that time—and the statements here made have been ascertained from the most reliable authority—the Emperor, far from being immersed in gay pleasures, passed most of the days closeted with the *savans* and in posting himself with regard to the ideas and wants of the people as reported by practical observers and free talkers. The greatest latitude in discourse was encouraged. *Savans* of the freest-thinking persuasion in religious matters were the order of the day in court circles, were feted and lionized and drawn out to the extreme length of their tether. They were invited to bring their books along with them, as an *en-cas*, and to make themselves at home. Etiquette of course compelled them to dress up in the court suit, of braided coat, knee breeches and cocked hat; but at the same time it seems they were not compelled to act the graces; on the contrary, they were allowed to give full swing to their natural oddities and endities—to become courtiers if they chose by bowing before majesty at the risk of tripping it up or walking on its *queues*—and free speech was left them. What more could a *savant* want? And in reality they were highly pleased and tickled with their visits.

On their arrival at the palace of Compiègne they were put through, to them, the unusual course of bedazzling themselves in uniform preparatory to presentation to their Majesties and to dinner. After such ceremony it was the wont of the Emperor to address a few words to the newcomers expressive of his hope "that they might not be over annoyed" during their visit, while on the part of the Empress several inquiries were made as to whether they were pleased with Compiègne and the country, and inviting them to make a promenade with her to the neighboring Chateau de Pierrefonds. The "three series" all visited that curiosity—the chateau. During the evening entertainments of tableaux, charades or dances it was the constant custom of the Emperor to corner some of the very ungraceful courtiers mentioned, sit down on the sofa by their side and talk to them of weightier matters than the "light fantastic" or the intricate riddles in process of solution by the assemblage. For the rest, *savans* could scarcely be expected to be *au fait* on the subject of riddles, and, in fact, were exempted from such service. Indeed, obliging courtesy towards them was so far extended that even when invited to a "*thé de l'Imperatrice*" they were allowed to branch off upon the most heretical doctrines and to level the highest pinnacles of faith; not only so, but her Majesty herself, in presence of the astonished circles and especially of the astonished *savans*, announced her belief that everybody should not be held to think and believe alike. It is very evident, therefore, that the *savans* of Paris have had a delightful fall campaign at Compiègne, and at the same time it is more than probable that Napoleon III. received from them a good deal of useful information and valuable hints which he is not the ruler to despise and which he will very likely put in practice.

Up to January 19, 1867, the press was under the complete control of the Ministry of the Interior, which operated the system of warnings or *avertissemens*. Whenever a newspaper rendered itself obnoxious to the government the ministry sent it a first warning to desist from its course; if the same course was still pursued, a second warning was sent from the ministry to state that if a third warning should be deemed necessary the offending paper would be *ipso facto* suspended. The *deuxième avertissement* was something akin to the old proclamation before firing, "disperse and get ye to your homes, all good people." Under such a system it was easy for the government to deal with the press as it pleased. On January 19, 1867, the Emperor changed this procedure by decreeing the new laws for the press that are now in use. According to these, the press no longer depends upon the ministry, but is subjected only to the decisions of the courts of justice upon prosecution by the *procureur imperial*. In this way it is no longer the executive power which directly controls the press, but a separate branch of the government—namely, the administration of justice. Moreover, the new laws allow the establishment of new journals at will and without the previous authorization of the government, which was indispensable under the old system. No sooner did these laws go into operation than the new liberties were profited by and a host of new journals opposed to the empire sprung up like mushrooms, among the most notorious of which appear the names of the *Lanterne*, *Revell* and *Tribune*, started at Paris.

A good many young, ambitious and liberal writers availed themselves of the new liberties in order to make a name and carve out their fortunes; but it is none the less intimately true that nine-tenths of the people, long accustomed to the traditions and enjoyments of a strong government, cried out aloud against the new measures decreed, asserting even that the imperial government was directly sanctioning anarchy and chaos. By those who have been in position to know the facts it is stated that the Emperor was at first very averse to reading any of the new papers, on the ground that he might possibly be provoked to recall his grants, while it was his sincere desire to keep on towards the goal of liberalism. Finally, however, the new papers got so obstreperous and bold that the Imperial Ministers, not content with banishing the *Lanterne*, which had descended into such depths of unscrupulous accusations against the empire, undertook the press crusade recently ended by the condemnation of the journalists and the retirement from the Cabinet of M. Pinard, the anti-liberal and rather severe Minister of the Interior. This dismissal is but another token of the fact that the Emperor is infinitely more liberal than his counsellors. It has been through the obstinate narrow-mindedness of the members of his *entourage* that the government has been committed in matters of detail to a petty line of policy that has occasionally produced serious embarrassments and imbroglios for the empire. The casual leaving of minor affairs to the injudicious management of subordinates has been the cause of a marked difference perceptible between the Emperor's ideas as announced—which have always been liberal—and certain acts of the government smacking of harshness.

The substitution in the place of M. Pinard, quite unpopular on account of his treatment of the press, by the appointment of M. De Forçade La Roquette, a young man of liberal views, a great worker, who, only a few years since, from the inferior position of chief of a division in the Finance Department, jumped into the high offices of Minister of Finance and of Public Works—is unmistakable evidence that the Emperor has displayed sagacity in going back on those of his servants who do not advance with the times. At the present day Ministers must, and of a right they ought, to be equal to the hour; that is to say, they should know how best to act on the spar of the moment, and it is clear that M. Pinard did not know how best to act when the Baudin subscription was opened. In this connection it is related that during the recent press imbroglio the Emperor invited to Compiègne some of the most learned and liberal functionaries residing in the capital for the special purpose of consulting them in regard to the press *regime*. They represented to him the urgent necessity of according the *droit de réunion*, or right of assembly, and of the freedom of the press, arguing that as errors necessarily exist in society, or in certain classes of society, in order to combat them it is indispensable that they be not kept concealed, but, on the contrary, that they be left free to exhibit themselves, so that the proper steps may be taken to eradicate them; in other words, the old Jeffersonian maxim was brought forward on the tapis. The advice was duly agreed to by the Emperor, who expressed the opinion that the adoption of such a system requires a great deal of good sense, and hence, subsequently, acting with his own usual good sense, it is not astonishing that he should have cast M. Pinard to the whales. In these consultations the Emperor expressed the highest admiration for common sense, and repeatedly remarked that he was glad to observe that quality prominent in his son, the Prince Imperial.

After a duration of sixteen years it is interesting to cast a glance into the condition of the empire and review the results obtained under the imperial *regime*. Looking at the interior of the country, it is undeniable that the efforts of the Emperor, in behalf of the working classes especially, have been productive of greater enlightenment and of a higher degree of comfort and of privileges. It is the just boast of the imperialists that these efforts have been largely successful. The only objection that could reasonably be opposed is that, instead of eradicating the disposition of the people to rely upon government, those efforts have had a tendancy to render them less and less self-reliant. The chief aim of the imperial *regime* has been to encourage industry among the lower classes, to furnish them with the means wherewith to work and to better their condition. Public works of all kinds, the erection of edifices everywhere, the embellishment of Paris, the improvement of harbors, the building of roads and routes in the communes have been inaugurated both on account of their intrinsic value and in order to afford employment. All these undertakings have been consummated at a very inconsiderable outlay of money, for it has been chiefly the foreign expeditions and wars that have run up the public debt to its present high figure. Agricultural and other implements of industry have been furnished to the people at government cost and under the easiest conditions of credit. To obtain these implements, for instance, the rural population have only been required to sign promises of reimbursement to the government agents at the expiration of two, three, four or five years; and if at the end of such lengthy indulgences the parties found themselves destitute of the means of repayment a still further extension of time was accorded in case the agents found, on due investigation, that they had worked and behaved well.

GERMANY.

Lower Chamber Still at Fever Heat—Bismarck's Reception—The Ministerial Party and the Liberals—No Money for Educational or Scientific Purposes—Alarming Condition of East Prussia.

BERLIN, Dec. 7, 1868.

The report of a stormy debate in the Lower Chamber between the Minister of Justice, Dr. Leonhardt, and the liberals, as given you in our last, is now not only confirmed by the official stenographic record, but appears even to have fallen short of the violent and defiant language which on that occasion was hurled from the ministerial bench. Previous to the speech of the Minister the debate was moderate and to the point, and the government Commissary of the Judicial Department, Herr Falk, in opposing the motions against supplementary Judges of the Supreme Bench, did so with propriety and with reference to history and law. But when Dr. Leonhardt rose and began to define his position by expressions such as "I shall do my duty with all the energy I am capable of and leave little or nothing to be desired;" "I do not like to ogle with political parties;" "If the gentlemen will only apply to the courts they may there learn the law of the land;" "I told you before that you would get vexed," and the like, which were greeted with cheers by the conservatives, it justly stirred the bile of the liberals and lashed them into fury. They felt vexed, too, at the Minister's imputation that owing to Supreme Judges occupying seats in the Lower Chamber he was under the necessity of calling in supplementary judges, while it is well known that only two judges, Hons. Dr. Waldeck and Reichensperger, sit in the Lower Chamber, and no less than seven from the supreme bench have been appointed by royal decree members of the Upper Chamber.

The attacks of the Liberals which, previous to this challenge of the Minister of Justice, were directed against Count Eulenburg, of the Interior, and Herr Von Mühler, of Public Instruction, will henceforth embrace also the position of Dr. Leonhardt; and it is already rumored that Count Bismarck has made the removal of these three colleagues a *conditio sine qua non* of his premiership. The long-looked for hermit of Varzin made his first appearance in the Chamber on Thursday last, and was greeted on all sides, though the conservative members only rose to their feet, as customary when the King or a Prince of the blood enters the house. The Count talked pleasantly with many members, especially with President Von Forkenbeck and Herr Lasker. His stately form and healthy looks do not betray a vestige of his previous illness. He drives round to make visits for several hours each day, and called Saturday on the Hon. Mr. Bancroft, with whom he had a long and very friendly chat. Party feelings between the ministerial party and the liberal members having once been so thoroughly aroused, it is but natural that the subsequent proceedings relative to the *etat* of the Interior, should partake of a certain bitterness of expression. This was most apparent the day before yesterday, when the question before the House was as to the salaries to be allowed to the district presidents. The liberal member, Her Van Saucken, though fit to complain of the partiality of the government in appointing the said officers. He observed that their election, which ought properly to be by the inhabitants of the several districts, subject to approval of government, had eventually become a mere farce. Of the three candidates which each district had to present through the Minister of the Interior for the King's approbation it frequently happened that neither was chosen. The decree of the law which provides that a district president shall own land has been evaded by a system of mock purchases, and even lately perfect strangers have been foisted upon the districts without actually owning any land at all. In the matter of *protégés* of the government scarcely any examination as to qualification was made, but in other cases it was most strict. Count Eulenburg in reply remarked that the previous speaker confounded the act of nomination with that of confirmation. He ought to know that his Majesty had the right of nomination, and how far that right was properly exercised was no part whatever of the discussion. Herr Von Sancken then advanced that the Minister was wrong and that the King had limited his right of nomination to one candidate out of the three, to be recommended by the Minister, who is to be held responsible. What good is it to present candidates if they are to be ignored? A constitutional minister should shield the King, and not drag the King's name into the debate to shield himself. The discussion promised to become an angry one, but Count Eulenburg, rising again, insisted upon the absolute royal prerogative, which was no subject of criticism for the House. After this bandying of words the demands of the government were conceded.

The debate which followed was respecting the internal administration of the province of Hanover, which the government proposed to centralize by reducing its six divisions of territory into three. This is opposed by the committee, who would grant funds only for one government in the city of Hanover, and let the former organization remain as heretofore. Count Eulenburg conjures the members to accept the government proposal of three distinct sections as the only method of definitely organizing the province; but as there are some twenty odd speakers to take part in the debate, President Forkenbeck appoints an evening sitting, which we understand lasted till past midnight. No daily papers appearing here on the Monday, we are unable to tell you the result of this discussion.

The Department of War now asks the Diet for a supplementary indemnity, although for the year 1867 no less a sum than nearly forty-two million thalers had been allowed. Article sixty of the North German Bund constitution provides that until December 31, 1871, one per cent of the population shall constitute the strength of the army, to which the several States have to contribute *pro rata*. By article sixty-two the chief commander of the Bund army shall have at his disposal the annual sum of 225 thalers per head, and Prussia last year, having a population of 23,958,833 souls, had to pay into the Bund Treasury the sum of nearly 27,000,000 thalers, while only 20,750,000 thalers had been included in the budget estimates. It was therefore unavoidable to exceed the *etat*, though the amount was considerably lessened by Prussia having to be credited with the expense of organizing three additional army corps. On the whole, therefore, the excess amounts to 1,500,000 thalers, for which indemnity is now sought. It is curious to observe that when so much outcry is made over sums asked for educational or statistical purposes how little the government hesitates in boldly demanding an indemnity like the foregoing.

Lord Loftus and M. Benedetti are both here and have resumed official duties. To the latter the strongest assurances are said to have been made as to the friendly feelings existing between this court and the one he represents.

The accounts from East Prussia are still of a very distressing character and the want of provisions and the necessaries of life is universally prevalent. We hear, indeed, of schools having to be closed for the want of firewood. How far the landed gentry have suffered may be gathered from the fact that at a recent advertisement of a restaurant at a small railway station to be let, there were no less than sixty-four applications from former well to do proprietors of estates.

The charming songstress, Fräulein Lucca (or rather at present Baroness von Rhaden), is now at St. Petersburg, where she has managed to catch a severe cold, which will prevent her appearing in public for a fortnight at least. With the munificent salary of 7,000 thalers a year from the Royal Opera, she must need go to polar regions and lose her voice.

The Bourse and the Eastern Question—New Loans—Prussia and the South—Political Prosecutions.

FRANKFORT, Dec. 9, 1868.

The good humor of our Bourse was interrupted last Saturday by the differences between Turkey and Greece having come to a crisis, which, according to frightened speculators, might lead to a misunderstanding between Russia and the other Powers. Nothing is more unlikely than that Russia would put in jeopardy the execution of her great railway works for the purpose of entering into a quarrel with England and France about the right of Greece to send freebooters to Crete; on the contrary, it must be supposed that this difficulty would already be brought to a close if the action of England were not hampered by the interim in the Ministry. As the last advices show that the ambassadors of England, France and Russia are acting in concert, greater confidence prevails, and those who are anxiously waiting for an imbroglio to make good the heavy losses they incurred by their having believed continually in war are again disappointed. The relapse, though momentary, has been a good lesson for those gluttonous subscribers of new loans, who hitherto hooked up everything and who were frightened out of their wits as soon as what appeared a cold wind blew from the East. The Prussian loan of 20,000,000 thalers was not fully subscribed for, and, for the first time, an Austrian issue of preference shares, those for the Alfold Railway, found very little sympathy, and the subscription was a failure. This is highly gratifying, as more than a hundred new loans for railway shares or debenture issues were started on our Bourse since January. People are now really sick of them.

Americans remain firm and fluctuate only to the extent of the premium on gold reported from New York; business is somewhat injured by the irregular arrival of telegrams; still the large investments have ceased since the market is flooded with foreign stock, but at the same time there is very little floating American stock in the market, and as a large part of the public are investing exclusively in Americans, new purchase orders will be sent to New York if political affairs continue smooth on both sides of the Atlantic. Austrian funds are flat, while shares maintain their high prices. Of the recent loans the Italian tobacco loan remains in favor, and the Brunswick lottery loan is in request; all others are quoted at a discount. Money continues abundant and bills on London and Paris in good demand.

Everywhere in the south of Germany political life becomes more manifest. The parties in favor or in opposition to joining the Northern Confederation are just now very active. In Baden, where the government are totally biased for Prussia, public opinion is decided; still two leading politicians, Bluntschly and Lamey, having been disappointed of getting a seat in the Ministry, have now joined the opposition. In Würtemberg both the court and people are not Prussian sympathizers, and the democratic party musters strong in the new elected chamber. In Bavaria the anti-Prussian feeling predominates, and the exertions of Volk, Cramer and other champions of the National Verein are totally unsuccessful. As there is no apprehension of a French war the liberal party do not see any necessity for submitting to the stern Prussian rule.

In the Duchy of Darmstadt the reactionary Ministry keeps its ground, and has recently succeeded in an action before the court to obtain a sentence of long imprisonment against Bamberger and others, for having libelled the Minister Dalwigh and the Bishop of Mentz. The differences between our town and Prussia remain unsettled, as the latter shows no disposition to disburse those moneys they laid their hands on at the time of the conquest.

There is nothing which brings the Prussian government more in disrepute in their new dominions than the futile actions they bring for trifling objects before the courts—"The King against a Milliner," at Hanover, for a seditious song; an action against the celebrated Professor Ewald for some hard expressions in a recent pamphlet; "The King against the Editor of the Frankfort *Zeitung*," for having recently animadverted against the Prussian generals who tortured this town in 1866, are not fit to gain respect for a monarchical government in this old republican community. The worst feature therein, is that the officials are afraid to be snubbed at Berlin, if they do not interfere for anything that appears disrespectful to the King, and thus many persons hitherto accustomed to speak out their minds are brought before the courts. To insure convictions, the old judges are, whenever there is occasion for it set aside for old age or other reasons, and their successors are thorough Prussians from the old provinces, who regard as an offence against the King what in a free country would never be noticed at all. By such measures the antipathy against Prussia is artificially kept up here and Prussian officials are excluded from all society and wherever they show their face people take to their heels and leave them alone.

SPAIN.

Preparations for the Elections—False Teachings of Demagogues—Good Sense of the People—Dislike of the Provisional Government.

MALAGA, Nov. 28, 1868.

The political parties are busily engaged now all over the province in preparing for the coming elections of the municipalities and for that of the Constituent Cortes, which occurs later. Campaign tactics are a good deal like those that are so common in the United States, only the Spanish have not learned yet all the nice and startling games in vogue with you. As the political leaders and managers are shrewd men and apt scholars, besides possessing the faculty of invention, it cannot reasonably be doubted that they will be able to get the whole peninsula in a ferment before the day of election comes. The most fiery orators of the republican party are on the wing, addressing the masses in the principal cities and towns of the country, and they succeed in gathering together more people than their opponents. Just now these demonstrations are occurring in very many places, and the republicans are using every effort to make them as imposing as possible, in order to destroy the prestige gained by the democratic-monarchical party, by two or three monster meetings in the capital and elsewhere. There seems to be little trouble in collecting quite a respectable body of men in any town at the slightest notice to see or hear anything. Just now there are so many idlers and so many people who would like to become idle on the slightest pretence, that politicians find no difficulty in getting up a tremendous meeting with the usual quantity of enthusiasm for either party. The fellow who has a chance to see himself in company and make his cigarette does not hesitate to cry "*Viva el Rey!*" one day and "*Viva la republica!*" the next. It is all amusement to him, and he does not stop to inquire what kind of song he is to offer for the show. In Malaga there have been several imposing demonstrations on the part of the people; but it must be confessed that the general appearance of the leaders and their followers was not very assuring to the men of property in the city, who are beginning to calculate on the probabilities of the future in case of a republic. But these men are reactionists and conservatives, and naturally do not take the most cheerful or fairest view of things. For myself, I think the people are a good deal more honest and reliable than their leaders, of whatever party. History has shown us, and contemporary experience has confirmed it, that the leading statesmen of Spain for the past twenty-five years have been the greatest rascals in the country. The rising generation may supply better specimens, but at present they are very scarce. If the people are not misled and falsely instructed by designing and reckless demagogues they will go ahead all right. They are not natural born thieves or fools, and if they commit outrages and excesses when they come into power it will be done under mistaken ideas, inculcated by men who know better, but choose to employ such means to secure their own advancement. I have faith in the honor and justice and sense of right of the Spanish masses, and I am sure, if not misled, these qualities will carry the nation safely and happily. But at the same time it must be confessed that the socialistic doctrines that obtain in this province, and I am sorry to say pretty generally over Spain, must be got rid of some how or other if it is to be well for the people to rule. This is the only serious difficulty in the way of a republic, and it must be admitted it is a very serious one and one that is weakening the republican party by the withdrawal from it of a great many men of property who sympathize with the principles of the party, but cannot look forward with any degrees of satisfaction to its success if it is to involve the division of their property among the masses. Nobody, I take it, would care to sacrifice his all even for democratic principles. In case the republic is declared by the votes of the people the government is likely to be constituted of men of little property, education or position, which may or may not be a good thing for people who enjoy all these advantages. The best men of the republican party, of course, combat these socialistic ideas of the masses; but the petty leaders, who, perhaps, know no better, support them because they think they can see preferment and fortune in a general division of property and a new deal in offices. If the republic is established I think that the masses will give up their absurd ideas when they perceive that liberty does not mean license, especially if their taxes are lowered by the new government and certain privileges extended them that they do not now enjoy.

The provisional government has made itself very generally disliked in this and other provinces by its delays and vacillations in calling the elections for the Cortes. The people do not like to see the reins of power so long in the hands of self-appointed officials, nor do they look with complacency on the many signs already shown, proving that the government wants to keep its seat much longer. The questions are asked—Why is not the election called? Why the delay? What plot is on foot to keep the power in the hands of the self-constituted body called the provisional government? No one can find a satisfactory reply to either of these questions, and the people begin to grow uneasy and restive under the long suspense. I presume the feeble government at Madrid knows what it is about; but it has already given so many signs of its weakness and want of capacity for the great work it has undertaken that it naturally raises a doubt in the minds of many whether it really comprehends the situation and the duties growing out of it. The truth is, there is not a man in the provisional government that can be called great. They are all men of ordinary talent and capacity, strong enough to pull down, but too weak and inefficient to build up again. And these are the men who have undertaken the work of reconstructing a government and regenerating a nation! Can it be wondered at if the great national experiment proves a failure and the people are again set back into their old places to grovel in ignorance and be counted as cattle by their rulers? Sometimes one's faith in the final success of the Spanish revolution is greatly shaken. The only hope left seems to rest in the people, and not in the leaders. Will they remain true to themselves? That is the question.

SWITZERLAND.

The Political Situation—The Late Inundations—Commercial Treaties—The Budget.

BERNE, Dec. 7, 1868.

The Federal Council assembled here this morning at ten o'clock. The Council was opened by Herr Aepli, the President, in a lengthy speech, in the course of which he reviewed the political situation as follows:—

The widespread desire entertained at the present time by all the nations of Europe for the maintenance of peace has, thanks to the wise moderation of the Powers, been gratified. Nevertheless, the endeavors to increase and perfect the art of war have not ceased, and the heavy burdens thereby entailed still press upon the nations. The undinished condition of the internal affairs of some States, and the uncertainty as to their ultimate formation and their poss