EUROPE.

The Effective Strength of the English Navy.

Feeling Regarding the Church Bill in Ireland.

VIEWS OF A SPANISH POLITICIAN.

AFFAIRS IN GERMANY.

The annexed budget of communications from our foreign correspondents will be found very interesting.

ENGLAND.

The English Navy—Its Present Condition—Difficulty of Obtaining Sailors—Iron-Clads—Other War Vessels—Probable Results of a War with America.

LONDON, May 31, 1869.

Although there are no doubt exceptions to this, as to every other rule in the world, all thinking men must agree that the great mass of Englishmen are, in all that concerns their own government and their relations with foreign Powers, the most unthinking and the most unreasoning of mortals. At the present time, when a rupture with the United States might occur, there are really, even among the educated classes in this country, not five people in a hundred who seem really to have any interest whatever in what may be one of the most serious disputes that ever arose between two giant nations. And of these five—if there are so many—persons there are really not two who understand the strength of the United States or the weakness of England. They—that is, all my countrymen—put their faith in one or other of the different arms of the service. Some believe that England can never be invaded because of her militia; others that she can with her present regular army meet any foe in any part of the world; a third class put their faith in that utterly broken reed the volunteers; but the most numerous of all trust implicitly to the navy, and think that so long as we have ships to sail or to steam we should be able to hold our own, and even to have the best of the quarrel, in any sea where vessels can float or in any port which had to be blockaded or defended, on either side of the Atlantic.

So much for fiction; now for fact.

It must be allowed that the naval officers of England are the persons most likely to know the capabilities of our navy. I have a very extensive acquaintance with those who bear commissions in that service, and I have no hesitation in saying that they look upon the present condition of both our ships and our crews as most unsatisfactory. It is true that they are both quite equal to the duties they have now to perform, and that England could be defended by our fleet as it at present exists; we should have nothing either to fear or complain of. But with our navy, as with every other institution we have, we halt between two opinions. We are not national; the service is not popular, as with you, and, on the other hand, we do not use the heavy hand of government to force men to take up arms as they do upon the Continent of Europe. The service is too free, and yet not free enough; too popular to be as effective as the French navy, and yet not popular enough—not elastic enough to become, in the event of a war, a power and a force equal to the occasion. Let me illustrate my meaning. The navy of the United States may not at the present moment be very strong in ships or in men, but once let the war cry be raised and you would increase your force at sea ten—ay, twenty fold in a month. In the same way France may not be very strong—although she is quite as much so as we are—in her navy, but she has an immense reserve—a reserve so strong that she could by a stroke of the pen treble the number of her seamen in a fortnight. You in the States are free. The people govern. If the people are determined to make war they will provide the means and the men and the ships to carry on that war. Not so with us. The people—and, indeed, all classes, save men who have either plenty of money or long pedigrees—have so long been accustomed to be governed, and not to govern, that they have lost all interest in the public service. Hence it is that I don't believe if war with America was declared to-morrow it would cause 500 extra sailors to take service under our flag. It always happens that we have far more difficulty to get men for our ships during war than during peace—that is, of late years. And now that our mercantile navy is so increased all over the world, and that our ship owners can afford to outbid the government in the matter of sailors' wages, a foreign war would decrease, and not increase, the number of men at our disposal.

Then again, if we went to war with the United States the old difficulty about Ireland would crop out. People in general—I am talking of Englishmen—are by no means aware how strong the Irish element is in our navy. Would that element fight on our side or on yours? Would it willingly take service in our navy, or would it seek for employment with yours? In my humble opinion it would cause our service to be weaker by at least a fourth than it now is.

That our navy, as at present constituted, is equal to the defence of England, Ireland and Scotland, I don't for a moment deny. But Great Britain is by no means the most difficult part of the British possessions to defend. We must not forget that a war with the States would not be like the war we had fifteen years ago with Russia. The Czar had no ships he could send to attack our colonies; he required all he could muster for the defence of his own coast. And even then, in a war, so to speak, at our very doors, what did we do? What were we able to do? Literally nothing. The history of the fleet that went to the Baltic under Sir Charles Napier is not a history of which we can be proud.

Let us suppose war to be declared between the United States and England. We should require every ship we have in commission at home to prevent your cruisers from blockading our ports. What would become of our commerce all over the world? We could not neglect our mercantile navy. We must have vessels in almost every sea, else the result would be the loss of so many trading ships that nothing short of national ruin would inevitably follow. In America you have so many resources in your own country—every resource, in fact, as regards food—that no very great calamity would result if you ceased to sail a single merchant ship for a couple of years. But it is not so with us. We live and have our being upon what comes from abroad. A single naval disaster to our fleet which would enable your navy to blockade for one week two or three of our chief ports would starve the whole nation into submission to whatever terms you chose to dictate.

And what injury could our fleet inflict in the meantime upon your commerce or your ports? Literally nothing—nothing whatever. Our iron-clads are fine ships, but they are not calculated to cross the ocean and then be able to fight. These ships can steam, but, except in the finest of fine weather, they cannot sail in such a way as to arrive at any given point with anything like certainty. If they crossed the Atlantic under sail one out of three would reach any rendezvous at the time appointed. If they did so under steam they would be useless (because without coal) when they reached your shores.

One great—I might say the chief—reason for the inefficiency of our navy is this:—We have too many iron-clads. For some years past our naval authorities seem to have forgotten that we might—and that in the event of a war we should—want a fleet of swift steaming as of iron cased ships. For ten years we have turned our attention to nothing in naval architecture except that which is defensive. We have a splendid squadron of enormous iron-clads, which, if mustered in line of battle, or even if they could meet in our own waters—ship for ship, gun for gun and man for man—vessels of their own calibre, would no doubt do well. But we don't want razors to cut firewood. Of what use would be a score of costly iron-clads—vessels that can hardly sail, and are very slow indeed under steam—to protect our commerce in various parts of the world? What we want would be a large fleet of fast wooden corvettes, ships that can go equally well under steam or canvas. And these we not only do not possess, but we seem to have lost the faculty of building them. In a word, as a means of defence of our interests on the high seas our navy is decidedly wanting.

What about our navy as an offensive force? Could we cross the Atlantic and blockade your ports? In the first place we should be at the disadvantage of fighting out of our own waters; in the second, we should have your large vessels to contend with; in the third, we should want that which our iron-clads, large and massive as they are, must be helpless without, namely, coal. There is not one of our iron-clads that can carry more than twelve days' supply of fuel, and most of them can carry but seven or eight. Or what use would ships be that can only feed their furnaces for such a short time in an offensive war at such a distance from all supplies? Bread and meat may be picked up even in an enemy's country, but certainly not coal. Could we send coal from England to the squadron blockading New York or New Orleans? Rather difficult. Your navy would, a week after war is proclaimed, be supplemented with a hundred fast steaming steamers, each armed with a couple or so of very large guns, and able to make headway at the rate of a dozen or fifteen knots an hour. We should have no such assistance. The war would be very popular with your citizens, very unpopular with our subjects. Moreover, we really have not in all England the kind of steamer wanted for the work. We should be unable so much as to touch you in your own waters, but you would be able very much to injure us in ours. How this latter feat could be effected; how you would be able to reach us, and not we you; how Great Britain is more vulnerable in the Irish Channel and on the coasts throughout these islands than you are on either the Atlantic or Pacific, I shall endeavor to point out in my next.

American Commerce Past and Present—The Trade of Liverpool Then and Now—Small Number of Yankee Ships in the Mersey—Cause and Effect.

LIVERPOOL, May 27, 1869.

The effects of the war as regards our maritime interests are painfully apparent at this port, and to those who have our national pride at heart the condition of things is sad in the extreme. On the 8th inst. but eleven vessels were in port under the United States flag, and scarce two score of American vessels are bound here from any part of the globe. Not a single American steamer comes here, nor do we see any prospects of any coming. Three or four old steam craft, it is true, are sailing under our flag to German ports, but they are managed by foreigners, and they are no credit to us either for speed, beauty or safety. There are seven ships, two barks and one schooner, representing 10,143 tons, all built in the United States, offered for sale here now. The famous Collins steamer Adriatic, built by George Steers in 1856, whose cost was not far from $1,000,000, gold, will soon be broke up, having been bought for about £6,000. The ship Great Republic is now under the British flag, and is known as the Denmark. There seems a blight upon everything American here. The offices and stores of Americans doing business here seem more like undertakers' shops than places of traffic and commerce. Liverpool is more dead than alive, and if the people will only acknowledge it they can trace the cause to the dockyard at Birkenhead, where the Lairds do business and where the Alabama was born.

Among the higher classes fraud and trickery are the order of the day, while with the lower orders drunkenness and misery prevail to an alarming extent. Crimes of the most revolting kind are committed so frequently as to cease to attract notice except when one exceeds by some fresh device to make it more brutal or inhuman than the one which preceded it. Things are in a wretched condition here. The best of theatrical talent fails to draw a respectable sized audience. Charles Mathews and wife have been playing here for a week, and the receipts will not pay their hotel bills. H. Coleman, who leased St. James' Hall for ballet, burlesque, &c., has not taken in sufficient to pay one-third of his printing bills. McCabe, with his humorous delineations, has taken in a few hundred pounds. Not one of the places of public amusement is earning a penny. In trade outside of the heavy dealers there is but little doing. The papers are full of "Houses to Let," "Furniture to be Sold" and "Want Situations." In fact, the reaction has taken place, and some of the very men who cut a swell during our war and wished us to Davy Jones' locker, have gone to the dogs long since themselves. The admiralty inspecting engineer, who was sent up for eighteen months, a week or two ago, on a charge of defrauding the government, was the consulting engineer for the Confederate steamers built here. He is down at the heels a bit now. Mr. E. P. Stringer, a big gun in Confederate times, has been sued and will probably be made to disgorge some of the plunder he is said to have done his colaborers out of. So that in every quarter these chaps are coming to grief. There can be no question that the cause of half the suffering, misery and crime we have here now can be traced to the war; and it seems a judgment upon them for their double dealing and meanness. The pen fails to adequately portray the sad sights to be seen here daily, ay, hourly. Still I, for one, can hardly pity them, because they brought it upon themselves, and having made their own bed they must lie upon it. Every one is at a loss to know what is to be done to revive trade and alleviate the wants of the people. It is true large bodies of emigrants are leaving weekly, but they do not come from this immediate vicinity, and they do not affect the condition of things here.

IRELAND.

The Irish Church Bill—How Regarded Throughout the Country—Bishops' Leases—The Sligo Riots—The Land Question—Statistics.

DUBLIN, May 29, 1869.

The Church bill is still the leading topic of discussion among all classes here. What will the Lords do about it? The question to which all seek answer. Its passage through the Commons was with "wind and tide," but I have now a new phase to mention, one which will no doubt have a very material effect on its progress through the upper House. The non-conforming Protestants of Ireland hitherto held back from any public expression of opinion, and it was assumed that if they did not actually support they acquiesced in the provisions of the bill; but they are now awaking from that state of doubtful inaction, and have commenced an energetic crusade against it in all details. Mass meetings of Presbyterians have followed each other in quick succession during the past week in Belfast, Armagh, Omagh, and in Dublin yesterday; the latter was very numerously attended, and the platform crowded by leading Methodists and Presbyterian elders. Petitions to the Lords, praying for the rejection of the measure, were adopted, and strong speeches of the no-surrender class indulged in. One reverend gentlemen "carried the house" by declaring his belief that the measure did not originate with Mr. Gladstone at all, but was manufactured in the Propaganda of Rome, and that he was a tool in the hands of the Jesuits.

The holders of land under a peculiar form of lease known as Bishops' lease—ecclesiastical property leased to individuals—are also stirring, and eminent counsel have been engaged by them to appear at the bar of the House of Lords to oppose the measure; in fact, anxiety in all quarters is growing warmer, and there is a general impression that disturbance of some sort is likely to agitate the country whichever way the matter be decided. The hopes of the Roman Catholics—the numerical majority—are so highly raised now that rejection of the measure would set them in a ferment; in the contrary case, the union of Episcopalians and Non-Conformists, who possess the wealth and soil of the country, complicates the matter; and the cry for repeal, so long but the croak note of nationalists, now heard daily from many influential quarters, is looked on as most significant of the feeling which will be awakened by this violation of the articles of union, as they consider it.

Another murder is announced as having been perpetrated in the county Waterford. It is not what is known as an agrarian outrage, but arose from the antipathies of opposing factions. Patrick Power was a respectable farmer—his father was head of the faction known as the "Polleens"—and although he inherited this chieftainship he was a particularly inoffensive individual. The day of the murder he was in Carrick-on-Suir selling butter and eggs, and was accompanied on the road homeward by a man said to be high in the faction of the "Gows." This man was last seen in his company, and they had drink together. The following morning poor Power was discovered frightfully mutilated within a few yards of his own house, and the police discovered the champion of the "Gows" in bed with his clothes much stained with blood.

The ratepayers of Sligo will have a heavy bill to pay for the damages of the recent riots in that district. At the presentment sessions just held claims amounting to over £1,200 were passed, and this is but a portion of the demands in preparation.

Anxiety respecting the future of the land question is gaining ground; farmers' clubs and agricultural societies are daily discussing it with great zest, and collecting information to be forwarded to the Premier for the guidance of his Cabinet; but the relations of the Irish tenantry towards their landlords vary so much in different counties, there are so many peculiar customs of different localities to complicate the matter, that it will be next to impossible to frame a measure likely to please even a majority.

The necessity of legislation on the education question is evidenced by the following significant fact:—The Registrar General has just published the first annual report of births and deaths and marriages in 1864. The estimated population of Ireland was 5,673,307; the number of marriages registered for the past year 54,812; of these 10,574 men and 13,778 women signed the register with their mark—that is, nearly one-half could not write their names. In England the proportion of this ignorant class is about one in four, and in Scotland, among males, one in eight, and females one in 419.

FRANCE.

Further Particulars About the Elections.

PARIS, May 27, 1869.

The election for the new Legislative Assembly, which by the constitution occurs every six years, came off May 23 and 24. This event was regarded with interest and apprehension by every thinking mind in France, and foreign nations, especially England and the United States, contemplated it with lively curiosity. Since the last election in 1863 the French government have suffered two signal reverses. The unfortunate expedition to Mexico and the aggrandizement of Prussia, with the consent of France, were condemned as blunders of the first magnitude and threw a shadow over the prestige the Emperor had acquired by his brilliant and successful policy from his advent to the throne. His opponents have used their formidable weapons with extraordinary zeal, and the friends of the empire feared the effect. Another element in the late elections was the cry started by the opposition against "personal government," meaning that the Emperor wielded too much power and the legislative body too little. Under these disadvantages the government descended into the electoral arena on Sunday and Monday last to engage in a mortal combat with its resolute opponents.

In France the Legislative Assembly is the only elective body, just as the House of Commons is in England, and both are therefore the undoubted expression of the national sentiment. The struggle is ended and the results justify in the main the previous calculations. It was predicted that the towns would vote against the government and that the masses of the country would sustain it. It has so turned out. There were 292 members to be elected. Out of these 280 have been heard from, but in fifty-eight instances new elections must take place, as no one candidate obtained the legal majority. So far the government have secured 195 members. The opposition have bagged only twenty-six, but out of the fifty-eight yet to be elected, as well as from the twelve not yet heard from, there is no doubt the adversaries of the government will be considerably increased. There is every likelihood the opposition in the New Chamber will number some eighty or ninety, more or less, which is a gain of some thirty or forty over the last Chamber. This is the price the Emperor pays for his luckless trip to Mexico, and, above all, for suffering Prussia to become the military rival of France. On the whole he has got off very cheaply. There are other results, however, connected with this national demonstration, which are striking, unexpected, and almost inexplicable.

First—It has been always believed that if Napoleon's dynasty collapsed at his death the Orleans family would succeed him. Thiers, the champion of this family, was the leading man of the Assembly, where his extrordinary talents eclipsed rivalry. Several other of the most prominent men of the past Assemblies were devoted to the restoration of Louis Philippe's family. To the amazement of all parties the entire cohort of Orleanists is slaughtered in the recent elections. Even their *preux chevalier*, Thiers, is utterly demolished. He presented himself in no less than six different electoral districts, which the French law allows, and one would suppose that in some section of France, north or south, east or west, an election would have been conferred, if not on the Orleanist, at least on the great historian and orator of France. Not a bit of it. He was beaten in every place he appeared. This must be an immense treat for the Emperor and a great humiliation for his bitterest antagonist. Doubtless out of some of the fifty-eight new elections Thiers will slip into the Assembly, for the opposition want him and so will concentrate on him; but where are the Orleans family and their fond aspirations? Echo answers, nowhere.

Second—The legitimist party, since the fall of Charles X., has never been other than a forlorn hope, and the death of Berryer a few months since was an additional blow. There were few shining lights still left in the last Assembly, but even these have been ruthlessly extinguished in the new one—another great treat for the Emperor.

Third, and more remarkable still—The republican party, which everybody thought must succeed some day in France, and which, if it did not follow Napoleon, would certainly cut short the Orleans *regime* (it is hardly credible), is just as badly damaged as the rest, and many of its ablest leaders, such as Jules Favre, Carnot, Maneck, have all been set aside.

Fourth, and most wonderful phenomenon of all—The opposition party—in a word, the revolutionists—have routed the Orleanists and the legitimists, for all their chiefs have been elected, and what is more, they have elected them in Paris, Lyons, Marseilles and Bordeaux.

Everybody is bothered, and every one is asking what it all means. Some persons contend that it must be the work of the lower classes, for it can hardly be credited, they say, that the middle and upper strata would vote for a whirlwind that would paralyze trade and property.

SPAIN.

Discovery of a Military Conspiracy—A Spanish Politician and His Views—Preparations for Sending More Troops to Cuba.

CADIZ, May 26, 1869.

The reactionists have shown their hands in Cadiz. The city on the 12th and 13th experienced one of the greatest sensations since the afternoon of the 5th of December last. A conspiracy has been discovered among the artillery officers, which had for its object the proclaiming of Isabella and the chastisement of the impertinent Gaditanos. This arm of the military power never gave its hearty adhesion to the September revolution. It simply bowed to the blast that swept the Bourbon throne from the Peninsula. When Prim arrived, after the fleet had arrived, the officers told him, in presence of the military governor and Commodore Topete, that they wanted to have nothing to do with him, that they would not take any part in the revolution until the arrival of Marshal Serrano. When he arrived they accepted the situation, but their lukewarmness incensed the people against them, and that feeling has been intensified on the part of the artillery on account of the great number of killed and wounded in the December insurrection, and it has been heated to fever heat by the couplets, doggerels, songs and rhymes of ridicule, that every well dressed and ragged urchin chants and whistles from morning until late at night. The artillery is officered by the scions of the so-called best families, is very aristocratic and scorns republicanism. There is a great deal of the old blue blood—*azul sangre*—and chivalry of a by-gone age in its ranks. It knows nothing of the age, is jealous of its privileges, and imagines that the eyes of "the world and the rest of mankind" are upon it. The only means to bring it to a proper understanding is to knock it on the head; and rest assured if the militia ever have an opportunity they will do so, *con mucho gusto*.

Dissatisfaction has existed in the army since Prim was appointed Secretary of War; it has increased by his gross favoritism, and the bungling way he carries on business. The navy is not a whit more reliable than the artillery. Unaccustomed to the annual *pronunciamientos* on shipboard, which have made Spain a byword throughout the world, it has no sympathy with innovations, and I verily believe that to-morrow it would shout "*Viva la Reina*" if there was a fair prospect of it being endorsed by the troops.

The navy officers have never removed the crown from their caps and uniform; the infantry did after the battle of Alcolea; the artillery did not. The former have no sympathy with any kind of government except the monarchical. The infantry is composed of all classes, but the republicans count many friends in their ranks; the latter are like the former. The day before yesterday Serrano and Prim stated in the Cortes that the reorganization of the volunteers—the militia—was necessary to combat the enemies of the September revolution. These sapient gentlemen now find that the militia, which Peralta bombastically attempted to disarm, and Caballaro de Rodas was sent to exterminate, are necessary to keep the said gentlemen in their soft places. They know that the adherents of Isabella and Tom, Dick and Harry, who are plotting to obtain the crown, are not to be found in the ranks of the people, but among the officers of the public service, the nobility and the *parvenus*, who declare the world is never properly governed except by the joint aid of a crown and sceptre. The officers will influence the men who will follow their example; the nobility and *parvenus* will furnish the money, and it will be the working classes against the troops once again. But if there be an ounce of sense among the volunteers they will not be so easily humbugged and disarmed as they were at Seville, Cadiz and Malaga. Let them once get arms into their hands and the troops may commence when they please. But it will be for the latter to say when to stop.

I paid a visit to Salvochea lately. He is unquestionably the most popular man in this city and province—in all Andalusia—and will make his mark before many years. He was occupied when I arrived, but in a short time I had an interview with him. He received me very courteously, not with that hypocritical smile and torrent of commonplaces so peculiarly characteristic of the Spanish politician. He was dressed in a blue round-about, closely buttoned, vest and light casimere pantaloons. Newspapers and pamphlets were lying around his chair, and certain papers of an important character, neatly folded and fastened with a yellow cord, lay close to his ink bottle. After the usual greetings I asked him what was the news?

SALVOCHEA—Nothing of much importance, except that we shall soon have plenty of work.

CORRESPONDENT—What do you mean by "work?" You can't do anything without arms; you are not allowed to have any.

SALVOCHEA—You are mistaken. The Provisional government, knowing the plots of the reactionists, have consented to organize the militia, and we can have all the arms we like, but we can't procure as many as we want because the surplus have been sent to Cuba.

CORRESPONDENT—Have you permission to organize the militia of Cadiz?

SALVOCHEA—I have; if I hadn't, I would do so in spite of the government. While I live I shall never cease to organize the people. When they have arms there will be liberty; when they have none, there will be tyranny. A well drilled, armed militia will keep the ambitious military men in check. They are the curse of the country. When they find promotion slow they pronounce and disturb the country. If there was a militia they would not be so fond of pronouncing, as the militia would oppose them. They know by this time that an armed citizen, behind or before a barricade, in the street or upon the houses, is as good a soldier as him who is uniformed and paid by the State. With a militia we can dispense with our army, that is, with two-thirds of it. But the military don't want that; we, the people, do, and we'll have it before we cease.

CORRESPONDENT—Do you think Isabella has many friends in the army?

SALVOCHEA—I think so; but I don't know nor care.

CORRESPONDENT—Who is the favorite of the army for King?

SALVOCHEA (smiling sarcastically)—Every officer has his favorite. The old ones favor the Queen or her son; the young ones the one that will promote them.

CORRESPONDENT—But don't you think there is a general favorite, one who is more popular than the others?

SALVOCHEA—No; not one of the aspirants has a sincere friend in the army, unless it be among the superannuated ones, who are indebted to Isabella for more than they deserved. But they are what you call in America, old fogies, and of no consequence.

CORRESPONDENT—Montpensier has a large party in the army.

SALVOCHEA—He may have, but I don't think so. He will never be King of Spain, and I am sure never President (smiling) of the Spanish republic.

CORRESPONDENT—Would you not favor a king, with a liberal constitution like Belgium or England?

SALVOCHEA—No, sir; kings have had their day; they were an evil in the best of times, but a curse in an age of railroads and telegraphs. The wire which communicates with Madrid, Paris, London, Ireland, New York and San Francisco is the king of the day, of the times.

CORRESPONDENT—Then I am to suppose that you are in favor of a republic?

SALVOCHEA—Do me the favor to suppose nothing about it; believe it as truly as God is in Heaven. A republic is the only hope of Spain, but there will be blows given and received before its representative sits in Madrid.

CORRESPONDENT—Are the people ready for such a form of government? You know that in the interior the number of persons who can read and write is very small. According to the last census the population of the Peninsula, including the Balearic Islands and the Canaries, was 15,658,586; of this number only 3,124,410 knew how to read and write, and 705,377 to read.

SALVOCHEA—That is true. But have you ever read the story of the man who desired his son to learn to swim before he went into the water? The ignorance of the people is chargeable to the kings—to the military governments that we have had. I don't think reading and writing necessary to have a republic. You didn't inquire about the reading and writing of the people when you drove the English out of America. The late election proved that the elective franchise can be exercised by the man who can't read as well as by the alumnis of Salamanca. Under the old *régime* we would never improve; under the new one (the republic) we shall, I hope; at least we shall try, and if we fail, we'll petition, like the old Israelites, for a king and the mummery of an aristocracy.

CORRESPONDENT—Do you think the government will furnish you with arms if the reactionists persist in their machinations?

SALVOCHEA—If they don't it will be another of their stupid blunders. We want arms and we will have them. I received a letter from an English house yesterday enclosing this circular (handing the circular), but the musket is not as good as Remington's breech-loader, and we want the best. I am going to write to a well known inventor of breech-loaders, and hope he'll furnish us with arms of a superior character and at a reasonable price. Do you know ——? If you do, put in a good word for us.

CORRESPONDENT—I have not the honor of Mr. ——'s acquaintance, but I am sure you will have no difficulty in procuring all you want for—cash or good security. Do you intend to offer yourself for reelection to the Cortes?

SALVOCHEA—No, indeed; I never wanted to go there, and when the grave legislators refused me admission, when I was in Santa Catalina, they did me an important service. I'm no talker—no orator. I want work, not figures of speech. The Cortes is a humbug. Nothing good will come from it. I never was a candidate with my consent; I never will be while Spain is enslaved.

CORRESPONDENT—What do you think of the strong speeches against the Catholic faith lately delivered in the Cortes?

SALVOCHEA—I don't admire any kind of religion; but I doubt the utility of the late expositions on theology. There is no use in losing time with such stuff and nonsense.

A few words of farewell and we parted. He to endeavor to have the gallant militia of Cadiz armed with the best breech-loaders in the United States, and your correspondent to his *olla podrida* and writing table.

Salvochea is a thin, lean, nervous young man, who will make his mark or lose his head before many years. He looks the conspirator from top to toe, from head to foot, according to distinguished authority. But whether he is laboring for the benefit and glory of himself or *querida España*, like many hundreds of his countrymen, is involved in futurity. He has attained a popularity that may waft him on to fortune if he acts as he professes—that is, the fortune of doing something for the benefit of his country. But the Spanish politician is the most selfish of animals, and has no love of country, like other people. His native village and province are his country; out of them he is abroad.

Five hundred candidates for the chances of dying in Cuba by the bullets of the Cubaneros, by the heat or Yellow Jack, are waiting the departure of the next mail steamer. They appear to be a much better class than their predecessors. They wear a red flat cap, like those worn by the Biscayens in the province of that name, flaming red neckties, canvas surtout and pantaloons (*cabzonelas*) of a peculiar cut, sandals (*alpardatas*) well suited for campaigning in summer, and the best I have ever seen. Like all the sons of the northern provinces, they are broad shouldered, strong armed and ruddy of complexion. Last evening I saw about a dozen of them on the principal public walk, chanting Riego's famous hymn. Their red neckties—the emblem of the republicans—and stentorian voices rather disturbed the equanimity of several old gentlemen who were enjoying their cigarettes and the fading twilight "o'er the dark blue sea." It is peculiarly Spanish to send a Biscayen, singing the great Spanish hymn of liberty, to cut the throats of the Cubans, who love the said Riego's memory as much as any Spaniard, and are only endeavoring to carry out what he taught. But why wonder? *Cosas de España!*

Spanish Fairs—Old Customs—Clubs—Parvenues—Fashionable Resorts—How the Cuban Insurrection is Regarded—Conflicting Views—America Blamed.

CADIZ, May 27, 1869.

The annual fairs of this province are almost al over. Excepting one or two in the latter part of the summer there will be no more this year. It is believed that these agricultural bucolical reunions are dying out; that the railroad has been the grave of the fair. Certain is it that the grand fair of Seville was a tame assemblage this year. In former years the wealth, beauty and talent of fair-skied Andalusia used to spend the three days in the midst of good cheer and the most bewitching of smiles; but all has departed. Nothing now remains but the skeleton of a once happy time. The oranges blossom and the Guadalquiver creeps away to the sea just as they did when Pizarro set out for the golden idol of the Peruvians. The anti-republicans, as a matter of course, absented themselves in order to punish the poor, who are generally opposed to monarchy. But the fact of Montpensier being still in Lisbon, and the magnates of Seville in Paris and London, the fair this year was poor and spiritless.

At Jerez de la Frontera, the capital of sherrydom, the fair was better than expected. Last year the first one was inaugurated in the midst of a stifling levantar; this year it was more pleasant and well attended. Each class of society had its club (casino), but the great army of the unwashed patronized the tents and the green plain to their entire satisfaction and the amusement of all.

Club No. 1 was the headquarters of the few remaining nobles, the rich wine exporters and the young scions of first class London houses, who spend a few years there studying grape juice and the secrets of the wine trade in general. If you have a codfish aristocracy in and around Fifth avenue there is a haddock aristocracy at Jerez. It knows nothing but the value of wine and the latest prices of the same. Unlike the codfish it is inhospitable, but excessively polite. Bows and smiles, *à la* Carker, are numerous; every one studies hypocrisy all are adepts at dissimulation.

The other clubs represented the small merchants and the artisans and were daily crowded.

Puerta Real—Port Royal—is the Saratoga of Cadiz. It lies in the midst of a pleasant country and annually has a fair which is well attended. It concluded on the 9th inst. with music and bag tumbling. The evening pleasures concluded with fireworks, &c.

At each of these fairs the best of order was observed, but no one knew when a fight might commence. The number of troops and *guardia civiles* was greater than usual, but their presence was not needed. The Spaniard never quarrels at a fair; he does not envy his neighbor's pleasures, and keenly enjoys all he can. It is among the people, not in the casinos, one finds out the public sentiment

Cuba is the absorbing topic; but how is it viewed by the rich and poor? The former assert that it is impossible to have an insurrection in Cuba unless sustained by the United States. The valor of the Cubans is pooh-poohed; the power of the United States is known, acknowledged and dreaded. There is not one of the aristocracy but believes that we are doing all we dare do in favor of Cuba; that we want it, but hesitate to offend France and England, who would resent our interference by proclaiming war against us and knock all our cities to pieces, &c. The venerable old fellows have sense enough to admit that France or England, single-handed, could not do so, but united they would capture the White House and Kansas City. No credit is given to General Grant for sincerity. He is judged by the standard that is used in Europe:—Lie as often as you can't be found out; take all you can; keep all you have.

The middle class is in a muddle about the matter. They don't want to pay any more for cigarettes than at present; but Kentucky and Virginia supplies them, and not Cuba. It would be bad to lose Cuba, but it would be worse to lose one's life in the attempt to keep her in subjection to Spain. They don't know what to think about the matter, but hate Cubans with a vengeance, and think the United States want to assist the "Ever Faithful Isle."

The "mudsills" don't care a rush about Cuba. They would not like her to cut away from the mother country, but they would give her an independent autonomy and haul off the epaulleted leeches who annually suck her best blood to the tune of millions of hard dollars. Every one admits the wrong that has been inflicted upon this fertile island, but the old Spaniard is oblivious to all kinds of argument excepting *ultimo ratio regum*. Editors gravely assert that they discovered Cuba, civilized and colonized her. It does not follow, however, that she is to be robbed and scourged after paying for these triple favors per quarter, by every spendthrift from the Peninsula. The common people have sympathy for the Cubans, but in a country like this their sympathy is of no importance, and the *ad captandum* appeals in the name of Spanish honor and unity silences the friends of the brave Cubans. The great absorbing feeling among the upper classes is that General Grant is not sincere, but there is a kind of devil-may-care feeling among the lower tier of the human family.

The Spanish Crown—Dom Augustus of Portugal and His Chances—The Regency—Who Will be Regent?—Deliberations of the Cortes.

MADRID, May 28, 1869.

We received news on the night of the 23d from Lisbon which will change materially the prospects of Antonio, Duke of Montpensier, to the throne of Spain. The news reported that Dom Augustus, son of Dom Ferdinand and brother of Dom Louis, King of Portugal, is about to marry one of Montpensier's daughters, and that if invited to fill the Spanish throne Dom Augustus would with the greatest pleasure accept the honor. To confirm in a measure this report there was a paragraph which stated that the Portuguese government had declared that the telegram relating to the refusal of Dom Ferdinand was an individual act of Dom Ferdinand himself. The heads of the great progresista party instantly went into council. It has not yet transpired what the council agreed upon. During the whole week they have held secret sessions to discuss the regency question. Upon this head they disagree. A portion of the progresistas desire Espartero, another Prim, another Serrano. There is no doubt that Prim could obtain the honor if he could be induced to accept it; but he prefers the portfolio of War Minister to the title of regent. Serrano says that if the Cortes forces it upon him he will accept it, otherwise not. Whoever accepts it, whoever is elevated, will have but a brief period to enjoy its privileges; for the Cortes do not intend to take up the subject until the constitution has been promulgated, which will take place soon after the termination of the debates upon it. The promulgation will be made with great solemnity, and speeches are to be delivered to the several political factions by their respective chiefs. The project of a regency will be presented before the Cortes immediately afterward, and it is just possible that they may vote the king.

On the night of the 23d, as I previously informed you, the Cortes held a night session, which lasted from half-past nine o'clock P. M. to twelve midnight. The debates upon the project of the constitution were taken up. Without any discussion whatever upon them articles 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, relative to the succession of the crown and the regency, were passed. Chapters 6 and 7, containing articles 79 and 97, inclusive, relating to the Ministry and laws regulating the judicial power, securing trial by jury and the personal responsibility of magistrates and judges, were also passed without much opposition. The republicans since their defeat upon the government question have not taken part in any of the discussions, except upon the article relating to the formation of the Spanish Congress. They worked assiduously on this point, and were fortunate enough to secure thirty-six additional votes to their own number of seventy-one, failing only of eleven in obtaining a majority. The republicans voted for one house; the monarchists voted for two houses, the Senate and the Congress of Deputies, and their votes numbered 118 against 107.

The Spanish Press on the Seizure of the Tornado.

The seizure of the British steamer Tornado, off Madeira, on August 22, 1866, by the Spanish war frigate Gerona, a full account of which appeared in the HERALD of April 11, 1867, has given rise to a renewal of demands by the English government, not only for the restitution of the vessel, but for indemnification to the owners and crew.

El Universal, of Madrid, of May 25, has the following comments on the question:—

The English government, with the good intentions that characterize it in all international questions, now demands the restitution of the Tornado and also indemnification for the owners and crew. We suppose that these ridiculous demands will not be granted. England is always disposed to take advantage of everybody and everything, and it is time that she commenced to moderate her humor. We still recollect that in the war for independence the people of Spain bore more hatred to the English than the French, although the former were allies and the latter enemies. Verily, say we, "May the Almighty always deliver us from such allies!" Some firmness is, however, being displayed in the matter of the Tornado.

GERMANY.

Political Calm—Opinions of the Press—Danish Frontier Question—Emigration to Texas—Official Care for Emigrants.

BERLIN, May 28, 1869.

The press is high and dry on the otherwise fruitful topic of peace and war, owing to the present calm in politics. It labors hard to stir up a breeze, and does not disdain to revert to what happened nearly a year ago in order to show that the slightest incident may sever the bonds of continental harmony. It may be recollected that in the Prussian Diet last summer, when Bismarck pleaded in favor of confiscating the Hesse and Hanoverian domains, he spoke of a fortunate accident which alone had prevented the breaking out of war. It was a cheap way of rattling swords, and helped on his argument against king George. But the press here has now discovered that he must have had reference to the Spanish revolution and its having acted as a sudden check to the French government. In corroboration a note has been found which (August 28) was handed by the French Chargé d'Affaires to the Baden government at Carlsruhe, inquiring into the state of its relations towards Prussia and the North German Confederation. It is further averred that Baden, greatly embarrassed for an answer, next applied to Berlin for advice. Whether or not it obtained it is not known, but the sudden revolution in Spain changed the position of affairs and saved Baden a reply to the French note.

The belief that ere long a bloody war between France and Prussia is unavoidable has become more firmly rooted abroad than here. It should not be overlooked that both nations have gradually progressed in enlightenment, that increased intercourse and traffic have to a great extent removed old prejudices, and that, most of all, the people have become convinced of the foolishness of fighting for the ambition and benefit of dynasties. There are many here and in France whose interests lie altogether with the army and war, whose hopes of bettering their condition are based upon a grand national duel. But there are also in both countries vast numbers of honest citizens who fully appreciate the blessings of peace, knowing well that even success in war inevitably results in misery and thraldom of the people.

Another attempt to show the probability of war is made by the Moscow *Gazette*, which views Prussia as in a desperate position, arising from the growing dissatisfaction in its annexed provinces, and from which to free itself it may be compelled to declare war against France. In this event, says that journal, Prussia would be forced to offer substantial advantages to Russia in order to obtain its sympathy, and that would be the proper moment for Russia to regain its former influence among European cabinets. It further argues the necessity of military preparations so that Russia may be ready to speak a decisive word when appealed to, which will most likely be the case within a year. Her armament ought to be completed, though in case of war she may confine herself to military demonstrations, rigidly abstaining from actual participation in favor of either power. It may be admitted that some dissatisfaction is yet existing in Hanover and Hesse, though it is far from causing any disquietude to the government here, else King William would not go, as he does on the 23d inst., to visit and stay a week in these provinces. The above mentioned attempts of the press to kick up a dust are entire failures, made still more so by the late Austrian throne speech. Even that old question respecting the Danish boundary in North Schleswig remains dormant, and Prussia retains possession of the districts mentioned in the Vienna peace treaty, without any remonstration from other Powers. The guarantees which, according to article five of that treaty, Prussia is entitled to demand from Denmark in behalf of the German inhabitants of those districts cannot be given at Copenhagen, and it is quite evident that article five is a gordian knot, to cut which it would require an Alexander nowhere to be found just at present. It is, indeed, the best thing which Denmark can do to admit the force of a *fait accompli* and of the old saying, "Possession is nine points of the law," rather than continue to grumble and cry over spilled milk. That she has begun to take matters in good part was shown at the late occasion of the arrival at Kiel of the iron-clad King William I., which, in the Danish press, is spoken of as a miracle of naval perfection, admitting, at the same time, the unconditional supremacy of the North German navy. The *Dagbladet*, of Copenhagen, in its leading article says:—"While in 1864 we had successfully blockaded the Prussian ports of the Baltic, our navy is now fully eclipsed by that of North Germany, with its vast financial resources and in the possession of the excellent Schleswig-Holstein harbors." The same paper praises the superior discipline in the North German navy and complains of the bad management of the