AUSTRIA.

Count Beust's Special Report of the Condition of the Empire.

Compliments to the Independent Press of America and to Bismarck.

By mail from Europe we have the following important and highly interesting despatches from our special correspondent in the capital of Austria, dated on the 20th and 21st of December.

From Berlin to Vienna—A Herald Special Correspondent En Voyage—In the Austrian Capital—Street Scenes and First Impressions—Count Beust's Note—An Official Interview—National Reasons for a Candid Statement to Free America—Count Beust's Comments in the Herald on Count Bismarck's Statements to the Herald.

VIENNA, Dec. 20, 1869.

One great statesman of this Continent having spoken to the world through your columns, I thought that in order to "crown the edifice" the readers of the HERALD should, if possible, have the advantage of hearing what that other equally eminent statesman would have to say for himself. Thus, with the object of "interviewing" Count Buest your special correspondent left Berlin by the night express and travelled 100 German miles—upwards of 500 American—reaching Vienna late in the following night, after a journey of twenty and odd hours. We found the old imperial city, of which its inhabitants say

There is but one Vienna,

as gay as ever; its thoroughfares crowded by both sexes, a hum and bustle which almost equals that of Broadway; stores of the most elegant kind, their luxuriant show windows surrounded by the curious; court and aristocratic carriages and even public vehicles rushing over the excellent pavement at a vehement rate; theatres, hotels, coffee houses up to the full standard of modern luxury and splendor—in short, a metropolis every inch of it.

Will a NEW YORK HERALD correspondent travel 500 miles out of his way to obtain that which is likely to interest its readers, the great body of the American people? No! In such a case he will not care if the distance is 5,000 miles; will travel by ship, rail, stage or on foot, and consider wear and tear and expense as nothing if his efforts are crowned with success.

My first step was a visit to the imperial government Councillor of State, whose very polite and flattering letter was couched in the following terms:—

By order of his Excellency Count Von Beust, the Chancellor of the Empire, [illegible] ago you [illegible] supplied by letter, and in consequence of the communications kindly made by you. I have the honor to inform you that whenever your way should lead to this city his Excellency will see you with pleasure and be glad to make your personal acquaintance.

Untoward circumstances prevented this letter reaching me as promptly as its importance warranted, and the Count having in the meantime started with the Emperor Francis Joseph via Rutschuck and Varna to Constantinople, my first impulse was to follow him, it needs be, to Egypt. Reflecting, however, on sober second thought, how futile had been my efforts on similar occasions to keep up with the speed maintained by royal travellers, to say nothing of the difficulty of a stern chase, I curbed my impatience and penned a note to the above-mentioned government councillor requesting to be informed of a convenient time for the interview directly the Count had returned.

His reply, dated Vienna, the 15th inst., to the effect, "There is at present a likelihood of your wish being complied with," acted upon us as the finger-touch of the telegraph operator upon the key of his instrument. With the speed of lightning I made my preparations for the journey, and here I am, and have already had a most pleasant conversation not only with the aforesaid government official, but also with one of the highest functionaries in the Foreign Department and the right hand of the Chancellor. Now, may not the correspondent of the NEW YORK HERALD be allowed to ask himself the question and also answer it whether or not he seems to have come in time propitious to "interview" one of the greatest statesmen living; whether or not the affairs in Austria are such that Count Beust would have leisure time, consider it *apropos* and feel inclined to speak in type through the columns of the NEW YORK HERALD to the world. I must sincerely answer no, and no again. It is barely necessary to recapitulate the grave reasons which would warrant such a refusal. Here are a few of them:—

The empire is on the verge of a ministerial crisis. The Cabinet Ministers do not agree among themselves. Three, consisting of the Premier, Count Taaffe, Count Potockt and the Hon. Mr. Berger, are said to have determined to resign. The other five—Messrs. Giskra, Herbst, Plener, Hasner and Brestel—have drawn up a memorial, which they will lay before the Emperor, and make their stay in office dependent upon its being accepted by his Majesty. Internal conflict in nearly all the provinces, with mixed nationalities; no regularly organized opposition, inside or outside the Reichstag, but a wild chorus of the most heterogeneous demands; violent attacks upon the throne speech; the ultra Tchecks demanding the re-establishment of the historical kingdom of Bohemia, with the charter of 1618; the moderate Tchecks clamoring popular elections to the imperial Council, the Poles in Galicia unwilling to have such elections, as in that case they would be outvoted by the Ruthenes, but demanding autonomy for Galicia, that they may ere long make war upon Russia, for such is said to be their aim; to re-establish Poland, the Slovenes in Krain demanding a kingdom which has never before existed in that province, the ultra-montane party in Tyrol refusing military duty out side their province—where, then, can a constitutional party or a cabinet find a programme to satisfy all sections? It was justly said to-day by one of the Deputies in the Reichsrath that such an attempt, namely, to satisfy all, would surely result in dissatisfying all, and the Minister, Dr. Giskra, had no other reply to give than that all must look for a panacea within the limits of the constitution—that he knew no way which led alongside it, behind it or by a crook—only one straight way, and that was the constitution itself. There yet, too, is the Dalmatine difficulty to be combated, and what seems most fatal to your correspondent's object is the sudden resolve of the Emperor to leave his present residence at Olen and his expected arrival here to-night, which must naturally engross much of the Chancellor's time and attention. Nevertheless we keep up courage, and while awaiting what may be in store for us here I will give some of the views on Austrian affairs, such as obtained from the aforesaid high officials, who greeted me with extreme politeness and affability, and free of all bureaucratic stiffness would openly converse with me on the condition and policy of Austria.

From their statements I glean that Count Beust, this thoroughly gifted diplomatist, does not employ his vast power and talents in minutely controlling the government machinery of this empire of many kingdoms, states, nationalities and most diversified interests, nor, standing as an engineer by the safety valve, shifting its weight according to circumstances or fastening it down now and then altogether, but that he confines himself to keeping it in motion, merely superintending the regularity of its work and ever wakeful and with infinite skill and patience lubricating its wheels wherever he detects the least irregularity. At the same time he is constantly busy in keeping off all outside influences which might interfere with Austria's progress, settling difficulties between neighboring States in order to avoid Austria becoming involved in their dissensions—in fine, if we might hold on to the simile of an engine—he is that engineer always on duty, doing also the work of greaser, oil can in hand, to make everything work smooth and easy. He, notwithstanding, never pretends to know or foretell what the machinery of this great empire may ultimately accomplish, nor will he be held responsible for it. All he wishes to attain is to keep it in motion and let it work out its own destiny. A country of such vast extent and resources must develop itself by natural process, and with this idea the Count's shibboleth is: No hotbed culture; no iron will dictating the road Austria is to travel, and no other. It is one of the great merits of Count Beust that he thus acknowledges a will and mind in those to be governed, carefully observes the beatings of the public pulse, does not stimulate or otherwise interfere with it, takes cognizance of all symptoms, listens to all complaints, weighs their importance, prescribes the best diet without recourse to drastica—in fine, does everything to keep the system active, healthy and in working trim.

Such being a characteristic picture of Count Beust's activity, it may be found to differ essentially from that of another eminent statesman at the head of the North German Confederation, whose deeds are those of determined purpose and iron will, who does not disdain artificial growth in realizing his programme, *c'est qui coûte*, and never slackens the reins of power.

As to the "nationality question" in Austria, it is one of the most intricate nature. The non-German population, as the Schavonians, Poles, Ruthenes, Magyars, &c., previous to the introduction of railways, steam power and modern improvements were content to live isolated and indolent, leaving whatever work to the tardy Germans, who up to this day constitute almost exclusively the class of citizens, while the aboovemamed races know no other division than peasantry and nobility, to which must be added, as a formidable element, the Catholic clergy. In speaking of a "nationality question" in Austria, it must not be overlooked that its solution depends upon the enormous task of first raising a class of citizens. With citizens Austria is willing to try any experiment, give them any form of government most suitable to them—indeed, grant them autonomy and a most unlimited liberty—but what can it do where there are no citizens? It being an undeniable fact that the only element of civilization is and has been the German; that, geologically speaking, they have been and are the fructifying stratum of humus throughout the empire, is it not natural that the government should have looked upon it as alone able to work out a regeneration, should have called German capacities to fill offices and protected them in those provinces where they are numerically inferior?

The Magyars of Hungaria are a noble race, but beyond Pesth one finds them and the country containing only menials and nobility, almost in the same condition as 300 years ago, adhering to their old barbarous habits, mode of life and language. The same applies more or less to the other races, all typical of indolence and ignorance, and far outstripped by German industry and culture. Without literature, without the first conditions of civilized people, the Tchecks, Sclavonians, Ruthenes, &c., &c., demand to govern the minority of Germans. In Galicia the Ruthenes, more numerous than the Poles, demand to govern the latter. The Tchecks of Bohemia, 3,200,000, against 2,000,000 Germans, are split into the ultra and young Tcheck parties. The ultra are still in the hands of the clergy and nobility. While the young Tcheck party professes liberal sentiments, it is willing to live together with the Germans but demands equal rights, a general franchise and a popular vote for representatives to the Reichrath. As said before, similar difficulties exist in Moravia, and it would occupy many columns to state the grievances and complaints of all the seventeen provinces of Cis-Leithania. Indeed our government friend developed theories which proved him to be a disciple of the Darwinian theory, and which were gloomy as to the ultimate fate of these races.

Now, says the government party—and I give strictly its views—how can one satisfy all these clamors? We gave schools and universities to the Tchecks in Bohemia; but having none but German teachers they demanded what was impossible—that they should teach in the Tcheck idiom—with which they are not familiar. We established schools where both idioms are taught; then the Tchecks demanded that the German children should be taught in their language. As hardly any other but German teachers could be found, none but German schools would thrive, for there are no capacities among the indigenous races. For this reason there are at present no less than 5,300 students at the University of Vienna. It must be added that the noblemen of all these nationalities, not excluding even the German aristocracy, had one common interest in preserving their prerogatives, and keeping the other class, the menials, in darkness and subjection, in which they were zealously aided, of course, by the clergy. Hence this variety of conflicting interests, this constant agitation against all government measures, and, at this very day, the ministerial crisis, brought on by the indecision of parties, consisting of all shades of strict centralists, absolute federalists, ultra constitutionalists, moderate reformers, &c. The best proof of the difficulty of solving these vital questions is the work just published by Adolph Fischnoff, entitled "Austria and the Guarantees for its Existence." The author contends for a revision of the constitution of December 21, 1867, and for a new form of federation, in extension of the dualistic government, and as the only means of saving the empire from ruin; while Professor Dr. Unger, another honest patriot—named Count the future Minister of Justice—moreover a friend of Dr. Fischnoff, declares in to-day's public prints as follows:—"In answer to numerous questions as to whether I am connected with the political essay of my friend, Dr. Fischnoff, or at least agree with his leading idea, I feel compelled to state as I did three years ago, that I am a decided opponent to federalism in Austria. I consider the application of this form of government to Austria, the countries of which have been so long united in one realm, as inappropriate as it would be dangerous. The nature of federalism is union of that which heretofore was separate. In Austria it would be equivalent to the separation of that which heretofore was united."

I may now give you a synopsis of the remarks of that other high functionary I have referred to, made to me in the most open and well-meaning manner.

This gentleman first assured me of the Chancellor's willingness to grant the interview. Both he and the Chancellor had read the account of Bismarck's statements as given in the HERALD, and were intensely pleased with it. Without having heard the words he knew from personal acquaintance that the Count must have spoken exactly as reported, and he had seldom read a newspaper correspondence with greater interest. Count Beust, he said, had one great desire at heart. He wants to be friendly with everybody and save Austria from all complications which might interfere with its prosperity. As this was the obvious wish of the Chancellor he would most likely avail himself of the opportunity to express it through the distinguished journal at the head of the American press—the NEW YORK HERALD. The policy of the Austria government, under the leadership of Count Beust, was directed exclusively to home affairs, deprecating all entangling alliances, leaving aside all squabbles about legitimacy and abhorring the old system of joint action for promises of compensation—that unsound policy which has caused so much bitter experience to the empire. Occupied solely with the development of its internal resources, Austria seeks to live at peace, and can well afford to see other nations shape their own course. While the North German Confederation may consolidate itself, may carry out everything foreshadowed in the Prague treaty, it would be going too far to say that Austria could look on with indifference at its abrogation of the South German States. Austria, nevertheless, would not necessarily have to change her attitude if Count Bismarck, who well knew the disadvantages of such a step, should stretch forth his hand in that direction. Austria would then have to weigh calmly all the circumstances and shape her action accordingly. To a question of the writer respecting Austria's relations to the United States, they were very amicable he hoped they might become still more cordial.

I now took leave of this amiable statesman and accomplished gentleman, who again promised us his influence towards obtaining the desired interview.

Message from Count Buest—An Evening Hour and Important Work.

VIENNA, Dec. 21, 1869.

Count Buest's promise, made yesterday, has been rigidly fulfilled to-day. A messenger arrived inviting us to an interview with the Count at eight P. M. this evening.

What an admirable hour for an undisturbed audience with a statesman whose every minute during the day time is precious, and whose ante-rooms are crowded by anxious applicants. Should he have chosen the evening in order to favor me with a long and confidential conversation? For had the appointment been in the busy hours of the day it might be justly surmised that but a few brief remarks would be allotted to your correspondent; But, as the blind man says, "We shall see," aye, and hear too. May every word from his mouth be as a pearl, and may I be successful in picking them up for the benefit and information of the readers of the HERALD.

At the Ministerial Headquarters—The Meeting with Count Beust—Initial Compliments—Solid Business Preface—"Patience and Good Humor," and a Pleasant Dialogue—"I Cut Loose from the Past"—About Bismarck—The "Mighty Question" of Home—Personalities, Vituperation and Partisanship of the Press—The Nationalities—Dalmatia and Russia—Leave Taking.

VIENNA, Dec. 21, 1869.

Precisely at eight o'clock P. M., being the hour appointed, your correspondent drove up to the colossal square of Austrian government buildings, which, joined to the Hofburg or imperial palaces, cover a vast area of ground, and, not unlike the celebrated Kremlin at Moscow, present a most wonderful and gigantic group of beautiful ancient and modern architecture. Alighting at the lofty portals of the hall house, one of the palaces in which the Foreign Department is located, I was ushered by servants through several ante-rooms, waited in a handsome billiard room but one minute, and in the next entered the study of the Count, who welcomed me most politely and expressed satisfaction at my call, saying that the esteem and well wishes of the American people were to him of the highest value. As I alluded to the friendly relations between the two countries, he trusted they would remain so and become still more cordial after the completion of a treaty respecting military obligations of Austrian subjects emigrating to the United States.

Adverting to the colony of distinguished American residents at Dresden, his former dwelling place, he said it would be an excellent thing if many of them would come and stay at the Austrian capital, renowned for its *gemuthlichkeit*, gayety, wealth and fashion, as they would soon feel themselves comfortable in a metropolis which is being vastly improved, and would shortly rank inferior to none on the Continent. He mentioned the rapidly increasing railway net, which, when completed, will bring Vienna into the very centre of traffic between London and Constantinople, and, paying a compliment to the United States for the grand Pacific Railway, gave me an opportunity to speak of an impending enterprise of still greater magnitude, a ship canal through the Isthmus of Darien.

I now began to tell the Count how much the people of the United States were interested in the success of the great work entrusted to him, and how fervently they hoped that he would ultimately triumph over all obstacles. He replied:—"Patience and good humor are my best support in difficulties, and I can add that, having borne me through so far, they will never leave me."

CORRESPONDENT—I perceive, sir, that without these you would succumb under the immense burden resting on your shoulders. Though you have safely steered the Austrian ship of state through tremendous breakers, it is, nevertheless, a fact which you, Count, must be aware of, that you are one of the best abused men in the world. It is said, over and over again, that you have taken the helm of state in Austria for the sole purpose of getting, some day, even with Prussia. Now, the American people would fain know what to think of this.

Count BEUST—When I left my former country, after the defeat of 1866, and accepted office in this, I published a circular in which I stated explicitly that I had cut loose from the past, and, coming here a new man, perfectly free, would devote my experience and services to this realm. As honestly and fairly as this was meant it was understood by the people here, and they have proved it ever since by their willingness and desire to confide the reigns of government to my hands. As to thoughts of retaliation, they would be as unwise in a statesman as they are foreign to my natural disposition and character. I am a man of the most even temper, and as for injury or injustice done me, they are sunk in oblivion in the very next hour. Why should I have any feelings of bitterness against Count Bismarck? I don't harbor such. Were it so I might complain of the indefatigable attempts from that side to manufacture in this place public opinion adverse to me. Did not a late *Kladderadatsch* say of me that after misfortune men generally tumbled down stairs into a bottomless pit, but that I formed an exception, having tumbled up stairs into high position and power. Now, with my good-humored way, braced up by such an overwhelming measure of prosperity, could any one suppose me spiteful? I say overwhelming prosperity, for never, not even in the time of Metternich, has such unlimited trust been confided to an Austrian statesman. If I were now sitting in a railway carriage by the side of Count Bismark I would frankly say to him, "You are mistaken in thus judging of me, and in supposing that you must pay me back in that kind of coin. We are but too apt to judge of others by our own sentiments. You, Count Bismarck, may aim at a double object. The first might be really to show me up in the worst light possible. If you succeed in this, Count Bismarck, all right. I should then have to succumb, but thus far I am sustained by the confidence of the people, who, I may say, without self-glorification, have ever reposed unlimited faith in me. The second might possibly be to persist so long in reiterating these aspersions and bickerings that a portion at least of the well minded here may finally believe in the existence of a widespread opposition. At all events, Count Bismarck, I can stand it all and, remaining perfectly unruffled, have no grudge against you or anybody."

CORRESPONDENT—There is another very important question, Count, on which you would probably be kind enough to enlighten the American people. I mean Austria's relation to the Church of Rome.

Count BEUST—Oh, yes, a weighty question; but one which demands the greatest care and skill in handling. Consider what has been done already, how much of the Concordat has been abrogated, and how cautiously it had to be done in order to avoid collision with Rome. Are not many of our nationalities, at least all the lower classes of them, adherents of that faith? Must we not educate them first in order to let light break in upon them, and is not the task of educating nations one of the utmost difficulty? Let me tell you that we have made considerable advance in this direction, and cannot afford to take any step tending to endanger that which is already gained. We have, as you are aware, vast difficulties with the ultramontane influence in many portions of the empire, and it is the *nervus rerum* in most of our trouble with the Slavonian, Romanes and other races.

CORRESPONDENT—This touches directly upon the nationality question, which has assumed such huge proportions that I cannot take up any Austrian newspaper without finding it crammed with *pro* and *con* discussions on that topic.

Count BEUST—The condition of our press is by no means as satisfactory as it might be. Instead of seriously ventilating important political questions and arriving at the best means of their solution, as is done by journalism in your and other countries, they adopt the inferior tactics of dealing in vituperations and personalities, and thus forget the real cause at issue. So violently has this "national autonomy" question been brought forward that it has completely put in the shade the Concordat excitement, and individual dissensions have been mixed up with it in such a manner as to undermine the harmony of the Cabinet. Much fault must be attached to the venom of the press, and of all reforms this is the most necessary. Up to 1848 the different nationalities lived peaceably enough together. After the revolution, and with the setting in of the reactionary period, bickerings commenced which have slowly increased. The clamors of the Magyars of Hungary gave much engrossed the attention of us (the Count's) predecessors, though none of them had been able to find a remedy. One thing they considered unavoidable, namely, the protection of the German minority, and Count Schmerling's ingenious system of apportionment of franchise and qualifications of voters had answered its purpose most wonderfully. The increasing clamors of the non-German element were not hushed by the catastrophe of 1866; indeed, they became so loud in Hungaria, which, by ancient privileges and the compact mass of the Magyars, was the most entitled to be heard, that when entering office in Austria after the war I felt the necessity of grappling with the subject and determined, as the only means of quieting the country, upon instituting the present dualistic form of government. The ultra Magyar party, going still further in its pretensions, was successfully beaten; the moderados, or address party, willing to obtain reforms by petition, gained the upper hand; the Emperor was then crowned at Pesth, and great was the joy and general satisfaction. In doing this I had to revive the former constitution, which had been rather illegally suspended by one of my predecessors. But then when the Reichsrath was called in the Tchecklans of Bohemia and Moravia stayed away and would have no share in it. Now their affair has become the paramount question, and it is useless to deny that something must be done for them and their grievances. But here again you may see the want of judgment of our public press, and, I may add, of many of our public men and representatives, who waste time in endless rhodomontades without ever arriving at any tangible or practical result.

CORRESPONDENT—The prevailing idea is that there will be a ministerial crisis, followed by a *coup d'état*.

Count BEUST—It is all fudge and without the least foundation. Three of the ministers are willing to approach reforms in the best possible manner, which, as I have said, have become a necessity, while the other five adhere rigidly to the letter of the constitution and are not willing in the least to reach a hand to those who, of their own account, have excluded themselves from the councils of the empire. But this will not do. The "nationality" question is there; it has grown into such importance that we cannot shut our eyes to it, but must find a settlement for it.

CORRESPONDENT—Is there a probability of arriving at an equitable arrangement with the Tchecks, Ruthenes, Poles, Romanes and other nationalities?

Count BEUST—An arrangement would seem impossible where both sides are obstinate, or either of them determined to take advantage of the other. But this is a matter in which good sense will ultimately prevail. The old Diets must be dissolved, new Diets called, the elective franchise modified; in short, a conciliatory policy will have the desired effect.

CORRESPONDENT—Much obliged to you, Count, for these explanations; though I would like to ask if these are not internal difficulties with which you, at the head of the Foreign Department, and with so many other cares, have, strictly speaking, nothing to do?

Count BEUST—You are correct, sir; but here you have another instance of what my friends, or pseudo friends, expect of me. The latter say: these questions do not concern you, you should not occupy yourself at all with them; they don't belong to your department; while at the same time raging the soundly, they hold me responsible for the situation. If I happen to be at Pesth, I am besieged by Magyar, Slovack, Croat, Romans, Greek or Illyric petitioners; if here, by the North or South Schavonians, Poles, &c. Moreover it is evident that I, as Chancellor of the Empire, with the responsibility of securing Austria its appropriate position and influence abroad, must necessarily have a strong interest in its internal harmony and union. This, I trust, will be fully established though it must be the work of time. There are many means yet in store to satisfy all. After we have taken the recalcitrant by the hand and shown them our good will, we may give them the power they demand by conceding to them the alternate majority in the Reichsrag, and all may work well.

CORRESPONDENT—"Will you give the Tchecks a direct franchise?"

Count BEUST—It cannot be done constitutionally. Our first care must be to foster the German element. A general franchise would bring a clerical and feudal majority into the council, with which, to rule liberally, would be an utter impossibility."

CORRESPONDENT—But can you not amend the constitution?

Count BEUST—As expressed in the throne speech we can do everything within the limits of the constitution. But this is not the real difficulty, though it has produced a split in the Cabinet. The only remedy is to be found at home in those provinces; we must first reconstruct provincial Diets, better poise the rights of parties and be just to all.

CORRESPONDENT—With such equitable and humane views, Count, you are sure of success, and you may rely upon it the heart of the American people is with you.

Count BEUST—I highly appreciate their good opinion. I trust to overcome the great difficulties by patience and good humor.

CORRESPONDENT—How about the Ruthenes in Galicia and their conflict with the Poles of that same province.

Count BEUST—The Ruthenes are far more numerous than the Poles; we have thus to protect the rights of the latter. But, having once overcome all outside influence we shall experience no difficulties in that direction.

CORRESPONDENT—Does the little dark spot in Dalmatia cause any apprehension?

Count BEUST—Luckily it begins to vanish. Our latest accounts are very satisfactory. This whole trouble might have been avoided with a tribe of common sense and good will. The mountaineers of that province, although but a handful, are a brave and honest people. But they are rude and tenacious in their habits. Had the military law been fairly explained to them, instead of being suddenly forced upon them, had they been shown in a mild way that none of their rights were at stake, and that nothing was demanded from them but what every Austrian has to yield to, there would have been no resistance and no strife. The latter has been much magnified by the press, which in the absence of prompt communication with the scene of action in the fastnesses, and owing to the inability of correspondents to understand the Dalmatic idiom, have persisted in inventing the most prodigious stories. The poor mountaineers, forced by privation to leave their recesses, are now anxious to come to terms. With due foresight it might have been calculated that hunger would be a better pacificator than gunpowder.

CORRESPONDENT—Much has been written about Russian agitation in that province and Montenegro. Would you say, Count how your relations are with Russia?

Count BEUST—They, too, leave room for improvement, sir. Alas, these grudges! (Here the Count smiled.) If everybody would dare forget grudges as readily as I do! Austria's position during the Crimean war has not been effaced from Russian memory. How much wiser, is it not, to let the past slumber, and look to present and future?

CORRESPONDENT—With such sentiments, Count, you will triumph over all impediment and steer the ship of state into a safe harbor in spite of wind and waves.

Count BEUST—As to boisterous weather, I may say—though it is, perhaps, not right—that to have company in trouble affords some consolation. (Here we face it up with a smile.) Wherever I look on the map of Europe there is trouble in some shape or another, and often as much and more than here. It is different with the United States of America, that grand and prosperous country, which has proudly outriden the severest gales, and the present glorious condition of which inspires us with hopes of attaining for ourselves a similar future.

The sonorous tones of the clock striking the hour reminded me of the necessity of terminating the interview. I still lingered, however, as the Count's pleasant and open-hearted conversation was too fascinating to be abandoned by my taking the initiative. His allusion to the unparalleled prosperity of the United States caused me to speak of the enormous value it derived from emigration, to which Bohemia, too, furnishes her contingent.

Count Beust then mentioned that vast tracts of excellent and virgin soil could be found nearer home—in Bulgaria, for instance, through which he had passed on his late trip via Rutschuck and Varna to Suez. He pleasantly related his first acquaintance with sea sickness when starting from Aden, though he readily got over the nausea.

I now thanked the Count most heartily for his politeness towards me and the journal I represent, and as I asked permission to reproduce his words in type and send him a copy he humorously replied, "You are free to do it, sir; as free as I am in the habit of speaking my mind on all occasions." With a hearty shake of the hand and mutual well wishes, the Count repeatedly assuring me of the pleasure afforded to him by this attention on the part of the leading American journal, I retired from the great statesman's presence.

In conclusion I would observe that, inasmuch as Count Beust's efforts for Austria, thus far accompanied with signal success, are all for liberal government; inasmuch as he has paved the way for further liberal action by giving autonomy to the Hungarians, by freeing Austria from the chief fetters of the Concordat, by overthrowing a reactionary government and instituting once more parliamentary rule, he is fully deserving the sympathy of the American people. And here I am reminded of what fell from his Excellency Mr. John Jay's lips at the late American thanksgiving dinner at Vienna, in drinking the health of the Emperor of Austria he said:—

The next toast recalls to from our Western republic to this Eastern empire, where amid the historic reminiscences of other days we yet see a constitution whose liberality reminds us of our own—a constitution that reflects from Vienna and from Pesth the sentiment and influence of the nineteenth century. The equality of all citizens before the law, the equal admissibility of all to State offices; freedom of conscience, that priceless blessing; freedom of speech, that safety valve of discontent; freedom of the press, that mighty engine of reform; freedom of education, that grand conservator of popular intelligence; the inviolability of one's home and the right of emigration—these are among the constitutional features inaugurated in this imperial and royal government, which command our sympathy and respect. It is true that the Austro-Hungarian eagle has two heads, while that of America will never have but one. But the eagle of Austria, like our own, gazes [illegible] and our young republic have [illegible] heard the same lesson, and teaching the world by their example that national unity may be preserved, national strength recovered, national honor restored, national credit improved, and the contentment and prosperity of all classes advanced by a simple extension of constitutional liberty and popular education, and by that wise and fearless statesmanship which, without fear being right, harmonizes by conciliation and concession.

All the praise expressed for his Majesty is justly due to Count Beust. It is just two years ago, on this very day, that the constitution of December 21, 1867, was proclaimed through him and to it Austria owes her position and renewed stability.

The journals of this morning are lying before me. They all, without exception, discuss the precariousness of the situation. Eight portfolios are rendered up to the Emperor, who will preside to-morrow at a Cabinet council. I confidentially predict from the judgment I have had an opportunity of forming of this statesman, that the Count's vast genius will enable him to triumph over the present crisis.

One of the journals just attracting my notice, the *Vaterland*, organ of the reactionary and ultramontane party, leads off by calling upon all other parties to drop their differences and make common cause against the Chancellor, saying:—"After we have turned him out we might take up the fight again among ourselves."

These blind ultramontane know nothings are, happily, in the minority. The majority of the opposition even acknowledge the merit of that statesman, who has already made his mark in history.

MUSICAL REVIEW.

Properly conducted conservatories of music and concerts, like those of the Philharmonic Society, are the only means of educating the American mind up to a creditable musical standard. The former absorb all the young embryo artists of the city, and diffuse a knowledge and love of real music among all classes; for in those institutions, when under efficient management, trash is rigidly excluded. Pupils will have to go elsewhere to be initiated into the vocal or instrumental mysteries of London concert saloons or Parisian orgies. The Philharmonic concerts reveal glimpses of the inner temple of art, and encourage the neophyte to persevere in the right path, and not to be led away by the idle nonsense of Offenbach, Lingard, or even the blonde burlesquers. To a grand conservatory of music like that we have already in this city and to the Philharmonic Society we look for the regeneration of the public in music; for we can hope for little from such time servers as the publishers. The dissemination of healthful musical literature by means of the cheap series, so that all classes can have good works within their reach, is also a powerful auxiliary to the progress of the art. We may hope to see next season a revival of popular concerts like those we had before and oratorios by young social societies, as the old ones which hitherto monopolized the production of those works have apparently lost all interest in furthering the cause of music. The great Beethoven festival will, undoubtedly, do much towards arousing the public mind to take an interest in the divine art. Then only can we have the shelves of music publishers relieved of the petty trash which for a long time monopolized the place of classical and standard works.

Ditson & Co. publish the following:—

"La Reine des Fées Galop." Sidney Smith. A fine, dashing *salon* piece, with life and vigor in every bar, and within the capacity of any ordinary pianist.

"Home they brought her Warrior Dead." From Tennyson's poems. Music by Miss M. Lindsay. If it was to such music it would have seen much better to have left him behind. No wonder the warrior died.

"Winds Across the Sea," "I Know a Little Widow" and "Oriental March." Three compositions by Edward Mollenhauer. The first is a simple, charming little thing, with the impress of an artist's touch on it, and the second is coquettish as its subject.

"Cuban Grande Marche Militaire." E. L. Ripley. We fear that the Cubans would never gain their independence with such music as this to spur them on. It bears the marks of a musical tyro of the most limited order.

"The Wreath of Gems," "The Opera Bouffe" and "Pianoforte Gems," published by this house, are excellent collections of every kind of music.

W. A. Pond & Co. publish the following:—

Selections from J. Remington Fairlamb's *opera di camera*, "Treasured Tokens." This is the work which was lately brought out in Philadelphia by the composer. We can only judge of the music by its intrinsic merit, not knowing the effect it has in the opera. The opening male chorus, "Let us be gay," is exceedingly bright and pretty and a good augury for the rest of the opera. The next duet, for tenor and bass, is sparkling also. The *entr'acte, Recerie sentimentale*, is a graceful theme, in 12-8 time, with an appropriate arpeggio accompaniment. A scena and aria in the second act, "That song the language of my heart," for the tenor, is Wallace-like in melody, although the theme is evidently a reminiscence. Without particularizing the other selections we may say generally that the music is of a light, popular description, approaching finishness in many places, and it is even frothier than offenbach, without the humor of the latter.

"I've not Forgotten to Love Thee," song. D. Angelo. A simple, unpretending little melody, yet pleasing in its way.

"I Could Not," song. L. Albites. The same may be said of this, with the addition that it is very graceful.

"When the Corn is Waving, Annie Dear," ballad. C. Blamphin. Another of the same kind.

"We'll Sail the Deep," barcarolle. Albert W. Berg. A very beautiful little work.

"Dreaming Eyes Waltz." G. Operti. A charming waltz of the Godfrey order of themes, carried out in a musician's manner.

A three-voice service by Henry Millard. Without exhibiting much of the composer's melodic resources, will be found well adapted to the wants of Episcopal choirs.

SELLING THE STATE OF MAINE.—A very singular scene occurred at the State House in Augusta, Me., last Wednesday. A Mrs. Thornton, of Portland, had caused a notice of a sale of the State of Maine to be posted up on the doors of the State House, and at ten o'clock she proceeded to satisfy her claim by selling the Commonwealth. Several bids were made by the Senators and Representatives at fabulous sums, but finally the lady struck it off to herself and took her seat in the speaker's chair. As far as this went all well; but the time for the opening of the session had now arrived, and Mrs. Thornton was politely requested to come down from her position, but she declined to do so, saying that she had bought in the State and must stay and keep her position. Upon the clerk ordering the messengers to remove her *et e armes* a scene of great confusion caused. She utterly refused to be ejected by force. The members began to beg Mrs. Thornton to go out quietly, but she was deaf to their entreaties; she resisted fiercely, but was finally persuaded to retire and was last seen in the State Library looking up legal authorities to sustain her claim. The lady in question is regarded as demented upon this one subject, although perfectly sane on all others.

THE POSTAL TELEGRAPH SYSTEM

Newspaper Comments in Favor of the Measure.

The Great Monopoly of the Wires.

[From the Philadelphia Post.]

Hon. Alatt Carpenter, a rising man of the United States Senate recently said that if the liberties of the American people are more endangered by one thing than another it is in the growing power of monopolies. This remark, forcible at the time, and full of truth, has been verified anew by the events of the past few days in connection with the strike of the operators of the Western Union telegraph Company. This corporation owns a large majority—probably two thirds—of all the wires of this country, and controls many thousand miles more, including the connecting links with the Cuban and English Atlantic cables. It penetrates nearly every accessible nook and corner of the Continent. Its great aim is to control the entire telegraphic facilities of the land, and in pursuance of this policy it has for years exerted its gigantic power to prevent the establishment of opposition lines.

In connection with that other insolent and tyrannical, but now waning abomination—the Associated Press—it has attempted to throttle newspaper enterprise and dictate to the people what journals they shall patronize to obtain the news of the day. It attempted to check the progress of the nineteenth century by crushing out new Atlantic cables, and failing to prevent the landing of the French cable, has sent its agent across the ocean to buy or bully that company into a bargain whereby it will control both links between America and Europe. It manages its business in an insolent and unsatisfactory manner, sometimes refusing to send despatches and frequently delaying them to the great detriment of business men who are compelled to use their wires. It, in fact, treats the public at times as though it had no rights which a gigantic, unscrupulous monopoly is bound to respect.

As a natural consequence of this dangerous concentration of power the operating employes of the company have found it absolutely necessary to form an association for mutual protection against ill treatment and injustice. In this they have been wonderfully successful, as is evident by the unanimity with which the operators have left their instruments during the present difficulty. As to the merits of the existing strike, we do not see how there can be but one opinion, and that favorable to the operators. We remarked a few days since that strikes were at best a bad remedy for workmen to apply. None know the truth of this more fully than the members of the Telegraphic Protective League. They are a body of very intelligent young men, in fact, their business is of that nature which requires them to be such. They are accustomed to being upon the most courteous and friendly terms with their employers and patrons, and therefore they cannot but deplore the stern necessity which compels them in self-defence to turn out *en masse*, thereby incurring the wrath of employers and causing the public great inconvenience.

This such necessity does exist there is no room for reasonable doubt. There is great reason to believe that the company contemplate a general reduction of wages to make good their losses occasioned by a reduction of rates, which now successfully competing lines have compelled them to make. Knowing the power of the operators' organization they endeavor to steal a march on them by reducing the salaries of three operators stationed at the extreme western end of the line. Meeting with unexpected opposition it attempts to crush it out at one single blow by dismissing eight employes for resolving to stand by those whose pay had been cut down. The sequel [illegible] instead of accomplishing its ends, the great monopoly [illegible] itself confronted by a determined young giant which it will probably be unable to conquer.

Meanwhile a vast portion of the business interests of the country suffer great inconvenience and not a little actual loss, and the question arises, what shall be done to protect the people against the power of such a tyrannical monopoly? The readers of the *Post* have long been acquainted with the remedy and we trust this present experience will [illegible] a most salutary effect upon the [illegible] everywhere of the Postal telegraph system. The government has already experienced such inconvenience that Mr. Delano, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, desires the President to urge upon Congress, immediately upon its reassembling, the propriety of taking some action looking to governmental control of the wires. This is the only way in which the evil can be remedied, and the time is at hand when the blow should be struck and the great Goliath brought to his knees. If it were not for the Western Union being the grasping monopoly that it is we should have had more powerful opposition lines long ere this, and the present strike would not so materially affect general business. By this suspension we see more plainly than ever its tremendous power, and if Congress does not make a due note of it it will be derelict in a most important public duty. And this is a question which does not affect a few, but the whole people. If the Western Union comes out victorious in this struggle it will make war anew upon all opposition and expend millions of dollars to strengthen its position and extend its power until it will defy the government itself to interfere with it. Therefore, while we would say to the Telegraphic Protective League, "stand firm; do not yield one inch to your would-be masters; you are fighting a battle in which all are interested, make no compromise," we would say to Congress, "Delay no longer; the time has come when you should raise the stern hand of legislation and break the power of the most gigantic monopoly known in American history."

The Great Benefits to be Derived.

[From the Montgomery (Ala.) State Journal.]

The subject of consolidating the telegraph business of all the people into one general system, under the control of the general government, will undoubtedly be one of the prominent topics of consideration before the present Congress. The measure is warmly advocated by most of the prominent newspapers of the country, and vehemently opposed by the owners of the telegraph companies and their allies. When it comes up for consideration we may expect a furious war of words, but its friends are evidently gaining fast in numbers, and have unquestionably the best of the argument. If it is proper and right for the general government to take charge of the mail service of the country it is eminently fitting that the same general control and management should be extended to telegraphing, which is but another form of correspondence.

The business of telegraphing has grown beyond the utmost expectations of its inventor, and the use of the wires is almost a daily household necessity. Yet, favored by circumstances, and by the immense profits resulting from the business, its whole control is in the hands of a few men, whose combined power and wealth enable them to bear down or buy off all opposition, and secure them in the possession of a monopoly which amasses large fortunes for them at the expense of millions of their fellow citizens. The heavy reductions recently made in the tariff of charges upon messages sent over the wires proves conclusively how great a tax the proprietors of the lines have for years levied upon the business necessities of the people, and clearly demonst