EUROPE.

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The readers of the HERALD are furnished this morning with an extensive budget of European news, furnished by our special correspondents in several of the European capitals.

RUSSIA.

Prospects of War—Diplomatic Conduct—The Slavonic Question—Respect Shown Towards France and Prussia—Patti's Success.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 27, 1869.

The fortnight since my last letter has been rich in slight occurrences which cannot be considered as momentous events in themselves, but which may be pointed to as figures in the general sum of things fit to tax the ingenuity of political speculation and help the impartial observer to put two and two together. The general result of such comparative cogitations is undeniably in favor of war. Things have turned more decidedly that way since the Paris Conference ended, as was to be expected, in smoke, and this quite logical issue has given rise here to some curious coincidences. Thus, while the Conference was going on, our Foreign Office was at great pains to avoid the least circumstance which might have yielded a pretence not only to a diplomatic conflict, but even to the slightest unpleasant feeling. Anything even distantly akin to the Eastern question was handled delicately—as you would say in kid gloves and with the finger tips. Although privately on the best of terms with Prince Nicolas, of Montenegro, he was not suffered to appear much in public after it had been proved that his appearance was always hailed with an almost boisterous enthusiasm; it was feared that these "panslavistic" acclamations might be echoed in Paris and arrest or trouble the "work of peace." Not, of course, that anybody here expected anything like success, but it was most important for our government not to lay itself open to the accusation of partiality or even fomenting troubles by an injudicious display of Greek and Slavonic sympathies. We are strong enough to be well bred and dignified to the end. It is only boors and carters who quarrel over their ale or brandy, abuse each other and fall to blows. Gentlemen ride to the Bois de Boulogne talking of the opera and the races, and courteously salute each other before entering into mortal combat. Power and good manners are not incompatible; much rather the contrary.

Owing to considerations of this nature our public were disappointed on the night of January 18 in their hope of feasting their eyes at leisure on the general favorite at a historical lecture (on the "Tartar Invasion") given in his honor at the Artists' Club on behalf of the Slavonic fund, entrusted to a select committee composed of our best literary men, poets, journalists, artists and others. Prince Nicolas had been invited and had promised to come; but on the appointed night his secretary only was present, and on being impatiently questioned answered that his Excellency Prince Gortchakoff unhappily gave a brilliant soiree that very night and that his Highness could not possibly have refused the invitation of the Imperial Chancellor. The expedient was thought very clever, very plausible, but very transparent indeed. It was known at the same time that the question whether the Prince should visit Moscow or not was the subject of animated controversy. Moscow, our elder capital, and as such enjoying a nominal precedence over her younger sister capital (the coronation of our Emperors within her walls is one of her privileges), has ever been, and is, perhaps, becoming more and more the true heart and pulse of the political and intellectual Russian world, the pandemium of Russian and Slavonic patriotism, the champion of Slavonic interests and Slavonic unity in *spe*, the jealous guardian of Slavonic tradition and anxious preserver of Slavonic autonomy from foreign influence and Western encroachment, moral or material—our Mecca, Acropolis and capitol in one. Prince Nicolas, the warlike Slavonic chieftain in whose person are centred the most hallowed memories of Slavonic antiquity in the past and the fondest hopes of Slavonic liberty in the future, could scarcely have considered his Russian journey as complete unless his foot had trod the ancient halls of imperial Kremlin, unless his knee had bent before the shrines which are held in as great veneration by our *coreligionnaires* as ever Loretto was held by Catholic Rome. On the other hand, the very fact of his being a guest of time-honored, radically Slavonic and orthodox Moscow must have been considered a first rate political demonstration, not to mention the impossibility totally to restrain popular enthusiasm and the less noisy but more intense, because more conscious and refined manifestations of the educated classes. A reception such as the Prince was sure to meet would have been highly ill-timed, in the opinion of our leading statesmen, guided as they were by the diplomatic considerations I have hinted at above. Now, while the question was notoriously pending and causing some excitement, we were astonished, the very next day after the end and result of the conference became known, by the unexpected announcement that the Prince had suddenly departed for Moscow with the government's full consent that the highest civil and military authorities were ordered to meet him at the Moscow station; that no official hindrances would be laid in the way of festive receptions, dinners, speeches, characteristic offerings and *tutti quanti*. So sudden was the decision and departure that it even savored of some haste. Thus, one of our eminent political and literary men was to have been presented, they say, to the Prince, who had himself named the time of the interview some days before, and when he came at the appointed hour he found his Highness gone, and the presentation had to be put off until after his return. Another indication not devoid of significance is the following little fact which is not generally known, but which I have on the best authority. You must know that [illegible] which do not deposit in the hands [illegible] caution of 2,500 rubles are subject [illegible] censure. Well, the most recent instruct[illegible] the censors is to leave to these periodicals almost complete liberty of speech concerning Austria (and it is impossible nowadays to talk of Austria without talking of the Slavonic and Eastern questions), but to take care that nothing abusive is said of France and Prussia, who are to be dealt gently with—*ménager* was the word employed. This would seem to confirm the rumors of a Franco-Prussian-Russian alliance.

I must close this letter in great haste, but I must add a few words about the general idol, the *Diva* Adelina Patti. Her coming has produced such a tremendous furor as to entitle her to be mentioned in one breath with the most important topics of the day. It was hardly thought such extravagance was still possible. Things are done to honor the Queen of Song which are scarcely to be believed. Immediately after her arrival she was presented by a deputation of her adorers with a winter cloak, furred with sables, valued at 8,000 rubles silver, "that she might not catch cold, as her predecessor, Lucca," who, by the by, though she did not sing five times, received the whole tremendous sum she had engaged for. On the night of Patti's first appearance in the "Somnambula" she received a *bouquet monstre*, consisting of one thousand splendid camelias. Poor Cabzolari, who is very thin and anything but a Hercules, tottered under the weight as he took it from the hands of the orchestra director and presented it to his beautiful Amina. You must know that one camelia at this time of the year is not to be got under one dollar. If this is what they begin with we all wonder what we shall see on Adelina's benefit night. I shall take care to let you know.

PRUSSIA.

Complaints in the Upper Chamber—Government Boon Rejected—Confiscation Debate—Clashing of Opinions—Split of Parties—Virchow, Waldeck, Schultze and Bismarck in Debate—A Victory for the Government.

BERLIN, Feb. 1, 1869.

It is seldom that we have occasion to advert to the discussions in the upper house, as the sittings there are few and far between, and no bills of general interest are passed by it.

An exception occurred the other day in respect to the budget bill, which was brought forward and recommended by the committee, though not passed without some opposition. Baron Von Kleist-Retzoir, for instance, gave vent to his bile, saying:—We are brought face to face with a deficit, and still we are well aware that the army cannot remain efficient without well organized finance. If the thalers are wanting there can be no cannon, no horses, no war. Since 1848 we have an excellent patriotic song, with the chorus:—

Gegen demokraten,
Helfen nur soldaten.
[Against democrats there is no help but soldiery.]

Originally this referred to the democrats at the barricades. Sick and tired of the latter they now attempt by parliamentary influence to extend their power at the expense of the crown and the Prussian eagle. They revel in a deficit, and it is their chief Christmas delight if the King, in his throne speech, is forced to allude to it. It is the duty of the Minister of Finance to oppose more energetically than he has hitherto done that party which seeks to keep down the conservative, loyal and monarchical influence of this upper house. Another of the high born members went so far as to say that for once only he would submit to the wishes of the King and accept the budget.

In the lower house a bill was introduced by the government which experienced a signal defeat. It proposed to create new electoral districts, but it was demonstrated by the leading speakers that nothing was to be gained thereby on the side of the people, and that all the advantage would accrue to the government. The Minister of the Interior, Count Eulenburg, as also Count Bismarck, made powerful efforts in favor of the bill; but it was evident that the feeling of the House was much too strong to be resisted. One of the speakers alluded pointedly to the three class franchise system which the present bill proposes to perpetuate, and which Count Bismarck himself had on a former occasion in the Reichstag denounced as "miserable and preposterous." Such a strong argument was quite sufficient to decide the fate of the bill.

The whole sitting of Friday was occupied by the discussion of the bill proposing the confiscation of ex-King George of Hanover's property. As this matter has created considerable interest outside Prussia and abroad it may be proper to give a synopsis of the debate. It will be recollected that last year, a few days after the adjournment of the Diet, the said confiscation, or rather sequestration, was decreed by the government which now asks the constitutional approval of the house. The government bill for that purpose has obtained, as already reported to you, a majority in the special committee who recommended it to the house with a slight modification. The minority motion of Deputy Virchow and his friends reads as follows:—

Whereas the greatest part of the funds accruing by the treaties of September 29, 1867, and February 28, 1868, to ex-King George is yet within the custody of the Prussian administration, and consequently no danger existing from treasonable uses which the ex-sovereign might make of these funds; and

Whereas it is incompatible with the constitution and laws of our land to sentence anybody without giving him a hearing or by exceptional legislation; and

Whereas the declarations of the government admit that judicial proceedings against the ex-monarch could be instituted and would result in a lawful attachment of his entire property; and

Whereas, therefore, the Legislature has no occasion to act in the matter,

Resolved, That the Lower Chamber leaves it entirely to government to recede from the said treaty, if its violation can be proved against the former King of Hanover.

The full attendance of the deputies and the overcrowded galleries indicated that the debate would be an exciting one, for it was known that the liberal party had completely split upon this question—that the old leaders, Drs. Waldeck and Schultze, would vote against their friend, Dr. Virchow, and *vice versa*. The debate was opened by Deputy Windthorst, former Minister of State under ex-George, who has been instrumental in concluding the treaty with his former sovereign. "You comprehend, gentlemen," he said, "the painful feelings I experience in addressing you; but a pious duty, enhanced by the immeasurable misfortunes which have befallen the Hanoverian dynasty, a retrospect of my own past and of my native land and the consciousness that I speak to the representatives of a chivalrous nation and to generous victors, give me courage. My object in doing so is to ask you to reject the motion of the committee and to sustain protection of property and inviolableness of treaty." He proceeded to show that the Prussian constitution made no distinction between property belonging to a sovereign or to any other body. On the 29th February the Diet had been adjourned, and only three days afterwards, March 2, the government saw fit to decree the sequestration. It is alleged that the failure of mediation through friendly courts had not previously been known to the government, and he would not doubt that in giving the order it had acted *optima fide;* but he had good reasons to believe that King George was ignorant of such intercession, otherwise he would not have left his costly inventory in Hanover nor ordered valuable documents from London if he could have foreseen an attachment. The House was not the proper tribunal to decide whether or not King George had violated the treaty and upon Prussia's right to annul it. May a suit be instituted against the King and the case be tried in the proper courts? The decree violates the solemn protection due to private property. The administration had charged no less a sum than 180,000 thalers per annum for managing the sequestered property; it has, moreover, spent out of it such sums as it considered necessary to counteract any intended hostilities of King George, and hence the sequestration amounts to all intents and purposes to a confiscation. The capitulation of Langensalza gave the King a free disposal of his property, and the subsequent treaty stipulated that four weeks after its ratification 16,000,000 thalers cash down should be paid to the King. Shortly after the payment was withheld for reasons similar to those alleged to-day—viz., hostilities on the part of King George. It was then asserted that he had acted contrary to the spirit of the treaty, which was claimed to contain, though indirectly only, a declaration of abdication. To bolster up this novel interpretation it was pleaded that the conceded sixteen millions were more than the King's private property amounted to, and that the surplus stood as an indemnity for his abdication. That the King received more than was coming to him is untrue. You know yourselves something about the extent and value of the royal domains and can judge whether the sum of sixteen millions was too much. Give me an impartial court and a guarantee that its verdict be executed, and I will tear the treaty and sue for a restitution of the domains. The said treaty refers only to a settlement of King George's property; it has no political character, says naught about particular conditions, and if you should ask why it was entered into by the Prussian government I must refer you to the explanations given by the Prussian Premier at the time when he recommended it to this House. He spoke of the desire to conciliate the good feelings of the other party, and considered the price paid to attain this object a very moderate one, adding that he would willingly give ten millions more. No constructions ought to be put upon this treaty which are not warranted by its tenor. As to the violations of it charged against King George, what did they consist in? His speeches at the silver wedding festivities at Heitzing and the recruiting for a Hanoverian legion. Deputy Windthorst winds up by disproving their importance and showing that they are in a great measure based only upon newspaper reports.

Count Bismarck in reply said—I reserve it for another time to refute the judicial theories of the previous speaker and oppose them by political realities; I confine myself to furnishing material for the ensuing discussion. The gentleman who just ceased speaking doubts the existence of a Hanoverian legion, its military organization and equipment. Nobody in this house, besides him, can entertain such doubts. You recollect having read in the papers—and something, though not all, said by the newspapers is correct—that the legion, supplied with passports, though not obtained in a regular way from the Austrian government, but clandestinely sold by a petty official to the Heitzing agent, went via Switzerland to France, and all the way as a compact military body. This caused a lengthy correspondence between the North German Confederation and the Imperial French government, in which the latter, though not seeing fit to refuse refuge and shelter to the legion, admitted that an organized military body, headed by officers and drilled to arms within its territory, could not be tolerated, if such a demonstration were directed against a neighboring State with whom it desired to live in peace. It therefore ordered a dismemberment and a separation of the men from the officers. How far this succeeded will be instantly communicated to you. Let me first state the information obtained through our legation in Paris respecting the number of the legionaries at present in France. It is 1,400. From Switzerland we have heard of an attempt to strengthen the legion by Polish emigrants, though only twelve were found willing to join. Our agent gives no special information on those legionaries who are quartered at Amiens. His report, dated last December 11, gives the number of soldiers—for in the official list they are entered as "soldats hanoviens"—at 900 or 1,000, but this may fall short of the true number. The men having retained their former regimental division, were told that their hopes would be realized in the spring, meaning a war. They are well dressed and are said to receive punctually their pay; privates, two francs twenty-five centimes, and corporals five francs per day. If we reckon the low figure of 1,000 men, not counting the legionaries staying in England and America, at two and a half francs daily, we arrive at the sum of 300,000 thalers per annum as the cost of this military body. You will agree with me that it is correct to stop the source whence these funds are flowing. As to the Hietzing Committee, it has been described by the previous speaker as equally insignificant, but I will read you a few extracts from the Vienna Press, which prove that at the wedding festival King George expressed his conviction of a restoration of the Guelph dominion, of his return to his subjects, and that he called upon those present to direct their efforts towards the re-establishment of Hanover. [Here the Count referred to numerous documents.]

Deputy Schultze-Delitzsch—it is evident that the differences respecting this treaty arise from the ambiguous position of the government, which gives no clue as to whether it is an international treaty between two sovereigns or a private contract between the government and an individual, the former King of Hanover. We have heard simultaneous political and juridical pleadings in favor of the bill. If real danger would threaten the State I would at once take my stand on political ground; but such not being the case I can see no necessity to forestall the regular courts of justice, and must rather deem their action beneficial to the State, as the whole amount of the indemnification will then fall back to our treasury. The Deputy from Hanover has appealed to our chivalry and generosity, but we representatives have no right to show either at the expense of the people. According to his deductions he would gain better conditions for King George by annulment of the treaty, though I am of a contrary opinion, as King George's title to the domains is doubtful. He may support my motion, which, setting aside the treaty, serves both the country and the government. The motion is as follows:—"The House declines to approve the decree of March 2, 1868. It asks the government to declare its withdrawal from the treaty with ex-King George, settle the private property question and leave it to him to appeal to the law."

Deputy Von Sybel, the author on international law, speaks for the legality of the decree. He dilates upon the impossibility of trying the matter in a court which would have no material and no testimony to decide upon, and which would come in conflict with patriotism. A revocation of the treaty would cut off all possibility of a peaceable arrangement, while now a settlement may be arrived at if the other party chooses to make suitable overtures. Confiscation is justified by the agitations and intrigues of a party in Austria, France and Russia, which envies Prussia's present position. It is the duty of the government to exercise its power, and this can be done best by withholding the funds. If in some future time we abrogate the confiscation it will be just as correct as if we pronounced it to-day. Let us show to King George that the representatives of Prussia unite with its government in the confiscation of the means which may enable enemies to destroy the peace.

Several of the deputies had spoken against the bill, declaring it unconstitutional and formally and essentially unjust.

The special discussion of the bill that preceded the voting gave an opportunity to Deputy Virchow to recommend the minority motion. Both this and that of Deputy Schultze were voted down by a large majority, and the motion of the committee was then carried, as the call of the roll showed, with 256 ayes against 70 noes. The Hanoverian deputies and the Polish members abstained from voting, while ultra liberals, such as Waldeck and Schultze, went with the majority.

On the following day the Confiscation bill, directed against the estates of the Palatine of Hesse, came up for discussion, and here again Count Bismarck brought forward charges similar to those made on the previous day. The Palatine's often mentioned memorial offered full scope for attack, of which the Premier was not slow in taking advantage. In the course of the debate he referred to the secret fund and the expenses of espionage to conduct the intrigues of the Palatine, closing with the remark, "Try yourselves if you can touch pitch without being defiled?" The bill was then passed by a large majority.

AUSTRIA.

The Hungarian Elections—Contested Seats—Analysis of Parties—Deak and His Constituents—Views of the Opposition—Speech of the King of Hungary—The Alleged Assassins of the Prince of Servia—Female Labor.

PESTH, Jan. 26, 1869.

It is Hungary's turn now to fall a victim to that periodic fever which renews the public life of all self-governing nations—the fever, namely, of electioneering. The lands of the Hungarian crown have inherited from the middle ages the system of direct election and open voting, and added thereto in 1848 a democratic suffrage which borders upon, though it does not touch, manhood suffrage. Add to this triennial Parliaments, excluding Croatia and Slavonia, which have a Diet of their own. The inhabitants of Hungary and Transylvania number about 13,000,000, of whom about 2,000,000 are electors. There are 400 seats to be filled, and every seat except four is contested by the candidates of at least two and sometimes of three parties. The four notable exceptions, where there are no contests, are the seat of Franz Deak, for one of the metropolitan electoral districts; that of Minister Eotvos, for the sister city of Ofen; that of Koloman Tisza, one of the *coryphaei* of the opposition for Debreczin; and, lastly, that of Koloman Ghiczy, for Komorn. There is no bribing, in the strict sense of the word, in Hungarian elections; but there is a great deal of "treating," and wine plays as prominent a part in these contests as beer does on such occasions in England. Still, the election expenses are lower than those in England, and each candidate's expenses amount only in the aggregate to from 3,000 to 5,000 Austrian florins.

The great question—a question in which not only the whole empire, but all Europe is interested—is, will the Deak party retain a majority? In the late Diet the numbers stood 285 Deakists to ninety-six members of the moderate left and twenty-three members of the extreme left. By the settlement with Croatia the Deak party will receive a reinforcement of thirty new votes on questions relating to common affairs. On the other hand, the Roumans and Saxons of Transylvania are extremely dissatisfied with the union of Transylvania with Hungary and the abolition of their Diet—measures which were carried without their consent and in spite of their protests, and the Rouman deputies especially, if they appear in the next Diet at all, will belong to the extreme opposition. The Serbs of Hungary are also a malcontent faction, with less reason, however, than have the Roumans. On the other hand the Slovachs of the Carpathian region are Deakists, mostly, and so are the Hungarian Germans and the Israelites. Coming to the Magyars themselves, it is found that the large landed proprietors, the Catholic clergy, the merchants and the manufacturers are mostly Deakists. The *petite noblesse* and the peasantry of the purely Magyar counties are all for a personal union and the opposition. In this capital, also, the opposition are in a majority, as is shown by the party complexion of the central electoral body, in which, out of 190 seats, only twenty-eight are filled by partisans of the Ministry and Franz Deak.

All the members of the late Diet have already given or are about to give accounts of their stewardship before the electors. The Ministers do not seek to exempt themselves from the common lot. Three of them—namely, the Premier, Eotvos, and Garove have already met their constituents. The Premier's constituency is Temesvar, and the text of his statesmanlike, pungent and eloquent address has just reached me. It is the ministerial manifesto and contains a complete refutation of all the election cries of the opposition. Franz Deak does not condescend to make electioneering speeches. He is no office holder and will never be one, and he simply and proudly says to his constituents, "You know me and my political principles and conduct. Take me or leave me, as you think fit. There is no necessity for speechifying." Hence the chief burden of the electoral contest falls upon Count Andrassy's shoulders, but those shoulders are fitted to their burden. The Premier's manifesto is at once too weighty and too brilliant to be interwoven with this letter. I shall deal with it in a separate communication. For the present I will only say that it is evident that those who have contended that the Ministerial party in Hungary are not prepared to defend the settlement of 1867 in principle, but only as the best attainable thing for the moment, have been mistaken. Count Andrassy defends the institution of the delegations on principle and thinks that it will be adopted or imitated by other countries.

The speeches of the two opposition leaders, Tisza and Ghiczy, revealed an important difference between them. Tisza condemned the settlement of 1867 unqualifiedly and had no good word for the policy that has been pursued. Ghiczy, on the other hand, acknowledged that the political liberties of the Hungarians had made immense progress since 1860. Ghiczy is a conscientious, upright veteran who nothing exaggerates "nor sets down aught in malice." Precisely on that account he is, though more respected by his opponents than is Tisza, at once less popular and less effective as a party leader than his younger colleague.

The mutual lampooning in the political journals has already brought about a duel between two prominent Hungarian politicians—namely, between Pulsky, the returned exile and present Deakist, and Jokai, the editor of the *Hon* (opposition). The seconds on both sides were humane, and provided their principals with very bad pistols. The consequence was that both gentlemen retired from the field unscathed.

The King of Hungary, in his last speech before the late Diet, congratulated his people on the completion of the union between Transylvania and Hungary. Time will show whether this, in Transylvania, so unpopular measure, will bear good or evil fruit. The Rouman politicians, who represent the sentiments of three-fourths of the inhabitants of Transylvania, have resolved to recommend to their people the policy of abstention from the next elections, and on the following radical ground, as stated by Hilarius Mitiu:—"The union with Hungary I recognize as *de facto* existing, but as *de jure* not, because only a handful of Transylvanians co-operated in voting it, while to give this act of union constitutional validity, the Transylvania Diet, on the one hand, and the Hungarian Diet, on the other, ought to have been the negotiating parties and ought to have negotiated, too, on the basis that the question of the union was still an open one. The Transylvanians are constitutionally entitled and bound to elect members of a Transylvanian Diet and of no other legislative body." Mitiu's views were shared *nem con.* by all the representatives present of the Roumans. The Saxons, while declaring themselves against the act of union, yet refused to have resort to the policy of abstention.

What lends to this repeal of the union movement an importance which it otherwise would not have is the fact the kindred race in Roumania—nearly five millions strong—sympathize keenly with their brethren in Transylvania, and do all they can to fan the flame of hatred of Hungarian domination. Thus it comes to pass that this question becomes a part of that great ominous and complex whole called the Eastern question.

Towards the Croatians and Slavonians Hungary acted not on centralizing principles, as she did in the case just mentioned, but on federalizing or local self-governing ones. The consequence is that whereas discontent has increased in Transylvania it has subsided in Croatia. At Agram, the capital of Croatia and Slavonia, a conference of leading men and jurists summoned by the Ban, *ad hoc*, is sitting and drawing up a constitution for the executive government of these provinces. When the plan has been definitely agreed upon I will report further upon it.

The preliminary examination by Hungarian magistrates of Prince Alexander Karageorgevics and other alleged accomplices in the Servian murder who were to be found on Hungarian soil has terminated, and the documents in the several cases have been handed over to the President of the City Criminal Court of Pesth.

Public men who are older than the American republic, who saw the light before the issue of the Declaration of Independence, are, in 1869, so scarce that the decease of one of them deserves a wide publicity. One such dropped out of the ranks of the living on the 8th inst. He was Emerich Ozegovits, Latin Catholic Bishop of Zengg, an Adriatic port in the military frontier territory. The late Bishop was born on September 30, 1775, and was therefore in his ninety-fourth year when he died. He was a Croat by birth, and was consecrated in 1801. In 1815 he was appointed by the Emperor Francis I. dean of the convent of persons of noble birth in Agram. In 1826 he became sub-director of the Academy of Agram, and in 1833 he was appointed Bishop of Zengg. In 1853 he was created baron, with reversion to his brother and descendants. In the same year he was created a Roman count by Pope Pius IX. As Bishop of Zengg, he founded the Upper Gymnasium in that town, and was a liberal patron of all institutions aiming at the better education of the nation to which he by blood belonged.

The world-wide movement for the enlargement of the sphere of woman's labor has lately received an impulse in Hungary. Minister Gozove, who represents the department of commerce in the Cabinet of Count Andrassy, has lately issued an order allowing the officials in the service of the government telegraph lines to employ their wives and daughters—the latter must be over sixteen years old—as assistants at a salary of 300 florins per annum. As male labor is scarce and dear in Hungary, and as the schoolmaster has not been long abroad there, this permission is timely and welcome to the public as well as the officials.

SPAIN.

The Friendship Existing Between the Prince Imperial and the Prince of Asturias—The Candidates for the Throne—Montpensier's Supporters—Interview Between Don Carlos and Ex-Queen Isabella.

MADRID, Jan. 18, 1869.

Great uneasiness is felt, especially among the republicans, at the *entente cordiale* subsisting between the Tuileries and the Pavilion de Rohan—visits interchanged and an undoubted intimacy existing, especially between the Prince of Asturias and the Prince Imperial. On Christmas Day the former was invited to the Tuileries, where a Christmas tree, laden with pretty presents, was prepared for the amusement of the Prince Imperial and a few of his young friends, the sons of General Fleury, &c. The greatest gayety prevailed. Prince Alfonso climbed up the tree, with the others; and as the presents were very handsome, Queen Isabella, not to be outdone in generosity, sent the little Prince to the Tuileries the following day with some splendid gifts for his young companion. Moreover, the two boys ride together, are devoted to each other, and Prince Alfonso's partisans here are much pleased to learn that he rides more fearlessly than the Prince Imperial, and is what the Parisians call *un petite démon* on horseback. He is already entered as a pupil in the College Stanislas, one of the best schools in France.

The revenge taken by certain members of the republican party on the fallen dynasty is certainly of a most unworthy nature, and is loudly condemned by all the respectable portion of that party. The most obscene songs are sung about the streets, of which Queen Isabella is the heroine. The most indecent caricatures of her and of her adherents are paraded at the shop windows, so that I have seen many ladies pull down their veils and hurry by, that they may not see these offensive exhibitions.

With regard to the candidates for the throne, it may now be said that the two most likely to succeed are Montpensier and the Prince of Asturia. But the former is despised and ridiculed by more than half the nation, while the latter has against him all the enemies of the Bourbon dynasty. Nevertheless, I believe that both Prim and Serrano are in his favor. Prim is now in great intimacy with Queen Christina, who naturally desires the accession of her grandson to the throne. Her agent, Señor Carriguiri, and her son-in law, the Marquis of Campo Sagrado, are here at present with a mission from her to General Prim. But strange to say, this plan may prove unsuccessful through the firmness, or as some say, the obstinacy of Queen Isabella, who positively refuses to abdicate her throne, even in favor of her son. Queen Christina, finding all her persuasions on that subject of no avail with her daughter left the Pavilion de Rohan in disgust and has retired to Marseilles. Señor Beltran de Lis, formerly in the Ministry and much esteemed by the ex-Queen, made a journey to Paris for the same purpose and with a similar result. The Queen's answer is the same—she will not "abdicate the throne of her fathers."

If she persists in this resolution it is probable that the union liberal party will compromise with Montpensier, who, avaricious as he is, advanced immense sums to help on the revolution, and that he will be the candidate proposed by them. If so it is generally believed that a civil war will be the consequence.

Meanwhile nothing but ruin and misery has as yet resulted from the revolution. The ancient edifice is thrown down and none erected in its place. Serious uneasiness is felt as to the state of affairs in Cuba. Five hundred of the prisoners taken in Malaga have been embarked for that island. General Dulce, the new Captain-General, is in bad health. His interests are there since his marriage with the rich widow of the Count of Santo-Venia. His antecedents, as various newspapers here remark, are not of a nature to inspire great confidence in his loyalty.

The conduct of Mendez-Nimez, at a moment when all are grasping at places and greedy of money, is worthy of notice. He has refused the nomination of Vice Admiral. He gives no opinion as to political affairs, but merely declines with modesty any favors from the provisional government, alleging that he has already been sufficiently rewarded for his services in the Pacific.

It is said that an interview took place some time since in the Pavillon de Rohan between Queen Isabella and Don Carlos. The Prince expressed his desire that the two branches of the family should be reconciled. The Queen assured him that this had always been her most earnest desire, and added that should she be restored to the throne of her fathers she would, in conjunction with the Cortes, take measures for restoring his family to their proper position. One may see that the poor Queen lives in a vain illusion.

A friend of mine, who has just returned from Lisbon, and has had an interview with Montpensier, assures me that the Duke retains all his hopes of mounting the Spanish throne, which I also believe to be an illusion.

Another Version of the Firing on the American Flag at Malaga—Progress of the Mexican Conspiracy—Napoleon's Course Against the Madrid Loan and Its Effect.

MADRID, Jan. 27, 1869.

The *Igualdad*, republican paper, came out the other night and gave a true statement of the firing on the American flag at Malaga during the recent lamentable occurrences there. It quoted General De Rodas' report, in which the blame is placed on the volunteers who paid with their lives the insult offered the flag of the United States. It then states that it was the soldiers, and not the people, who offered the insult, and that the troops were entirely at fault in the matter. It calls upon the government to state the facts of the matter. Of course the government will do nothing of the kind. General Pavia, the heroic commander who led the gallant charge of the troops on the two poor nationals who were escorting the American flag down, and more substantially aiding the party by carrying the baggage, and who so splendidly put to flight two and killed one, thus avenging the Stars and Stripes, fired on by his own troops, has made no further report; nor have we any more mention of the heroism displayed since the truth has come out. It is a little strange, however, that Mr. John P. Hale, United States Minister here, has not made some investigation of the affair. He knows perfectly well that it is reported on the authority of officers of the United States gunboat Swatara that the troops, and not the people, fired upon our flag while in charge of a commissioned officer, and imperilled the lives of women and children. He knows, or ought to know, that an insult to a flag from the officers or men of a government is quite a different and more serious affair than would be such an act on the part of a mob. One represents the government and the law; the other is an irresponsible mob. But Mr. Hale rests quite satisfied with the explanation of General Serrano, who apologizes for the acts of a mob, and not for the outrage committed by his soldiers. Mr. Hale says he has received no official report from the Vice Consul at Malaga of the affair, nor does he appear to have made any effort to obtain it. He is quite satisfied to allow things to remain as they are, as it will save annoyance and trouble. I trust that the government at home will not remain silent concerning an outrage to our flag that has no palliation or excuse whatever. The provisional government should apologize for the outrage committed by its troops, and our government should not rest satisfied with the false statements and the excuses based upon those statements, which Mr. Hale seems to consider sufficient. The truth is the legation here lacks force and vigor. The chief is unable, through bad health and other causes, to properly perform his duties, and the Secretary, Mr. Perry, is too busily engaged in canal contracts, telegraph enterprises and gun contracts with the government, or in intriguing against Mr. Hale, to be longer of service to the United States government.

The vigilant legation is not yet aware of the operations of General Toboado against Mexico. Of course, it does not represent the republic of Mexico; but as the United States has before this shown considerable interest in the welfare of our neighbor, especially that it should not be overrun by foreign troops, it might be well to watch proceedings that have the same object in view Napoleon started out with when he sent his corps to Mexico. This conspiracy is still going on, receiving its funds and advice from Paris. Napoleon is unquestionably an ardent supporter of the scheme, and the provisional government of Spain is aiding it too. The Count de Girgenti is the avowed candidate for the throne in case Juarez is overthrown, and ex-Queen Isabella is advancing funds. The Mexican General Toboado is meeting with continued success here in his recruiting services. He offers two hundred dollars for expenses, three months' advanced pay and two grades in the line of promotion. A large number of officers have already been secured, General Prim having issued a circular granting two years' leave of absence to any officer who chooses to travel abroad or engage in foreign service, and assuring them that they will retain their places in the line of promotion while absent. I understand that General Toboado has secured all the artillery and engineer officers that he needs, and he is now engaged in recruiting officers from the cavalry and infantry, which is not difficult.

One report that I have is to the effect that several hundred officers and men, too, as the latter are being enlisted, will sail in the latter part of the month or early next, from Algeciras, near Gibraltar, where the three sailing vessels that are to take the expedition to Mexico will rendezvous. One of the vessels flies the Chilean flag, and is commanded by a Captain Angler. Of the other vessels I know nothing as yet. General Santa Anna is mixed up in the conspiracy, which seems to have extensive ramifications. More concerning it will doubtless be developed in a few days. The bad faith of the provisional government in the matter, when it is so anxious to see the United States preserve neutrality in the Cuban question, is really astonishing, but it cannot surprise any one who thinks. General Prim is about to promote the generals who behaved so gallantly at Cadiz and Malaga. He is strengthening himself in every way with the army, in view of future contingencies, as it is not improbable that he will become Regent of Spain.

The action of the Emperor of France, in prohibiting the taking of the Madrid loan in the Paris market, has had a stunning effect here. People do not know what to make of it, but they see in it an evidence of the Emperor's hostility to the present order of things in Spain. I have it from the best authority that the Emperor regards the restoration of Queen Isabel as the only means to bring about peace in this country. He is supporting the efforts of the Queen in every possible way, and he has made known to the government here that it would not regard either the election of Montpensier to the throne, or the formation of a republican government, with satisfaction. Although the Spaniards pretend to be indifferent to the Emperor's wishes, it is very clear that they dare not go against them in affairs of so great importance as the selection of a form of government.

FRANCE.

Departure of Count Walewski for Athens—The Rainbow of Official Documents—Skating at the Bois de Boulogne—The Prince Imperial and Brother Jonathan—the Chinese Ambassadors at the Skating Ponds—Gossip of the Theatres.

PARIS, Feb. 1, 1869.

The only political incident available being the protocol which Count Charles de Walewski has carried to Athens on the part of the Conference, journalists in Paris are making the most of it, and, like ravenous birds, are pecking the probable terms thereof to pieces. Before this reaches your readers telegrams will have informed them through your medium how Europe stands, and whether or no Greece, that Benjamin of European nations, will or will not withstand the declaration of the delegates of 250,000,000 of people.

Our papers being full of strife on this external question, it is rather pleasant to look at the food for the week at home, and the first thing we find is an infinity of official pamphlets containing political intelligence. The Blue Book of the British Parliament has given birth here to a blue book and a yellow book, and a red book and a gray book and a green book; in fact, a rainbow of books. But, however various these hues and shades on their covers, they are all of the same mild color inside, being mitigated panegyrics on the situation of the empire, "and efficacity of diplomatic documents." It would be well to bring out a black book for the sake of a little change in the tameness of tone, for were a student to know nothing more of his country than what he acquires out of the "blue and yellow," he would be afflicted with a perpetual *couleur de rose* before his eyes, and, like the Sybarite, complain and groan when the first leaf curled up on the couch beneath him.

Very little business has been done as yet at the Assembly. The presidents, vice presidents, ministers and State counsellors have as yet inaugurated their festive season with no oratorical skirmishing at the tribune; but their ladies and daughters have followed the Empress' example and flourished about a good deal on the ice. All sorts of anecdotes are current on the events of the lake; for though there was a splendid sheet of ice at Vincennes, Versailles and at Enghien, no one thought of breaking one's neck anywhere but *au Bois*. The result has been a rush to the basins of Madrid and Suresne and a good deal of dabbling. Anecdotes are numerous, and one of the best the incident that occurred to an American.

The gentleman who is the hero thereof was impelled by the force of circumstances in a secluded part, where he soon noticed a sturdy young boy tracing as many circles on the lake as a young eagle on high before it rests on firm land.

"You skate well, youngster, for a boy of your age," was the remark made by honest Jonathan to the lad.

"Well, yes," said the boy, most affably, "I have learned a long time—ever since I was seven."

At this moment he was joined by his governor, and the American became aware he had had the honor of calling the imperial prince a "youngster."

I shall have done with the skating rink when I have communicated the visit of the Chinese to its borders. I say borders, because, notwithstanding all the instances of the most aristocratic members of the club, they could not be prevailed upon to try a walk on it. It would have been quite a feature if they had done so, but they objected to the aspect before them. It looked much like ruin to crystal buttons, very probably; but they enjoyed the falls of others. There was no necessity for ringing a bell every time the dignitaries laughed; everybody present became aware that the echo they heard was a mandarin, smiling inwardly. The only piece of information which resulted from the contemplation of these envoys near the ice was that it is as invincible a necessity to be jocular in China when other people tumble down as it is in our own climate.

The Boulevards have their pastimes also, the present subject being a quarrel between the Grand Duchess and M. Dupuis. The cause for such disagreement is simply that Dupuis does not seem to be aware that Mlle. Schneider has made him what he is—at least she says so, and we are to believe it even if we do not see how she did this. Had she never tickled his nose and made him sneeze that particular sneeze which was the dawn of his triumph, where would Dupuis be now? He will not put up with anything from her at rehearsals, he will be as pleasant before the public, as haughty behind the sips; no comes late and keeps her waiting, he objects to her improvisations, and it cannot be endured. In this mood the Viceroy of Egypt may wait for her, she does not mean to go to see the pyramids or the Pharoahs or the Sphinx. She has had enough of life with Dupuis. All this may not appear rational, but people who know Mlle. Schneider are aware that she has not studied logic. Her rival, Mlle. Silly, has been performing for her at the Variétés, in "Roulette," as Chinchilla, but the piece has been hissed off the stage, the only attraction having been Mlle. Silly's costume, and that held to nothing.

The *bals masqués* at the opera, and indeed the *bals masques* everywhere, are extremely animated, for Lent is hurrying on and sermons by Rev. Father Felix are already announced at Notre Dame.

Literary Gossip—A Quarrel Between Parisian Dramatists Over Sensational Effects.

PARIS, Feb. 2, 1869.

In the literary world we have the prosecution of the *Nain Jaune* (yellow dwarf) for systematic attacks on the administration of M. Haussmann