CUBA.

PROGRESS OF THE INSURRECTION.

Bitterness of the Matanzas Volunteers.

The Course of Events Throughout the Island.

Insubordination of the Matanzas Volunteers—They Demand the Surrender of a Prisoner—Return of Regular Troops to Havana—Reception of the Comandilario—Another Gross Outrage on the American Flag—Miscellaneous Local Items.

HAVANA, April 6, 1869.

The details of the affair of the Matanzas prisoner, whom the volunteers of that city demanded should be delivered up to them, are as follows:—M. Despon is a native of Matanzas and was formerly a member of a volunteer organization, all the Cubans in which, save himself, deserted to the insurgents. Naturally this action caused great excitement among the Spanish volunteers, and, though he remained faithful, he was regarded with intense dislike; they, in their blind wrath, visiting their hatred upon him. He was arrested, but an investigation showed him innocent, and he was released. He was afterwards induced by his friends, who feared his assassination, to leave the place, and he sought refuge aboard an American brig about sailing. The volunteers ferreted him out, finding him concealed in the folds of the sails, and he was imprisoned. The matter coming to the knowledge of the authorities here, General Dulce sent orders for the prisoner, with the process against him, to be forwarded to Havana. The order was complied with, he being sent at a late hour of the night to avoid any demonstration. The following day the volunteers surrounded the Governor's house and demanded the surrender of Despon, threatening the Governor's life, which caused him either to leave the city or conceal himself in it. The accounts concerning this differ. The volunteers ultimately withdrew, and a committee of fifty-eight men, two from each company, were selected, and with their arms, proceeded to Havana to demand the surrender of Despon from the Captain General. On their arrival his Excellency received them in anything but a pleasant humor. He told them that the prisoner having been declared innocent after investigation he could not again be placed in jeopardy of his life, and severely reprimanded them for their absurd insubordination in coming armed upon such an errand. To the latter they responded that their own safety on the road required that they should carry arms. Several interviews followed, and Dulce ultimately appointed Colonels Miguel A. Herrera, Iminez and Rizo to proceed to Matanzas and settle the matter with the volunteer officers. They succeeded in doing so, and a committee from these officers yesterday waited on the Captain General to express their belief that an impartial investigation had been made, and their consequent satisfaction, and apologized for their action in the matter.

This affair is but another one of the many evidences of the insubordinate spirit constantly being manifested by the citizen soldiery of the island, and which is exciting grave apprehension. A significant fact in this connection is the return here yesterday of a column of 600 artillerists under Colonel Morales de los Rios, which went out from Havana some two months since, and have been operating in Villa Clara and Cienfuegos. They were immediately placed in the Cabanas and Morro, where their presence will enable General Dulce to control those fortifications and render him more independent of the volunteers than he has heretofore been. In reference to the insurgents they say, with something of a lugubrious bewilderment, that they were unable to find any. It is now announced that they will soon return to the field. They left Santa Clara on the 4th, and arrived here quite unexpectedly and dreadfully worn. They were promptly welcomed by the Spanish volunteers and population. The former received them on the wharf, accompanied with bands of music. One of the column was the bearer of a fine large insurgent flag, which was trampled upon on the wharf, and was afterwards dragged along the street in their march, which, though contributing little to the suppression of the rebellion, seemed to cause much satisfaction.

As you have been advised by telegram, the coasting steamer Comandilario has been recaptured, and was brought into port yesterday morning. On the 27th ultimo the Spanish war steamer San Quintin, a small paddlewheel boat, with one gun, left here in search of her, steering for Nassau. After cruising for three days she discovered her near some point in that island. On perceiving the pennant flown on board of the Tara, as the vessel had been renamed, changed their course landwards, for Great Stirrup Key, supposing that the small depth of water there would prevent the war steamer following. It seems, however, that the gunboat Luisa (formerly the towboat Alsa), Captain Pardo, had accompanied the San Quintin. As soon as the insurgents saw her they took to their boats, being near the land. A shot from the war vessel sank one, by which six were drowned; six contrived to reach the lighthouse and the same number were captured, which is all accounted for. Of the latter three are said to be Spaniards, who were forcibly detained on the vessel by the captors. The San Quintin arrived at six A. M. with the prize in tow, with these three men and one Chinaman; the other two were held on the Luisa, which remained in hopes of picking up the fugitives. It is evident from the appearance of the vessel that her cargo had been removed. At twelve M. yesterday a council of war was instituted on board the war steamer Basco de Garay, to inquire into the affair of the capture and to settle as to the guilt or innocence of the prisoners.

I have been furnished with the following details in reference to this vessel and her recapture:—The party on board the Comandilario, on perceiving the Luisa, opened her valves, hoping to sink her; but this was prevented. The goods originally on board of her, shipped for Cardenas and Colon, had been transhipped to a schooner. The English authorities had sent a war vessel after the latter. The police was for a time actively engaged in searching for the runaway captors, but without success. The Luisa, which still remains here, has on board three of the men, held there for the purpose of recognizing the others should they be caught. Two of these are Cubans, named Teodoro Suarez and Francisco Gonzalez, and the other is a native of Curazero. Cuban accounts say that the object of the captors of the Comandilario was to take the arms and money of the government on board. In regard to the arms they attained their object, having sent them to Nassau and delivered them to the Cubans there. The money had been sent by the government previously. There is no truth in any of the accounts of the Spanish press. No boats were put out. All save the Spaniards who had been forcibly detained escaped previously.

The Municipality of Havana have passed a vote of thanks to the provincial deputation of Barcelona for the prompt organization and embarkation of the Catalan volunteers, and ordered that a record of the action be perpetually kept on the minutes of the corporation.

The *Voz de Cuba*, in its issue of yesterday, states that Señors Antonio Fernandez Bremudez, Francisco Ferrer y Diago and Nestro Ponce de Leon have disposed of their possessions in Jas Island, and it expresses the belief that a large number of absent insurgents will follow the same course.

The railroad between Macagua and Alvarez being nearly completed the communication will be opened very shortly. This constitutes a step of importance towards the much desired uninterrupted communication between Havana and the principal towns in the Central and Eastern Departments. This new branch approaches the junction from Villa Clara to Cienfuegos.

The steamer Rapido, due at Batabano on Friday last from Espiritu Santo, Cienfuegos and Trinidad, and whose non-arrival caused some apprehensions, shipped a column of troops at the latter place, under General Rosela, for Santiago de Cuba.

Information of another outrage upon the American flag has reached here from Caibarien; but these are becoming so common that, aside from the first feeling of indignation, they have ceased to excite interest. The facts as stated by the American Consul at Caibarien, Mr. Stone, are as follows:—The bark Lizzie Major cleared from Havana on the 5th of March for New Orleans via Caibarien. On the 27th of March, having left the latter place, and being on the high seas opposite this island, she was stopped and boarded by the Spanish war steamer Fernando el Catolico, and two Cuban passengers, named James A. Hannibal and Ramon Rivas, taken from her. Mr. Stone, the Consul, has protested very energetically against the action, and has reported the matter to the Consul General here. It is hoped that the United States government will act with as energy and promptness in the matter corresponding to the celerity with which it surrendered Messrs. Sidell and Mason at the demand of England. It is probable, however, that the passengers mentioned have both been shot before this.

It is reported by the Spaniards that the war steamer Guadalquivir has captured a schooner with arms and munitions on the south side of the island.

The Lieutenant Governor of Guanabacoa, on the opposite side of the bay from Havana, has ordered away some eleven youths, ranging from fifteen to twenty years of age, suspected of disloyalty. The passes furnished them recommend vigilance on the part of the police wherever they may go.

Her Majesty's ship Heron has returned from Caibarien, whither she went to inquire into the capture of the British schooner Jeff Davis. The material facts were ascertained to be as heretofore published in the HERALD, and proper representations have been made to the British government. The Consul understands that the vessel has been delivered up and sailed for Nassau. What action is to be taken in reference to the two passengers taken from on board and shot does not appear. The steamer Marsella, now armed as a war ship, and a towboat, mounted with cannon, arrived here to-day from Nassau. The sum of $50,000 has recently been subscribed by the public in aid of the volunteers.

Although we have now a double cable to Key West there is so far but one instrument at work in receiving and sending messages, and this one, under the very peculiar arrangement in the office here, is closed to the public from three o'clock P. M. until seven, to its great injury and detriment. Owing to the amount of business crowded into the few working hours the press despatches are occasionally thrown over to the following day. There are other very annoying evils in the administration of the office, principally owing to the jealousy and short-sightedness of the government, to which at present I do not care more particularly to revert. A change which would bring about an improvement in the very stupid manner in which matters are conducted in the cable office, no matter what its character, would be gladly welcomed here.

I learn that ten gunboats are expected here from Spain. Thirty additional have been ordered in the United States.

The artillery column which arrived here yesterday will go at once to the Vuelto Abajo.

It is publicly given out here that the volunteers expect to make "a jolly time" on the arrival of the Catalan volunteers, and insinuations are made that this insures a massacre.

La Voz de Cuba of the 6th states that great economies and reforms are soon to be introduced into the government offices here; that they have been already proposed, and that the government therein will not as heretofore limit itself to removing a few clerks and porters and appointing the same number of higher officials. In which *La Voz* is sarcastic. In its issue of the 2d it recommends the managers of railroads to discharge the Cuban employés, and suggests that the government and all enterprises employ none but native Spaniards.

It is noticed here that certain Madrid papers assure the public that General Concha is coming to take command here. If so, the old scenes, in which Americans were shot in fifties, may be renewed.

The steamer Rapido arrived at Batabano on Monday evening from the southern ports with twenty political prisoners.

Excursion of Troops—Fight at Cartagena.

SAGUA LA GRANDE, April 3, 1869.

Part of the Second company of the Chasseurs battalion of Castilla, with the aid of the Guardia Civil, commanded by Captain Sarawa, made an excursion some days ago and attacked the rebels on the plantation Americano, where they killed two, the rest of the band fleeing precipitately without carrying away the dead.

On the 1st the column under Colonel Arnoz arrived at Cartagena, and in an encounter near Valadora killed six of the enemy, while the troops had one killed and none wounded. Colonel Salinas arrived in Cartagena and marched for Salado, where he killed three of the enemy in one of the encounters on the way.

The Fight at Hernando—Insurgent Attack on Mayajigua.

SAN JUAN DE LOS REMEDIOS, April 4, 1869.

The *Heraldo* contains a copy of a communication from Lieutenant Colonel Moreno to the Captain General giving a brief account of the triumph obtained in Hernando on the 15th ult. by Commandant Herrera, "with only 300 men, after a fight of two hours against 3,000 rebels that were partly entrenched. The latter are represented to have suffered a loss of no less than 136 killed and a big number of wounded, besides three cannon and other arms taken from them." This account requires the insurgent story before a "fair average" of the facts can be got at.

An attack was recently made upon Mayajigua by a party of insurgents, who were kept at bay by a small party of volunteers until the arrival of two companies of the mobilized Fifth from Yaguajay, when the rebels fled.

Change in Command at Villa Clara—Two Thousand Insurgents Still in the Field.

VILLA CLARA, April 1, 1869.

Engineer Colonel Portillo has now command of this district. General Latona's order of the day, dated the 17th ultimo, contains some wholesome measures to prevent the troops from maltreating animals and appropriating effects or cattle belonging to private individuals. The *Diario de la Marina* states that there are still some 2,000 rebels in this district.

Arrival of Troops—Citations for Treason—Occupation of Siguanea.

CIENFUEGOS, April 4, 1869.

The troops which arrived from Batabano, consisting of part of the Aragon Chasseurs, 100 regular cavalry and sixty engineers, in all 700 men, under the command of Brigadier Ferrer, left by sea for Manzanillo.

Colonel Gonzalez Estefani, of the cavalry militia, recently appointed Lieutenant Governor of this district, has taken charge of his duties and issued an address to the inhabitants and the volunteers.

The military court summons Antonio Terry, Leandro Junco, owner of the plantation, Divertido, Esteban Lima and Rafael Garcia, employés of said estate, to appear before that tribunal on a charge of rebellion. Manuel Sanchez Acevedo, Andres Javier Martinez (son), Rafael Arbelo, Miguel Salian and Leoncio de la Campa have been acquitted.

The occupation of Siguanea by the Spanish forces is reported. The insurgents had created the impression that it would be energetically defended, and no less than 4,000 were concentrated under General Pelaez to attack it. A great battle was expected, but upon the arrival of the troops it was found abandoned. The place had been very considerably fortified; many of the houses had been set fire to by the rebels before their departure. A small garrison was left in the place. The balance of the troops returned to Cienfuegos and other points.

Change of Command in Trinidad—Spanish Force in the Place.

TRINIDAD, March 30, 1869.

The late Governor and Military Commandant of this district *ad interim* has been relieved by Señor Milano. On the 20th he issued an order for the surrender of all firearms used by private persons within four days.

Colonel Pafilo has gone on an excursion with the companies of the Simaucas regulars.

General Secreta and his veterans were, on arrival, welcomed with enthusiasm, and received in the same manner by the volunteers, who gave a dinner to the officers.

The battalion of the Leon regulars now here numbers 1,010 men. In the steamer Rapido, from Batabano, arrived 1,300 men.

Insurgent Force in the District—Execution of a Leader.

ESPIRITU SANTO, March 28, 1869.

The greatest rebel force seen within a circuit of thirty to fifty miles was 1,500 men. Of these 600 were negroes, armed with "machetes." They were whipped near Jatibonico by fifty regulars of San Quintin and sixty volunteers of the Orden. The enemy had ten killed. The troops took two prisoners, many horses and the correspondence.

The base of operations of the three columns of General Puello and Colonels Calinchilla and Acosto will be Arroyo Blanco, twenty-seven miles east of this place.

To-day José Fernandez Elvira, who styled himself "Comandante General de la Insurrection," was publicly shot.

Concentration of Troops at Manzanillo—Insurgents on the Road to Bayamo.

MANZANILLO, March 29, 1869.

The column of 600 regulars of the España and Bailen battalions has arrived, and were fortified at three different points, where the rebels were entrenched. Their stronghold were taken, and, on flanking and attacking their front at the point of the bayonet, killed twenty, among whom was a colonel and a captain, besides wounding a number.

The battalion of Antequera regulars arrived in the steamer Cienfuegos from Batabano, and will go forward to Santiago via Bayamo to-morrow. These were sent by General Valmaseda to share in an operation of "great importance" in combination with other columns. General Laberre awaits them in Santiago.

The number of troops to escort the convoy amounts to 1,577 men.

Supplies for General Valmaseda—Insurgent Forces near Bayamo.

BAYAMO, March 25, 1869.

To-day a column of 600 men of the España and Bailen battalions left for Manzanillo to escort, on its return, a convoy of provisions and munitions. General Valmaseda ordered the landing of the Antequera battalion of regulars at Manzanillo because a large number of rebels exist between that city and Bayamo.

THE ROCKFORD (ILL.) NATIONAL BANK FAILURE.—The failure of the First National Bank at Rockford, Ill., is the subject of much discussion in the papers of that place. The officers were Alonzo Wood, president, and G. W. Stratton, cashier. The capital stock, $50,000, was mostly owned by Alonzo and W. W. Wood. The Rockford papers say the bank never had the confidence of the business community, but was largely patronized by the laboring classes, whose deposits have been swallowed up. The failure has entailed much suffering and distress upon this class. When the government examiner took possession but ten dollars were found in the bank vault; the notes, bonds, currency and securities deposited for safekeeping had all been abstracted, and the books and records had been mutilated till nothing could be learned from them. The liabilities are estimated at about $100,000. The Rockford papers also allege that robbery has been committed, and demand the prosecution of the bank managers.

EUROPE.

ENGLAND.

The Strike of the Lancashire Cotton Operatives.

LONDON, March 31, 1869.

Unless most thinking men in England are very greatly mistaken a very serious calamity is hanging over the country and is almost at our very doors. As you will no doubt have seen in our newspapers, the operatives at Preston are "on the strike," as it is called, and already some 5,000 "mill hands" are without employment. This of itself would be bad enough, but the evil is increasing, and before another fortnight is over at least 20,000 men, women and children in and about the great centres of cotton spinning will be idle, subsisting upon the contributions of their fellow laborers in other districts where the mill owners have not tried to reduce the wages of their workmen.

As it at present stands the dispute between the millowners and the operatives in and about Preston—and the difficulty is extending all over Lancashire—may be briefly stated as follows:—The masters say, and say truly, that at the present high price they pay for cotton, and the low price of the markets for cotton cloths, twist, prints and the like, it does not pay them to work their mills, and that they must reduce all wages by ten per cent. The operatives, on the other hand, say no. They declare, with perfect truth, that when trade was brisk, the staple low priced, the manufactured goods high and a demand for the latter in every market, the millowners (all of them then made immense profits, and turned over their capital again and again) did not raise their wages a penny apiece, and that now they ought not to lower them because the market is for the moment depressed. Moreover, they say, and with perfect reason on their side, that if their wages are now lowered ten per cent the millowners will never raise them again, but that "famine pay" will be the rule henceforth and forever among them. They are quite willing to submit the question to arbitration, the arbitrators to consist of an equal number of artisans and millowners, who will among them select some well known public man as a referee. But the masters will not hear of this. With that doggedness and bull-headed obstinacy which, I am sorry to say, so often distinguishes the Englishman when he has made his fortune and has a comfortable balance at his banker's, they will listen to nothing. "Take what we offer or leave it," is their one stereotyped reply, and thousands of artisans have taken them at their word and struck work. Mills are shut up, helpless women and children are half starved, and the whole state of society disorganized in what generally are the most flourishing districts of England for the working class. Fortunately, there are certain millowners in the north of Lancashire and in Yorkshire who are not so short-sighted—not so grasping. Their mills are not shut because they have not sought to reduce wages. In these favored districts the operatives who are in work are subscribing to maintain those who are not. The friendly societies and trades union also help greatly, so that the poor people do not actually want for bread and meat, or rather for bread and tea—for it is very little meat they ever see except on Sunday. But still it is an evil. A great wrong is being done these people. The funds on which they ought to rely in time of sickness are now being eaten up to afford them every-day food. And ah, I fear, for no use. Unfortunately for us, capital always starves labor into submission in England. I say "unfortunately," for I fear we shall all suffer some day from the greed of those who own capital in this country. Men cannot—and, what is more, they will not—submit and give in forever when they think—when they know—they have right on their side. The day will come when labor in England will help himself to a hundred-fold more than capital might now content him with. Capital in all civilized communities has its duties as well as its rights, and if it neglects those duties it will some day have to feel—be made to feel—that it has done wrong.

All those operatives that are on strike are the very pick of our artisans. They are steady, hard-working men, anxious only to get a fair day's wages for a fair day's work, to maintain their wives and little ones in comfort, to keep a couple of decent rooms over their heads, and to put by a small nest egg which will keep those dependent upon them from the poorhouse when the head of the family is dead. They are in every sense of the word decent, respectable men, with no small amount of self-respect, as witness the privations they endured at the commencement of the civil war in America, before the wealthy of England came to their help. They would make good citizens anywhere; but most of all are they calculated to flourish in the United States, where, no matter how humble a man may be born, or how short his purse may be, he feels that if he has a trade or a handicraft, and is honest, sober and well-conducted, he must rise in the world.

Crime in London—The Cruelty to Criminals Bill.

LONDON, March 31, 1869.

Dr. Ball, who has gathered such a singular impression of the immorality and vice of the American under the system of voluntaryism, is just now being supplied with some wholesome food for reflection upon the morals of his own countrymen in a series of letters published in the *Times* on the haunts and habits of criminals in London, where the Established Church reigns in all its glory. The descriptions given by the writer are of a character to startle even those best acquainted with the worst features of New York life. We are told that in some stated localities in London whole communities subsist only on robbery and prostitution, and that thousands of the young of both sexes live there who have been "suckled, cradled and hardened in scenes of guilt, intemperance and profligacy" until they bloom forth into full grown "sneakers, burglars, thieves, prostitutes and forgers." We are told that a regular missionary labor of proselytism to vice is going on vigorously among the boys and girls of London, and that thousands of children are gathered in the worst dens of the metropolis who are "more fit for a nursery than for a notorious thieves' house of ill-fame." Of course all this is carried on under the eyes of the police and of the well paid ministers of the Established Church, who are supposed to do so much for the morals of a people. The enormous amount of crime has of course from time to time attracted the attention of the law-makers, and their efforts have been directed towards its diminution. But, unfortunately, the "roos" of England, and especially the noble lords who are hereditary legislators, have but one idea in dealing with crime, and that is that it can only be stopped by severity of punishment. They would gladly, if they could, go back to the good old days when the gallows could be made the penalty for petty larceny; for they cannot conceive way a thief should be allowed to live. Actuated by this spirit a royal commission five years ago examined into the subject of crime and prison discipline, and the result of their investigation was the revision of the laws and the general increase of punishment both in the length of sentence and the severity of treatment. Hard labor was required in almost all cases and introduced into every prison, and with the singular perversity that has always marked English legislation on such subjects, the convicts were set to picking oakum and dancing on a treadmill instead of being put to such work as would make the prisons partially, at least, self-supporting. Solitary confinement was made more general, the period of sleep was materially reduced, and the convicts were deprived of the customary mattress and compelled to sleep on bare boards. Nevertheless, despite this increase of severity, and despite the Established Church, so much lauded by Dr. Ball, crime has increased and become more intensified than ever during the past four or five years. Astonished at this result, the lords have now passed another bill "for the more effective prevention of crime," the main object of which is to put the man who has been twice convicted of any offence under the surveillance of the police, who can at any moment arrest him and require him to prove that he is earning an honest living. The bill changes the old principle of law which holds a man to be innocent until he is proved to be guilty, and holds him to be guilty until he can prove himself to be innocent. The evil and injustice of such a measure will be at once apparent, and it has been appropriately termed the "Cruelty to Criminals" bill. It puts a dangerous power into the hands of the police, whose character will scarcely warrant an implicit trust in their integrity. A man who has been tempted to crime is never safe. He may be in a respectable employment, and, if arrested, may be able to prove the fact; but the chances are that his employer would be ignorant of his past career, and would dismiss him as soon as he learned that he had served out a convict's sentence. Thus the bill puts up the barriers against reformation and creates the rule—once a criminal always a criminal.

News and Gossip of the London Theatres.

LONDON, March 27, 1869.

Yesterday being Good Friday, all the theatres in this metropolis were closed. Indeed, no place of public amusement was allowed to remain open except the Crystal Palace and the Standard theatre, at both of which mammoth buildings sacred concerts were given and largely attended. To-night Easter novelties will be produced at nearly all the theatres, and I shall proceed to give you a brief account of them.

The Gaiety theatre leads off the Easter novelties, to-night, with a new play, by T. W. Robertson, author of "School," called "Dreams." This is the piece which Mr. Bandmann and Miss Milly Palmer produced at Liverpool about two months ago. It was not a decided success then, and although it has since been revised and amended, it will hardly prove a popular hit now. Mr. Alfred Wigan impersonates the hero to-night—a double part, that of a father and his son.

Miss Fanny Josephs takes her first and farewell benefit at the Holborn theatre to-night, and then relinquishes management. The Holborn theatre is more in the New York style than any place of amusement in London. Miss Josephs lavished money upon it when she assumed the managerial position about a year ago, but could not hit the popular taste. Piece after piece was produced, but always with the same result—a waste of money. It is truthful but ungallant to say that Miss Josephs impaired her chances by persisting in playing leading parts herself. She now retires from the stage, I believe. On the 1st of May Mr. Barry Sullivan becomes the manager of the Holborn, and will attempt to revive the legitimate drama. Mrs. Herman Vezin is engaged as leading lady. Mr. Sullivan will, of course, play all the heroes.

Drury Lane theatre, true to its old traditions, has been closed during the whole of this Holy Week, and will reopen on Monday with the new play by Bayle Bernard, of which I informed you several months ago. The play is an adaptation from "Les Miserables," and is to be called "The Man of Two Lives." Mr. Charles Dillon appears as the convict. Mr. Dillon's style has deteriorated very much since he appeared at Niblo's Garden, and he was by no means a great actor there. Bayle Bernard, the adaptor of the piece, is an American, and wrote some of Hackett's most successful pieces. The pantomime called "Puss in Boots" will also be revived at Drury Lane on Monday. The opening of this pantomime, by Mr. E. L. Blanchard, is one of the most charming ever presented to the public; a Watteau scene, by Beverley, is unsurpassed on the London stage, and the acting of Mr. Joseph Irving, who plays the Puss, is perfection. Mr. Irving is engaged for New York next season.

Another manager takes his farewell benefit to-night. This is Mr. W. H. Liston, of the Queen's theatre, who resigns the reins to the inexperienced hands of Mr. Labouchere, ex-Member of Parliament. The disastrous failure of "Not Guilty," by Watts Phillips, is said to have resulted in this change of base. Mr. Liston is a very clever manager, but he had no chance at the Queen's. Play after play has failed there, in spite of Mr. J. L. Toole, Miss Nellie Moore, Mr. Lionel Brough, Mr. Henry Irving and a number of other good actors, who were engaged. Now all of these good actors have retired from the theatre, and on Monday a new play by Tom Taylor, called "Won by a Head," is relied upon to redeem the fortunes of the lessee. Mrs. Sterling, Mr. Emery and Madame Beatrix Shirley are specially engaged for the piece. Tom Taylor's last dramatic venture, "The Antipodes," at the Holborn, was so tremendous a failure that his friends tremble for this new undertaking.

Neither the Haymarket nor the Prince of Wales' make any change for Easter. Robert Jones' comedies carry them along smoothly and successfully. Mr. Robertson is writing another new comedy for the Haymarket in October and a new comedy by H. J. Byron, called "Not Such a Fool as He Looks," is waiting to be produced; also a new farce by Mr. Sowdon, an artist, in which Mr. Buckstone will appear. Robertson has a new piece ready for the Prince of Wales', when "School" begins to flag. He ought to call it "Holidays." Mr. Kendal, leading young man at the Haymarket, is said to be about to relinquish his engagement.

At the Adelphi theatre Mr. Webster has been tiding over the dead season by appearing in "The Dead Heart." On Monday night, however, the genuine dramatic sensation of the week will be produced at this theatre. It is to be called "Black and White" and has been written by Mr. Wilkie Collins and dramatized by Mr. Fechter. The dresses and appointments are from Paris and have been selected by the authors themselves. Of course Mr. Fechter plays the leading part in the drama, and, equally of course, Miss Carlotta Leclercq plays the heroine.

At the Lyceum "Life for Life," a play in blank verse, by Dr. Westland Marston, continues to grow slowly into public favor. Praised by the press, but voted dull by the public, this piece has not been a pecuniary success, but if it could be played for six months longer it might pay. The farce of the attraction is in the admirable acting of Mr. Herman Vezin and Mr. George Jordan, two Americans, who literally carry the heavy drama on their broad shoulders. Miss Neilson, for whose benefit the piece was produced, is rather a detriment to it than otherwise. Great things were expected of her some years ago; but in the provinces she has grown stilted and stagey, and will never develop into a first class actress in tragedy. To-night the programme is to be strengthened—or weakened—by the production of a new burlesque, called "Hypermnestra, or the Girl of the Period." Mr. E. T. Smith, the English Barnum, has virtually retired from the management of the Lyceum, and the theatre is advertised for rent. Smith's retirement is hailed with delight by the whole dramatic profession.

At the Globe theatre the irrepressible, indefatigable and prolific H. J. Byron will produce a new comedy on Easter Monday called "Minnie, or Leonard's Love." You will remember that it opened with "Cyril's Success," by Byron, which is to be played for the last time to-night.

The bill of the New Royalty theatre will not be changed for Easter; but it is not successful. *On dit* that Miss Oliver is about to relinquish her lease of this theatre and build a new house on the site of the Oxford Street Music Hall. The little lady had better let well enough alone. Miss Marie Wilton publishes a note in the *Times* this morning declaring that she has no intention of leaving her present theatre. Nobody thought she had. She must have confused the gossip about Miss Oliver with the reports about herself. What she is going to do is to enlarge the stage accommodations of the Prince of Wales' theatre by leasing an adjoining house. If she be wise she will never quit the little bandbox in which she has made her fortune. If the Bryants had only been as far-seeing they would never have left their little hall on Broadway.

A new burlesque, by William Brough, called "Joan of Arc," will be produced at the Strand theatre on Monday. "The Field of the Cloth of Gold" having had its day at last, Mr. J. S. Clarke remains at this theatre. Mrs. Swanborough contemplates taking her entire burlesque company to the United States, probably under contract with Mr. C. W. Tayleure, of Pike's Opera House.

"After Dark" will be revived at the Princess' theatre on Monday, to run until Boucicault's new drama is ready. "Nobody's Child" will be revived at the Surrey as a similar makeshift. Mr. J. L. Toole begins a starring engagement at the Standard theatre on Monday.

Some of the engagements at the St. James theatre, which is to open in October next under the management of Mrs. John Wood, have been published; but the list is incomplete. I give a corrected copy:—Mr. J. L. Toole, Mr. Barton Hill, Mr. W. W. Farrenj Mr. Lionel Brough, Mr. J. Shore, Mr. Mark Smith, Mr. A. W. Young, Miss Herbert, Miss Henrale, Miss Larkin, Miss Bessie Lovell—unquestionably the strongest company in London for several years.

FRANCE.

Parisian Art and Music Gossip.

PARIS, March 26, 1869.

The Delessert sale is over, as also the Berryer and Rossini sale. The sale of M. Berryer's effects did not realize a large sum—a little above £1,400; his cane was sold for four pounds; his snuffbox for twenty pounds. Rossini's ivory syringe was the joke of all the *habitues*, and much fun has been made of the purchaser. An instrument of this kind is most popular in Paris, and nothing can excite the laughter of the people so much as its exhibition on the stage and at Polichenelle shows. Talking of Rossini reminds me that the possessor of the copyright of the composer's "Solemn Mass" is asserting his rights most unaccountably. A lady, the wife of a wealthy banker here, Mme. Bemberg, having got up a party at her residence for the execution of some sacred music during the Lenten week, and among the pieces selected parts from Rossini's "Solemn Mass," she has received a legal summons from the music seller and M. Strakosch with a notification of the penalties incurred for using other people's property. This is a curious and novel idea for the exclusive privilege of propagating the sublime work, and, as far as the world at large is concerned, a most startling proceeding. That M. Strakosch should be anxious to derive all the profits imaginable and secure his copyright is very equitable and just; but that no one having bought the mass at his publishers should be allowed to execute it in paris is one of those Hebrew monopolies which carry us back a few centuries in the art of speculation.

But to the Delessert picture collection, the sale of which has brought in a most fabulous sum. The little authentic Raphael was acquired by M. Edouard André, a very wealthy banquier, for the sum of 150,000f. Some maintain that he was only a purchaser for the Duke of Aumale, who was determined it should return to the Orleans family, who possessed it formerly. A very fantastic statistician has calculated that every centimètre of it fetches 214f.—a very strange way of appreciating the merits of a painting, decidedly. It was expected that this Raphael—A Virgin and Child—would be the hero of the sale, but to general stupefaction it was not. A Dutch interior, attributed to Pietre de Hooge, shared the honors, and was bought by M. Narischkine for 450,000f. The David Teniers I mentioned, "The Fish Market," of which Louis XIV. said with disgust, "*ôtez moi ces singes*" (take away those monkeys), was purchased for 169,000f. David Teniers preferred to Raphael! The total of products for 211 paintings and a statue is $1,79[illegible],326.

"It is all very fine," said an artist friend of my own, who accompanied me to the auction; "but how much more I, even as a painter, should value a million bank note put in a plain frame and hanging above my revolver at the head of my bed!" Artists are getting awfully common place—less ideal every year—in their yearnings.

Gustave Doré continues justly to be the lion of the studios. He sends into the salon his "Rossini," and has refused to exhibit "Christ Leaving the Pretory." It is, however, magnificent—a work over which he has spent much time. On being asked by one of his friends why he did not send it up he answered that he had a year's work on it still—touches to add which time alone could teach.

SPAIN.

How the Spaniards Regard American Sympathy for Cuba.

MADRID, March 28, 1869.

The persistency with which Cuban sympathizers in the Congress of the United States bring forward their resolutions recognizing the independence of Cuba, and the fact that such a resolution was unanimously adopted by the House of Representatives, have occasioned a very deep feeling throughout Spain. The additional fact that the Senate has a resolution of a like nature under consideration produces a spirit of uneasiness and bitterness in all classes of society. The Cuban insurrection is generally believed here to be dying out through powerful repressive measures and its own exhaustion, and the Spaniards claim that, at such a time, the attitude of the American Congress is calculated to give renewed life to an inexcusable undertaking which is designed to wrest from the control of Spain one of her richest and most important possessions. Spain regards such an attitude of the representatives of the people of the United States as unfriendly to this country, and unjustifiable in every way. Spain, during the great rebellion in the United States, it is claimed, preserved a strict neutrality, which leaned, if anything, in favor of the government. Unlike some other of the great Powers, she enforced with rigor the laws relating to the rights of hospitality extended to rebel cruisers. They were not refused the right to enter Spanish ports for necessary supplies and repairs, but their stay was made as brief as possible, and the repairs allowed the ships were only such as were absolutely needed to enable them to reach another port of another nation. The rules and regulations were in all cases firmly and loyally enforced, as against the rebels, while a great latitude was observed in applying them to the men-of-war of the United States. In this way Spain proved to the United States her friendly feeling and sympathy. And it is held unjust, unfair and ungenerous for the United States to adopt a course so hostile to Spain at the moment she is exerting herself to the utmost to put down a rebellion which is as unjustifiable as it is unreasonable, since Cuba could enjoy with the mother country all the liberties and rights gained by the revolution of September.

It was hoped here since the government of the Union passed from the hands of the slaveholders that there would be no more filibustering, no more illegal attacks on the rights of Spain in Cuba, and no more intrigue to occasion trouble. The days of illegal expeditions against that island had passed, it was supposed, and the Spanish government could hereafter rely upon the loyal friendship and kind sympathy of the United States government to put a stop to all hostile acts against her dominion in Cuba. Instead of this natural state of affairs the government of the United States assumes a hostile attitude, and proposes to go so far as to acknowledge the independence of the island before that independence has been gained, and while even its prospects were never worse. The people of Spain cannot understand the causes that induce the United States to perform so unfriendly an act as to lend its moral support to a falling cause, unless it is from motives of pure aggrandizement. In fact, it is generally believed that this sympathy and secret support for the insurrectionists is merely the first step of the United States to gain possession of the island, and the Spaniards declare it to be unworthy of a great and noble people.

There are a very few Spaniards who do not see that Cuba must eventually fall into the hands of the United States and become part of the American Union. But they would like to see this result attained in a fair, natural and proper way, and not by force and intrigue. If the people of Cuba could vote in a fair, untrammeled way on the question of separation from Spain, and the majority of the votes should be in favor of that act, it is certain that no great number of Spaniards would favor their retention under the Spanish dominion by force. (?) They would regret the loss of the pearl of the Antilles, but they would not spend a dollar or risk a life to prevent its consummation if legitimately carried out; only they would demand a reimbursement for all the money spent by Spain in great public works in Cuba—a proposition fair and just. But to have the island torn from the mother country by force and violence is a contingency that the Spaniards cannot contemplate with indifference and against which they will spend every dollar and lose every man they can muster in the peninsula.

The resolution to put down the Cuban rebellion is firm in every one's mind here, and all are determined, at whatever cost, to attain that result. The unfriendly attitude of the United States will only induce them to renewed exertions to quell the disturbance in that far-off island. Meanwhile it is probable that some diplomatic correspondence will arise on the subject, and some questions will be asked not only by Spain, but by several great Powers, as to the intentions of the United States government.

GERMANY.

German Trade with Louisiana—A Glance at Bismarckian Liberality—Dearth of Literary Talent—An American Violinist.

BERLIN, March 29, 1869.

At a late meeting held here by the dry goods merchants, for the purpose of discussing the advantage of reopening export trade to Louisiana and other Southern States, it was unanimously agreed that it would be of the highest importance to the products of German industry. A committee was appointed to select a competent merchant, who, salaried and furnished with an assortment of samples, will proceed May 1 proximo to New Orleans.

Means have been raised at Stettin for the construction of a new kind of sailing craft, registering about 200 tons, and supplied with a hydraulic reaction engine of thirty-five horse power. If the thing should work well it is proposed to supply in future all sailing vessels with steam, which would inaugurate a new era in navigation. *Nous verrons.*

The nationalities loudly proclaim a great liberal progress on the strength of the amended Trade Regulation bill now before the Bund Council. Suffice it to say that the new bill, with its 172 paragraphs, is not a whit better than that of last year, differing from it only by a few alterations respecting certain trades, such as brokers, chimney sweepers, pyrotechnists and knackers, who shall no longer be required to undergo an examination; dispensing theatrical managers from proving "mental capacity" and making a license to them depend upon "good conduct," and henchorta relieving the halls or localities used by teachers of gymnastics, dancing or fencing (though they cannot ply their calling without a license) from special permit. To show the value of such boasts, calculated to mislead transatlantic readers, we may take one of the paragraphs out of 172 and hold it up to the light. It is that specifying the conditions under which a citizen of the North German Confederat on may carry on the calling of an editor or publisher, always subject, however, to the existing police regulations, such as furnishing security in cash or state bonds, filing copies of all issues, naming of a legally qualified and responsible editor, suffering police inspections of libraries, printing offices, &c. The said paragraph has reference only to the press as a calling to which every citizen of the North German Confederation shall be entitled, after previously giving notice to the authorities and distinctly stating its locality, "in order to prevent secret transactions against the law," or, in plain language, to facilitate confiscations, while it leaves untouched all the press ordinances within the several States, even that of entire prohibition in cases of a violation of them, it not being the intention to interfere with their special legislation.

My last communication mentioned the titbit which is to be thrown to Hanover in sending a member of the royal house to reside at the capital of that province. It is now confirmed that Prince Albrecht, Jr., a nephew of the King, has been given the chief military command at Hanover, and that the new furnishing of the castle is in anticipation of his speedy arrival. The Hanoverian representatives have been grumbling for a long time about the loss sustained by their city in consequence of ex-George's departure, but if the new comer should be flush with the ready it may result in brightening once more the laces of the purveyors and *id genus omne*.

A circular of the Prussian Minister of Commerce draws the attention of the provincial authorities to the fact that the notorious firm of R. Sloman, in Hamburg, has ceased to exist and that, therefore, all licenses held by his sub-agents in the interior have expired.

The horrible treatment experienced by the crew and passengers