EUROPE.

Queen Isabella's Abdication of the Crown of Spain.

Her Ex-Majesty's Mistake in Going to Paris.

The Conspiracy to Explode the Gibraltar Magazine.

An American on Trial and Sentenced in Germany.

By the European mail at this port we have the following special correspondence in highly interesting illustration of Old World affairs to the 2d of July.

SPAIN.

Queen Isabella's Abdication—Her Majesty's Mistake in Going to Paris—The Attempt to "Blow Up" the Gibraltar Magazine—Gossip in Madrid.

MADRID, July 1, 1870.

You will no doubt have heard already of the solemn abdication of Isabella de Bourbon in favor of her son Alphonse. This step, like the candidature of Montpensier has been taken too late. Montpensier should have put up for the crown immediately after the battle of Alcolea, though he took no active part in it. Queen Isabella should have abdicated in favor of her son, at San Sebastian, before retiring to France to lose the little authority and prestige that she possessed. The Queen has abdicated in favor of Alphonse, but I presume she feels that little good is to come of it. Her day of power is past and I have no doubt she has often in her banishment called to mind Calderon's drama of the "Cisma de Inglaterra," and repeated the touching lines:—

Aprended, flores, de mi,
Lo que va de ayer a hoy:
Que ayer maravilla fui,
Y hoy, sombra mia no soy!

Like Catharine of Aragon, in the drama, no doubt the deserted Queen has also called even on the flowers, however short may be their duration, to take a lesson from her and mark the change from yesterday to to-day. One day the sovereign power of the land; pampered and flattered by her vassals, receiving homage almost bordering on the idolatrous; the day after a flying fugitive, hissed, hooted and execrated.

The Queen's abdication has been the subject of very little talk and less discussion here; the people appear to look upon it with the same quiet indifference as they did when the self-titled Carlos VI. abdicated in favor of the present Don Carlos—calling him Carlos VII.

TO BLOW UP GIBRALTAR.

I have received a letter from one of my Gibraltar correspondents in which he gives particulars of an attempt to blow up the garrison of that city. It appears that an elderly man, the party engaged to fire the train, like one of the conspirators in the famous British gunpowder plot, informed one or two of his most intimate friends of the proposed plan so as to keep out of the way of danger. Those had others whom they also warned and so the secret leaked out and the plot was discovered. The news spread over the city like wildfire and the greatest consternation prevailed. Many families crossed the Spanish lines and went to Compamento and San Roque, expecting every moment to hear an explosion and see the place fall in ruins.

The man that was to have fired the train was immediately put under arrest and all suspicious persons watched. Military piquets doubled their forces and a thorough examination of all the powder magazines and powder chests was at once commenced. Many had been tampered with, and especially a large magazine on the New Mole Parade. This is the principal magazine of the garrison, and on being carefully examined tubes were discovered from the outside that, after passing through the masonry, communicated with the powder. A large quantity of touchwood and tinder was also found inside the building. All the convicts were kept in their establishment, with extra guards set over them. During the night numerous military and police patrols paraded the city.

The active measures and precautions adopted by the government have tended considerably to tranquilize the fearful anxiety naturally felt by the inhabitants. My correspondent tells me that all is now quiet. Various have been the speculations of the citizens as to the orig n of the conspiracy; some have attributed it to the Spaniards, others to the Fenians, and not a few to the convicts. The man under arrest refuses to make any declaration, and some persons have considered him as half crazy. Be this as it may it is evident that he has confederates in the garrison and among the troops, otherwise the preparations in the magazine could not have been made. Your correspondent, having lived for a considerable period in Gibraltar some years ago, can inform you that the greatest vigilance is kept over all the arms, powder chests on the batteries, and powder magazines. They are all examined daily. Any one even approaching cannon to examine it is at once ordered by the sentry to stand off. In fact, if the fortress were besieged more minute precautions and greater care could not be taken. I have known the magazine that was prepared for explosion to contain upwards of 160 tons of gunpowder. It is from this magazine they supply Malta and the British Mediterranean squadron.

Some suspicion has been thrown on the Spaniards, no doubt on account of their desire to get possession of what once belonged to them, and which the majority maintain still belongs to them, notwithstanding the fact that in the treaty of Utrecht (February, 1712), Carlos V. of Spain formally ceded it, with its castle, port, fortresses and all that belonged to it, to the crown of Great Britain. Therefore whatever might be thought of Admiral Sir George Rooke's capture of the Rock, in August, 1704, that act was legalized by the Spanish King and government in 1712. This suspicion attached to the Spaniards may perhaps have been strengthened by the fact that lately some correspondence has been exchanged between the two governments respecting the cession or exchange of Gibraltar, which project has been approved and is supported by many politicians and other men of note in Great Britain.

For various reasons I consider such suspicions as without any foundation. If peaceful negotiations are *sur le tapis* for the cession such an open act of violence would at once put a stop to them. If a *coup de force* were contemplated Spain would have found a pretext for sending large quantities of troops in the neighborhood so as to second the explosion and its terrible consequences by a prompt and vigorous attack, whereas the number of troops in the south of Spain is comparatively small. The convicts have not been much suspected, and the usual gangs of prisoners that worked in different parts of the Rock have been detained in close confinement. I cannot see good reasons for suspecting the convicts; for, in the first place, they have neither the means nor opportunities of making the preparations discovered, and, secondly, their own establishment is so close to the grand powder magazine that in case of its being fired they must have all perished. On the face of the particulars received it would appear that if the plot had not its origin in the artillery corps, at least it has its associates there, for I defy a powder chest, much less a magazine, to be tampered with without their help, connivance or consent.

Whether they be Fenians or traitors sold to the Spaniards, or friends of some of the convicts, time only will show; but one thing is certain, if the powder magazines have been tampered with and mined, so have the men of the artillery corps. The sacrifice of life and amount of damage that would have been caused by the explosion cannot be conceived, much less written. The result would indeed have been a horrible page in the annals of the already bloody history of Gibraltar, a stronghold that, from the earliest records, has ever been an object of contest.

FRANCE.

The Uniform Coinage Question—Commercial Necessities for the Reform Standard—Orleanism and the Royal Exiles—Parliamentary Progress—National Finance.

PARIS, July 2, 1870.

Energetic efforts have been making for several years past by enlightened men in both hemispheres to accomplish a truly desirable reform in the coinage of money. In the commercial age in which we live it is an urgent necessity to settle on some uniform coin that shall have the same value in the various nations of the civilized world. Such a result would not only be a source of infinite convenience to all the great leading nations, tending to increase by facilitating their transactions, but it would also be a means of enlarging the profits of trade by saving the vast amount now paid for the differences in the exchanges. These commissions paid to bankers and money dealers for no other work than computing the well known dissimilarity in the value of the various national coins of Europe and America are so considerable as to involve the certain and obstinate resistance of this influential class to any attempts to abolish this profitable branch of business; yet the probabilities increase every year that this great reform will be carried out notwithstanding.

It is only necessary that the three great nations at the head of the commerce of the world—England, France and the United States—should decide on the adoption of some particular coin of equal value in each to force the rest of the world to carry out the same monetary policy. It may not be generally known that active and persevering endeavors are making to induce the three governments in question to come to a final resolution on this vital point, and within the last few days the chance of an early solution has greatly increased. A commission of distinguished persons, appointed some time since by the French government to investigate this important subject, have just decided on two essential steps—first, to recommend that hereafter gold shall be the only legal standard in France, instead of gold and silver, as hitherto; and next, that a new gold coin of twenty-five francs should be issued, of equal value to the English sovereign. There is little doubt that laws will soon be passed to carry these important suggestions into effect. In that case a uniform coinage will be established between England and France, vastly to the commercial benefit of both. It will then remain only for the United States to strengthen this great reform in monetary legislation by slightly modifying the value of our half eagle, and we shall have henceforth a common standard of value in these three leading countries. The half eagle is a trifle heavier than the English sovereign, and consequently of the proposed twenty-five franc new French coin; but if France is willing to issue a new coin in the face of the prejudice and opposition to so great an innovation it is to be hoped that our government and people will exhibit equal sagacity and love of progress by adopting the required steps to perfect this great measure of a uniform international coinage. Great credit is due to M. de Parien, President of the Council of State, for having accomplished so much towards a solution of this great question in France; for, strange to say, there is no other country in Europe where it is so difficult to break through usage and overcome the obstinate resistance of routine. No less praise is due to one of our own prominent citizens, S. B. Ruggles, of New York, whose zeal and assiduity have known no bounds in pressing on to a successful conclusion one of the greatest reforms of this commercial century. The present Chancellor of the English Exchequer has displayed no less energy and astuteness in giving his skilful co-operation to all that has been done to consummate this grand scheme of a uniform coinage.

ORLEANISM.

In the dearth of other topics unusual prominence has been given to a petition sent over to the French Legislature last week by the princes of the exiled Orleans family. After the fall and flight of the late King Louis Philippe a law was passed by the Republican Assembly of 1850 banishing his family from the soil of France. Notwithstanding this proscription the family have been allowed to draw the revenue of their large property in this country, saving a certain portion of it that was confiscated in 1851, as it was proved to belong to the national domain and had been illegally appropriated by the ex-King. There is not the slightest probability of the Orleans family being allowed to return to France, for various reasons. Truly it was not this government, but the republic that exiled them. Next, there is no sympathy for this family either in the Legislature to which they have appealed or in the country which the members represent. Again, it is remembered that this very family of Orleans passed laws of banishment on their own cousins, the older branch of Bourbons, in 1832, and they always refused to admit any member of the family of Bonaparte who had been exiled after the downfall of Napoleon I. It is thought here very presumptuous of the Orleans family, after such antecedents as these, to come forward and demand as a right their return to France. The claim in other respects is regarded as absurd, as it is evident their only purpose in seeking to take up their abode in France is to engage in conspiracies to upset the present dynasty and substitute themselves in its place. This country has had enough of conspiracies and disorder by republicans and socialists for years past, and now that the late almost unanimous expression of national feeling in favor of the actual government has guaranteed the future tranquillity and prosperity of the land, it is not likely that any head will be taken of the frantic proposition of these Orleans pretenders. In these days of universal suffrage the vocation of a pretender is really gone. The only chance the Orleans people have of ever getting to the "top of the heap" again in France is to be duly elected by a plebiscite, and of that there is mighty little prospect for a long time, if ever. The Bonapartes are more popular than the Bourbons in France, and likely to remain so.

AN EX-QUEEN.

Isabella, the ex-queen of Spain, is living in Paris, as you know, and after a long struggle she has made up her mind to abdicate in favor of her eldest son, the Prince of the Asturias. Very little notice has been taken of this sham ceremony; for who in Spain or out of it cares whether she abdicates or maintains her claim to a position she has utterly and forever lost? If her son were grown up her chances of recovering the Spanish throne would not be by any means desperate; but he is only twelve years of age, and that is a serious impediment to his restoration.

PARLIAMENT.

The Legislative Chambers are still sitting, but not doing much work. The Lower House is hammering away at some small measures of no great moment, such as the new mode of electing the Mayors. The members are all anxiously waiting for the presentation of the annual budget, or appropriation bill, as we call it, which will no doubt bring on a lively discussion. There is an earnest determination on the part of the Legislature to cut down the extravagant expenditure of former years and so to lighten the burden of taxation. This seems to be the general tendency of all nations now-a-days, for Prussia, England and the United States are all engaged in the same salutary process. The only substantial fault of the Napoleonic *régime* has been a too lavish outlay of money, but the Emperor may proudly point to the wonderful and beneficial improvements of all kinds he has effected to justify the great increase of the national debt during his reign. Still there may be too much of a good thing, and it is admitted that the time has come for greater economy and less taxation. The Chambers have now the complete control of the national purse-strings, and they mean hereafter to scan most carefully every item of the budget. The Deputies of the opposition will be sure of the hearty support of public opinion if they take judicious exception to all doubtful and unjustifiable expenditure, but the government, knowing this, intend to give them as few opportunities as possible to show their teeth. All the different Ministers are puzzling their brains to cut down and lop off every kind of expense that might be considered unnecessary or extravagant, and this is the reason why the budget has not yet been brought in. Thiers is waiting for it with impatience, for no one excels him in financial disquisitions and nothing affords him such keen delight as to display alike his mastery of the subject and his ability to annoy and worry the government. We shall have some fine parliamentary tilting when this debate comes on, and above all a splendid set-to between Thiers and Ollivier, who owes the former a heavy grudge for his repeated attempts to upset him. It was suspected here a little while ago that the Emperor was disposed to get rid of his new constitutional Minister, Ollivier, and his rivals rubbed their hands in glee and set to work intriguing in every imaginable way to precipitate his downfall.

One in particular, Clement Duhernois, who, besides being a deputy, presided over a journal which is said to be the property of the Emperor—I mean the *Peuple Français*—did not hesitate to attack him savagely, expecting, no doubt, every day to hear of his resignation. But "the poisoned chalice was commended to his own lips," for it was suddenly intimated to him that he had better give up the direction of the said journal, which he was, of course, obliged to do, and another person has taken his place, who treats Ollivier with the greatest possible respect. It is plain from the latter incident that the Emperor is not by any means desirous to lose the services of the "Minister of January 2d," as he is generally called, and there is every prospect he will maintain his place for some time longer, to the chagrin of his jealous and bitter detractors. He is a very able man and overflowing with dauntless pluck. He meets his opponents more than half way, and neither asks nor gives quarter. There is no one yet who has assailed him but had to regret his temerity.

A Pamphlet for the Orleans Princes—May be a "Straw" but Significant—Napoleon and Cavaignac—An Unfortunate Financier.

PARIS, July 3, 1870.

A pamphlet has made its appearance here which, if it be not suppressed, may attract considerable attention. It is entitled, "*Lois d'Exil Contre les Deux Branches de la Maison de Bourbon*," and is written by M. Dégouve Derungues, one of the principal Orleanist agents in Paris. In a recent letter I told you that the government would decide against the request of the Princes of Orleans to return to this country, on the ground that Louis Philippe had refused a similar request made by the elder branches of the Bourbons. It should be borne in mind that the law against the elder branch passed the Chamber of Deputies 10th April, 1832, when Louis Philippe was King, the revolution having taken place in 1830. The law against Louis Philippe and the Orleanists by the republicans bears date 26th May, 1848. Now without doubt it will be proposed in the Chamber to abrogate both of the above *Lois d'Exil*, but the law will not pass. M. Dégouve Derungues, of course, in taking up arms for the Orleans Princes selects the most vulnerable point for attacking the imperial government. The weak spot is a manifesto published by the present Emperor in the spring of 1849, when he started for the Presidency against General Cavaignac, of which the most salient passage to be made the most of by Orleanist partisans is the following:—"I, who have known exile and captivity, demand, with my whole heart, the day when the country shall, without danger, be able to do away with all proscription and efface the last trace of civil discord." The opponents of the Emperor will ask now, now that order has been established, after eighteen years of imperialism and parliamentary government established, the Emperor can refuse to consummate his heartfelt desires as expressed in 1849. To speak candidly, his Majesty feels uncomfortable with respect to the question and how it will be turned. Whether the pamphlet will be suppressed, which is probable, or what other course will be adopted it is impossible to say.

THE MISSION TO WASHINGTON.

My attention was attracted by a "slip" of a leader from the *Cosmopolitan*. It was forwarded by post to the *Constitutionnel*, and, of course, other journals. It is headed "M. Prévost-Paradol—The Orleans Princes." I should not allude to it but that you may probably read the article in question on the other side of the Atlantic, and may be prejudiced against the newly appointed French Minister to the United States. Personally I know him not, but he is admitted to be a man of great talent, and will, if I mistake not, become a favorite in Washington. The *Cosmopolitan* commences, "If the French government should appoint Victor Hugo Ambassador to England, or Henri Rochefort Minister to Belgium, it would only be acting in harmony with the policy that sends M. Prévost-Paradol to Washington." It is straining the point, indeed, to compare Paradol to Hugo or Rochefort. M. Prévost-Paradol was a steady opponent to personal government, it is true; but he has not been bought off by being sent to Washington. He rallied to the Emperor immediately a parliamentary government was established. The allusion to his birth is purely bad taste. With regard to the Orleans princes in the passage, if they will "shut up their subsidized newspaper organs' and distress the whole army of 'penny-a-liners,' so long employed in abuse of the Emperor, let the petition be at once granted."

NAPOLEON'S GRIEF FOR CLARENDON.

Although the death of Lord Clarendon has called forth unanimous expressions of regret on this side the channel, it is an event of no political importance. The Emperor mourns his loss as that of a personal friend. Yesterday I was told by a gentleman that his Majesty was really so ill that his best friends were seriously alarmed. I have made special inquiry. There is no ground for the rumor, "the Chief of State has not entirely recovered from his attack of gout, but is otherwise in good health."

LOST HIS PAPERS.

M. Mirès publishes the following letter to Monsieur Grandperret, *Procureur General*:—

The Court (Chamber of Appeals), in its decree of the 15th instant, attests the honesty of MM. Chaix d'Est-Ange, father and son; in order to exculpate them from wrong the decree cites two documents, with which I wished to be made acquainted; I have, in consequence, demanded that the *dossier* (file of papers) should be produced. To my great surprise these papers have been extracted! I beg of you, Monsieur le Procureur Impérial, to kindly have them replaced. One of these documents consists of the expense book of Madame Chaix d'Est-Ange, since dead; the other is a letter from the *bâtonnier* of the order of barristers, declaring that the conduct of M. Chaix d'Est-Ange (the son) is free from blame, and that he need not pay attention to the calumnious imputations of which he is the object. The Court, in order to contradict me and to justify the condemnation that it has pronounced against me by default, having made use of these documents, you will find it to be loyal, I hope, to order that they shall be produced, and for this end replaced in the *dossier*.

M. Mirès has decidedly the bump of perseverance fully developed. After repeated defeats he returns again to the charge with redoubled vigor. The accusation he now makes is most serious. In the judicial world the the judment of the Court of Cassation with respect to the Mirès affair has made considerable stir. The complaint brought by M. Mirès against certain magistrates of the Cour Impériale is a novelty in the judicial annals of the present generation. But once since 1808, when the code d'instruction criminelle was compiled, has the Court of Cassation been called on to exercise its power with respect to a similar charge. Since the year 1861 M. Mirès has been constantly engaged in a struggle with the courts of law. During the past eight years he has had in view but one object—the revision of the report made by M. Mouginot, the expert, the examination of the annex, in consequence of which he was condemned, and which, according to his view of the case, is a forgery fabricated by order of M. Chaix d'Est Ange. The obstacle preventing the attainment of this end, and which they oppose to him with as much persistence as that which he uses to put it aside, is the order of the Chamber of Accusation, given in 1863 under the presidency of M. le Conseiller Bethelin, declaring that the charge brought against the expert Mouginot was unfounded. This decided the question. Against this judgment M. Mirès directed his new attack. On the 23th August, 1867, the complainant was condemned to five years' imprisonment in consequence of certain sales inscribed in M. Mouginot's *annexe* and which constitute "swindling." M. Berthelin was one of the judges. In 1869 the Chamber of Accusation, presided over by M. Berthelin, formally declared that in the *annexe* there is not one word concerning the sales in question. M. Mirès believed that this decision gave ground for the forfeiture provided for by article 183 of the Penal Code, in the event of a judge deciding unfairly, either by favor or hostility. His complaint, however, was rejected by the Court; but the question remains in reality intact. The law only admits the denunciation against a magistrate when appertaining to a prosecution actually pending before the Court of Cassation, and on this ground the present complaint has been dismissed.

THE CROPS AND HARVEST.

Last Monday morning a "southerly wind and a cloudy sky" did not proclaim a hunting morning. For once the old song was at fault and out of season. We have been so long hunting for clouds that at last we really flattered ourselves that we should "find." At half-past six A. M. by the best stop-watch in Paris the gray sky distilled a fine and penetrating rain, similar in character to a Scotch mist, which lasted eighteen minutes; but the pavements were dry again before the last drops had fallen. During the past two months we have suffered from a *secheresse* unparalleled in France within the memory of man. The rain which fell on Monday was not sufficient to moisten the ground in the environs of Paris. Reports from the north and some of the central districts of France are more favorable; rain has fallen in considerable quantity, and the heated atmosphere is cooled. We feel the effects and breathe freely.

Murders.

Two murders are (June 23) reported from France.

A military pensioner named Tardif, aged fifty, residing at Espenel (Drôme), murdered his father by striking him on the head with a hatchet. When taken before the Mayor of the commune Tardif rushed at that functionary and would have strangled him had not the bystanders interposed. The murderer had served in the army for twenty-seven years, and had received three medals and the Cross of the Legion of Honor.

At Passy a woman named Catin was living with her two children, one thirteen and the other nine, separated from her husband. The father introduced himself into the lodgings of his wife in the night, attacked her with a large butcher's knife, and the first blow must have killed her. He continued his murderous work, as more than thirty stabs were found in the poor woman's body. He then drew a mattress towards the door and laid himself down on it to await the result.

The Crops and Harvest.

A letter from Paris dated on the 26th of June, in the evening, says:—

According to official despatches received by the government the harvest, taking an average of the whole of the provinces, will be much better than was expected. In the Jura the wheat crop is fair, but the straw is very short. Barley and oats are very light, and the grass crops will not be a third of the usual average. In the department of the Loire the corn crops are said to be very splendid. At Albi and in the Gironde and Bazas the harvest has commenced. The crops will be pretty good, but there will be no straw. It is not too late for rain to improve the crops in some districts, but there seems to be little chance of its coming. In the provinces wheat has fallen twenty centimes, but in Paris the price of living is extraordinary.

GERMANY.

An American Trial—Assault and Battery on President Grant's Brother-in-Law—Consul Cramer and Mr. Lake in Leipsic.

LEIPSIC, June 28, 1870.

Considerable excitement was caused here by the trial of a young American, Mr. Alba Crotcheron Lake, from Memphis, Tenn., for assault and battery committed on the 7th of last month, in the office and upon the person of the United States Consul here, Mr. M. J. Cramer, brother-in-law of President Ulysses Grant, Mrs. C. being a sister of your Chief Magistrate.

It appeared from the evidence that on the above day Lake, who is twenty-one years of age, entered the Consular office and handed over to Mr. Cramer a letter wherein the writer, a Mr. Butler, friend and countryman of Lake, addressed to the Consul a request to deliver any letters for him in the office to the bearer. Having been told by Mr. Cramer that there were none, Lake, who had already reached the door to make his exit, returned and asked to have back the letter in question, but was answered that, it being addressed to the Consul, he would keep it in the office for further reference. Against this Lake remonstrated, insisting upon his right to Butler's note, but this being refused he suddenly snatched it out of the hands of the Consul and left the room. Pursued by Mr. Cramer, and caught in the corridor, he would not give up the letter on any account, and finished by stuffing it into his mouth. Mr. Cramer now released his hold of him, remarking that it was "by direct theft he had possessed himself of the letter, and that he would not allow thieves and robbers to cross his threshold."

The same day Lake made his appearance at the dwelling of the Consul, leaving a note with one of the domestics, in which he demanded a retraction on the part of the Consul, who, however, refused to receive the letter, and ordered it to be given back unopened to the bearer.

Two days later, at noon, Mr. Cramer, walking in the avenue, near the castle, was met by Lake, who, accompanied by a younger brother, at once struck him with his fist a heavy blow on the head which stunned him, and would have followed up the attack had he not been prevented and laid hold of by some of the passers by. He was subsequently arrested and brought to the military post of the castle. In his examination before the police he admitted all the facts, saying that he had been insulted by the Consul and "was bound to have his revenge." This statement before the court did not differ from the indictment except in Lake's assertion that the Consul had called him opprobrious names. The Consul having the quality of a *consul missus* and being, according to article 136 of the criminal law, an official accredited to the Saxon government by a foreign ruler, this assault was a case for the Criminal Court and jury and came on for trial June 24. No new facts were revealed at the trial. Lake saw fit to tell the jury that though he was aware of Consul Cramer being the representative of his country he would neither honor nor respect him.

The presiding judge then wished to be informed respecting the political charge held by the Consul. The latter replied that no political business had been entrusted to him during his comparatively short term of office. After a lengthy discussion as to the diplomatic character of consuls the State Attorney agreed with the counsel for the defence, Dr. Drucker, to drop that part of the indictment relating to the privileged status of the complainant.

In his charge to the jury the president characterized the assault as one of great brutality, the accused having been undoubtedly aware of the official capacity of Consul Cramer. The jury retired and shortly afterwards returned with a verdict of guilty, upon which the Court sentenced Lake to one year imprisonment in jail.

There is no appeal from jury trials in this country.

The galleries of the court room were crowded on this occasion; the majority of the audience was of the better classes, and the proceedings, which occupied four hours, were watched with great interest.

INCIDENTS AND COMMENTS.

The foregoing is a *resumé* of the reports contained in the Leipsic press. I am enabled to add some details obtained from creditable sources, and may also give the *pro* and *contra* view taken of the matter by the public here. Alba Crotcheron Lake, son of a farmer, went first to school in Canada; he then came over to England and France, staying some time in each country, and has latterly resided here for about a year, studying mathematics and German. He is of a rather bilious temperament, quick to resent an insult, whether real or fancied. After being arrested by the police and at the first hearing in the Circuit Court Consul Cramer objected to his release on the ground that several young Americans, in conjunction with Lake, were planning an attack upon him. Their malice and threats were due to the unjust belief that he (Cramer) had been active in causing the removal of the late Vice Consul, and they had determined to injure him as much as possible. Young Lake was thus kept in prison for four days, but then released after furnishing security to the amount of 500 thalers and pledging his word not to leave the city.

The above letter, written by Lake, and returned to him unopened, was read during the trial. It contained the demand that Consul Cramer should retract the offensive epithet. While at a previous examination Consul Cramer had denied having used any epithets at all he confessed to some at the trial, but swore positively not to have employed a very indecorous expression charged to him.

The defence having summoned the physician of the Consul, that witness declared that no injurious consequences had resulted from the blow. During the discussion as to whether or not the Consul was a diplomatic agent accredited to the Saxon government and authorized by a foreign ruler, the presiding judge asked Mr. Cramer for his credentials, to which he replied that he had left them in the United States. Counsel for the defence then produced a copy of the Consul's diploma, obtained from the Foreign Office at Dresden. It was an ordinary consular certificate issued by President Johnson, and admitted by Mr. Cramer to be a correct copy of the original. The judges having withdrawn to consider the question of diplomatic status—as in a case of bodily assault committed upon a diplomatic representative the Saxon statute awards up to ten years' imprisonment—concluded to leave this point for the decision of the jury.

OFFICIAL IMMUNITIES.

On the part of the defence it was shown that authorities, such as Wheaton and Walker, did not consider a consul as enjoying the immunities of an envoy or ambassador. The State Attorney then declared his willingness to drop the question, as there was not sufficient evidence of diplomatic privilege; he need not take any further share in the proceedings, as the accused could not be held liable unless upon the complaint of Mr. Cramer as a private person. The jury, having also denied this point, found a verdict of guilty upon the principal charge.

Consul Cramer being asked by the presiding judge if he wished to say anything previous to the sentence of the accused, replied that he would leave it entirely with the Court. There can be no doubt that if, at this juncture, Consul Cramer had withdrawn his complaint, Lake would have been acquitted. On the other hand, we know from good authority that Consul Cramer has repeatedly offered to drop the whole matter and withdraw the case if Lake would duly apologize for the assault. This he obstinately refused, though he was asked and advised to do it for his own good by prominent Americans here and in Berlin, where the Hon. Mr. Bancroft, Theodore S. Fay and others had heard of this matter.

ORATORY AND RELIGION.

As for Consul Cramer, it may be that among a clique of young American students he has not gained for himself that popularity which he is certainly enjoying in our best German circles. His social qualities, courtesy and good temper, and his constant readiness for the delivery of a speech—which is not the *forte* of the Leipsic bourgeois—are much appreciated here, as also are, by some, his religious lectures. I do not doubt that had the assault occurred at his office, and in the heat of passion, he would have consented to hush it up; but the fact of premeditated indignity having been publicly offered him, thus insulting not only himself, but the whole nation and every American travelling on the Continent, he could not do otherwise than let the law take its course.

It is hoped that young Lake may yet discover the serious wrong he has committed, and by duly apologizing obtain at least a partial reprieve of the severe sentence.

The Harvest.

"A Traveller," writing to the London *Times* from Homburg, June 27, says:—"The corn crop of the north of France, Belgium, the Rhine countries, Holland and Westphalia presents a most healthy aspect, although it seems certain that the yield will not be abundant. The hay crop has been a failure, and the meadows are everywhere so dried up that the farmers are selling their stocks for any price they can get for them. The roots are in an equally poor condition, and there will be a scarcity of food for cattle and of the raw material for sugar. I heard in French and Belgian Flanders that the cultivators of flax were everywhere complaining, but the hops were excellent. The vines in these parts are said to promise well. As a set-off against the failure of the cereal crops in the middle and south of France, I am told that the harvest in Hungary and the south of Russia is most abundant, and that preparations are being made on a vast scale for the transport of corn and compressed hay from these countries to France and England. I hear also that the United States will be able, as regards hay and corn, to supply any deficiency that may exist in Europe. You may think this worth publishing, as what I have said I have either myself observed or credible witnesses have told me."

IRELAND.

An Oasis in the Desert—A Lovely Village and Plenty of Work—Civilizing Surroundings—Man's Barbarities—A Landlord's Escapes—His Views of the Local System.

MOYNALTY, July 2, 1870.

The little village of Moynalty, Meath, is one of the most beautiful to be seen anywhere in Ireland. It is a perfect Auburn. It consists of several neatly built cottages, all of which are thickly overgrown with a luxuriant crop of ivy. Unlike most other Irish villages, it does not contain a single mud cabin, nor an inhabitant who is not constantly employed by the landed proprietors of the neighborhood, so that the laboring class in this district are very comfortable and well to do. Though comparatively new, the village has a very antique appearance; a simple, though venerable, church, with an ivy-clad tower, and large beech, oak and elm trees enclose it on every side. It is beautifully situated on the south side of a sloping hill, in probably the richest and most fertile district of a very rich and fertile county. The country around is extremely beautiful. Large green fields of the rankest corn and grass everywhere meet the eye. The foliage at this season is most luxuriant. Groves and woods are scattered here and there, and give the whole place the appearance of an extensive garden.

CRIME.

This district, so fertile and beautiful, has lately been the scene of several most cruel and wanton outrages. The agent of one of the best landlords in the county Meath was fired at here on two occasions, and, judging from what I know of these two attempts upon his life, I must say that his escape under the circumstances was most miraculous. I visited, in Mr. Gargan's company, the scene of the former of these outrages. The gate of the avenue leading to Mr. Gargan's house was always left open during the day, and closed only at night. It opened in the middle. On the evening of the outrage Mrs. Gargan, contrary to custom, found it closed, and closed in such a way that it would require some time to open it. She succeeded in opening it and passed out, leaving one of the sides closed after her. A short time afterwards her husband came up, walking at a rapid pace, and passed through without stopping for an instant. No sooner had he entered his own avenue than the slugs of the would-be murderer's musket were directed at him from a hedge on the opposite side of the way, and were fortunately prevented from taking effect by the bars of the gate, which his wife left closed only half an hour before. Only three slugs entered his person, and he may be said to have escaped this murderous attack upon his life almost without injury.

THE VICTIM IN INTERVIEW.

I was fortunate enough to find the gentleman at home, and to ascertain his opinion, at some length, as to the state of the country and the cause of his attempted assassination, in the following dialogue:—

CORRESPONDENT—I suppose you are a native of Meath?

Mr. GARGAN—I am. I was born in Moynalty, and with the exception of a few years I have spent all my life in this neighborhood. My duty brings me into personal intercourse with a large number of persons in this district daily, and although I may not be remarkably friendly with them, and make them act properly in their relations with me, I have never given any one the slightest provocation to attempt to murder me. Many persons have been evicted from this estate, and others have been turned out of employment; but I think all were treated as they deserved, though they may not think so. It is impossible to please all parties. The people, I find, are becoming more dissatisfied every day. What they would think a most extraordinary boon twenty, or even ten, years ago, would scarcely now be accepted. They are so suspicious that they consider favors are conferred from some interested motive, and not as spontaneous offerings of affection. I always find it the best way to be stiff and cool towards those with whom I have any dealings, for the more friendly I am with them the less respect they have for me. It is also a fact which I know from experience that the more favors you confer on them the more they will expect. Of course these remarks are not applicable to all, but only to a very few. There are not better people in the world than in this neighborhood, but there are a few tenant farmers as well as workmen who would take your life for the most trifling cause.

CORRESPONDENT—What, sir, do you think was the cause of the attempt upon your life?

Mr. GARGAN—Well, the people about the neighborhood suspected that one of the Lynches was the perpetrator of the outrage, and with that family I had some angry words about sheep. Lynch's house was only 150 yards from the scene of the outrage. Footprints leading from the spot where the shot was fired to the house corresponded in size with those of Daniel Lynch. When the police called at his house the morning after the outrage Daniel was in bed, and, being called, he was very tedious in dressing himself and endeavored to hide his right eye, which was injured. In answer to the police he said that a sore had come on it during the night, but it was "all right" the day before. The fingers of his right hand were also injured and his shoulder greatly bruised. A musket had been taken about a fortnight before from the house of a farmer in the neighborhood, and this musket, the owner said, was the instrument that caused these wounds. The two sisters of the prisoner said that their brother was absent from the house at the time of the outrage and came in shortly afterwards. These and a few other circumstances made the public suspect Lynch; but, for my part, though I may have some suspicions on the subject, I have never expressed an opinion.

CORRESPONDENT—What became of him?

Mr. GARGAN—He went to America. An informer named Magill turned up and implicated several persons as being concerned in the plot, and on the strength of this man's testimony Lynch was admitted to bail and afterwards went to America. Magill was found guilty of perjury and was sentenced to five years' penal servitude.

CORRESPONDENT—Were you not fired at a second time?

Mr. GARGAN—I was; but think whoever fired the second time at me did not mean to injure me. His object, as far as I am able to judge, was to let the public see that other persons, as well as Lynch, who was then in prison, had a spleen against me. I took, however, the necessary precaution to defend myself, and since the first attempt was made I have rarely left my house without being attended by a body guard of police.

MUTILATION.

In this district also another abominable outrage was perpetrated, which really is of a more wanton character than the attempted murder of Mr. Gargan. A poor farmer, named Dolan, having become unpopular with a certain party in the neighborhood, was visited by four strangers while tending to his horse at noonday in the middle of an open field. He was beaten very severely with sticks about the head, and one of them, when about to leave, pulled out a penknife and cut off his ear. Two of the party had their faces blackened, but the remainder, who were strangers, took no precaution whatever to hide their appearance from their unfortunate victim.

LOOKS VERY BAD.

The condition of this county, and also of the county Westmeath, is such, in my opinion, as exists nowhere else in the civilized world. There is at present a partial cessation of these outrages, but the altered state of things is owing more to the long days and bright nights than to the operation of the coercion act.

ENGLAND.

British Trade—Profits and Prospects.

[From the London Bullionist, June 24.]

It is many years since trade was conducted on its present large scale so noiselessly. For whatever reason, manufacturers do more work and borrow less than they did. So general is this that in the leading discount circles of London it is sometimes asked if it is true that a good trade is doing. The traffic returns of the leading railways, the Clearing House figures, the Board of Trade returns, all show that it is indisputably so. The reason is, perhaps, that weak manufacturers have been used up, and that business is more than ever in the hands of men of capital and energy. The Clearing House return of this week affords substantial evidence of the larger business now doing. It is an exclusively commercial clearing, and we will compare it with former returns of a like character. The total is £74,755,000. In the corresponding week of last year the total was £61,017,000, in 1868 it was £58,018,000, and in 1867 it was £54,787,000.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

Its Effects on the India Cotton Trade.

Messrs. Bioy and Mackintosh, in their weekly freight circular, dated Bombay, May 31, for England, state that during the first four days of the period under review (ten days) there was an active inquiry for Liverpool, and rates advanced 5s. per ton, and as the charter of a steamer reported last mail was cancelled shippers who had engaged room by her were compelled to come into the market, and rates in consequence again advanced. The Alice engaged 1,000 bales at £3 5s. per ton, the Stowell 400 bales at £3 2s. 6d., the Krishna 300 bales at £3 5s. and the large steamer Alabama 1,432 tons at £3. The market had an upward tendency during the next day, and small engagements were reported at £3 7s. 6d. to £3 10s., and no doubt these rates would have been maintained had it not transpired that two large steamers had been let out to arrive, viz:—The Petersburg, 1,700 bales, at £2 15s., and the Brazilian, 9,500 bales (since arrived), at £2 7s. 6d. to £2 15s. per ton. The French steamer Afrique then arrived, and as the quantity of cargo for the Continent was unusually limited shipping orders were issued by this steamer for Liverpool at £3 per ton for prompt shipment. On the 27th inst. telegrams from Liverpool reported the cotton market declining; the demand for steam freight thereupon became dull and rates declined 5s. per ton, and the Alice, having carried more cargo than had been provided, was compelled to accept £2 10s. for immediate shipment to fill up. The market closes without much demand. The Austrian Lloyd's steamer Sphinx has booked cotton for Trieste at £2 12s. 6d. to £2 15s. per ton.

The following steamers laden with cotton have sailed for Liverpool since last report:—Neera, with 9,267 bales; Bengal, 3,232; Adalia, 5,070; John Dryden, 4,931; Lady Clive, 3,300; Alice, 5,093; Stowell, 5,000, and Krishna, 4,500.

AFRICA

News from the Cape of Good Hope—Diamonds and Trade.

The Union Company's Cape mail steamer Briton arrived at Liverpool June 24 with the Cape mail. Her dates are Table Bay, May 20; had twenty-five sacks of mails and a large general cargo, including 988 bales of wool, two cases of specie and one case of diamonds.

General Sir P. E. Wodehouse returns to England in the Briton, after having been Governor and High Commissioner at the Cape for over eight years. The Cape papers say there was little manifestation of regret at Sir Philip's departure; this, they say, arose from the unpopularity he acquired through the unfavorable circumstances he had to contend with during his administration.

Lieutenant General Hay is to be acting Governor of the Cape till the arrival of Sir H. Barkly, which is not expected to take place until about the end of this year.

The diamond fields on the bank of the Vaal are turning out a success, and a large number of diggers are at work, with excellent results. The white community located there have formed laws and appointed a vigilance committee and agreed to be governed by them. No brandy wagons are allowed to trade within two miles of the encampment. One diamond, worth £1