EUROPE.

Important Declaration of the French Soldiers in Germany.

LETTER FROM PRINCE NAPOLEON

English Press Opinions on the Anglo-American Commission.

The Desperate Straits of Bourbaki's Soldiers in Switzerland.

The Cunard steamship Russia, Captain Cook, from Liverpool, February 18, via Queenstown the 19th, arrived at this port yesterday morning.

Addresses from the population of Savoy, requesting the establishment of the Duchy of Savoy as a neutral State, have been received at the German headquarters, Versailles.

By order of the Emperor the inhabitants of the part of St. Denis belonging to the neutral zone not provisioned by Paris have received 15,000 daily rations from the German stores.

The smallpox is committing fearful ravages throughout the Netherlands, and the general anxiety is augmented by the dangerous state of the dykes in some parts from the great accumulation of ice in the rivers.

The report that the introduction of the Slave elements into the new Austrian government indicates the commencement of a pro-Russian foreign policy is declared to be without foundation. The *Presse* says that a circular note to this effect has been issued to the different foreign Courts.

The *Opinione* says that the attitude which the Italian government will take up in reference to the difficulty with Tunis will be determined by the powers given to Hussein Bey, the Tunisian Envoy, to treat, and the proposals he may have to make to the Italian government for a settlement.

FRANCE.

Important Declaration of the French Soldiers in Germany.

A communication from Leipsic, under date of February 17, has the following:—

As already announced, a petition to the National Assembly at Bordeaux is circulating among the French prisoners, in which the captured French army in Germany makes the following declaration:—"We will obey the government which France shall choose; but if our position as soldiers prohibits us from taking part in the political struggle we have the right to demand, as citizens, that the government to which it will be our duty to give our blood shall be the true expression of the will of the country. We have, therefore, the honor to request you to appeal to universal suffrage in order to decide the following two questions:—first, monarchy or republic; second, the name of the monarch in case of the monarchy being successful. We, beforehand, engage, upon our honor, to submit to the will of the country.

Prince Napoleon's Letter—He is not a Candidate for the French Throne.

Prince Napoleon has addressed the following letter to the editor of the London *Times*, in contradiction of statements in a Havas despatch published recently:—

SIR—I read in your journal of this morning, under the the title, "A Candidate for France," some lines which concern me. While the rumors of which you make yourself the echo were to be found only in journals of no great importance, I met them with silence alone. It is otherwise when the London *Times* repeats them, and I declare, in the most formal manner, that the assertions contained in your correspondence are absolutely false. Standing apart for several years, and especially during these recent events, from the politics of my country, I have, since the fall of the Empire, lived in deep retirement, whether in Switzerland or in England, and I had a right to think that my retreat would protect me against calumnies so odious and so ridiculous, to which I give the most positive denial. Receive, sir, my salutations.

NAPOLEON (JEROME).

LONDON, Feb. 16, 1871.

Descriptions of the Paris Representatives to the National Assembly.

The Paris correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* says there are some good returns in the Paris list of successful candidates—some wheat among the tares—much more, indeed, than the ultras anticipated. M. Louis Blanc may turn out an excellent member if he will only speak as he wrote when in England. Victor Hugo may disappoint his admirers when he finds himself at Bordeaux restored to his natural element. M. Edgar Quinet, who is a fine writer, may sober down in office. Vice Admiral Saisset is one of the most popular defenders of Paris. Delescluze, editor of the *Rappel*, is ill, and not likely to prove troublesome. Schloecher is an old colonel of national guard artillery, *hors de service*. Felix Pyat, of the *Vengeur*, is a man of '48 and a person of extreme violence. M. Henri Martin is a scholar and historian. Admiral Pothuan distinguished himself at Gare aux Bœufs and in the forts during the siege. M. Lockroy is a pamphleteer like Rochefort. Gambon allowed his café to be seized under the régime of the late tyrant sooner than pay his taxes. Dorian is the most popular Minister of the Provisional government and would have accepted the presidency of the republic had the movement of the 31st of October succeeded. Ranc is a republican and friend of Gambetta. Malon is, or was, a worker in mother-of-pearl till he took to politics; he stammers, and his popularity is unaccountable. Brisson is another republican and so are the five gentlemen who follow M. Thiers. Greppo was arrested on the 2d of December with other deputies. General Frébault is an officer of marine artillery who was here through the siege. Clemenceau is a maire of Paris; Floquet one of the lawyers who appeared against Prince Peter Bonaparte at Tours. Littré is the Comtist academician. Arnaud is a maire of the same red shape as Clemenceau, but a clever administrator. M. Léon Say is the well known writer on political economy and finance in in the *Débats*. Razou is an ultra of the ultras. Adam was prefect of police after Count Kératry, and is the husband of a charming writer. Jean Baptiste Millière is a socialist of talent—lean, spectacled and rather slanderous. Farcy built a gunboat, which turned over going round to Havre from Cherbourg with a big gun that broke loose, and then the craft righted. He commanded a gunboat on the Seine during the siege until the government disarmed his gunboat and made a martyr of him.

Among the Red Republicans in Belleville.

The special correspondent of the London *Daily News* with the headquarters of the Crown Prince of Saxony went to a red-hot republican club in Belleville the other night, where he heard some remarkably wild speaking:—

One of the orators, from the conformation of his legs a shoemaker, said:—"Ah, citizens, the hated men of the thrice-accursed William are defiling the casemates of that famous fortress to our west—that iron door which, locked, would keep out forever the brutal barbarian. Valérien is dragged in the mire; her beauty ravished by the vile Teutons. And it was a Frenchman who deliberately handed over Valérien to the hateful embraces of these heathen hounds. Woe is me for France, that a Frenchman could have dealt this great blow *à la patrie*. Before the shade of the mighty republican dead I denounce this sham republican, Jules Favre; this chicken-hearted miserable pseudo patriot, this vile panderer to the passions of the conqueror. Not now, it may be, is the time for just retribution. But, *sacre!* away in the vista of the future I see a guillotine and the heads of traitors!" Wild cheering followed, led off by a little man so covered with "dust" that one would imagine he had been tarred and feathered or was developing an incipient feathered state, but who was a journeyman flock-bed maker. "Well, traitors have yielded Valérien; that dire fact confronts us. Is it to be said that the men of Paris are so nerveless as to sit still and look up and see the wretched Prussian rag flouting a French sky on the battlements of Valérien? Perish the thought! No; let twenty thousand patriots come forward. We shall select a leader, and he will lead us in the dead of night up the side of Valérien, and we shall fall upon the dogs—the thrice damnable Prussian dogs—and butcher them as they snore their Teuton snore. *A bas les Prussiens! Au Mont Valérien! Au Mont Valérien!*" And the bandy legs jumped off the tribune with a tragic wave of his right arm over his head.

ENGLAND.

The Anglo-American Commission—Opinions of the English Press.

The London *Economist* thanks it is well not to be too hopeful; but still the consent given by the government to the Joint Commission was a judicious act. In the first place, similar commissions, notably the one in which the late Mr. Bates was chief, have resulted in removing causes of offence. In the second place, the arrangement, nominally one for inquiry, is really a reference to arbitration; and although the power of the arbitrators is not final, still their moral weight will be great—so great probably that either nation can give way without a sense of humiliation or of yielding to mere force. That is a very great thing to secure, is indeed the greatest element of value in international arbitrations. Half the dangerous quarrels among nations arise out of the fear of appearing to give way through timidity, of being humiliated in the eyes of the world. Very few quarrels not involving cession of territory would be entirely beyond settlement if the nations involved could reason as coolly as lawyers when settling a compromise for their clients; and in estimating a quasi-judicial decision, such as the Joint Commissioners can pass, the nations can keep cool. And above all and before all the Commissioners are better able than diplomatists to travel a little out of the record, and suggest, as private individuals so often do, a compromise for the sake of peace, which looks irregular or even absurd, but which nevertheless satisfied the parties much better than any concession more consistent with the rigor of the law.

The London *Shipping and Mercantile Gazette* of the 18th ult. thus treats the subject:—"An Anglo-American Commission will shortly meet in Washington to enter upon duties as important as have ever been imposed in modern times upon a delegated body. The questions to which the attention of the Commissioners will in the first instance be directed are the Alabama and Shenandoah claims and the Canadian fisheries. These are questions of great moment, no doubt—happily, as we believe, of no great difficulty—but they by no means exhaust the category of questions outstanding and unsettled between this country and the United States. There are, besides, the claims of shipowners, merchants and underwriters in this country who have suffered by the seizure of their property by the federal land forces and the federal cruisers, and from the heavy expenditure entailed upon claimants in the federal prize courts. Passing from claims originating with the civil war, there are the questions of the San Juan boundary, about which a few years since we had some warm correspondence with the Cabinet of Washington; of the policy of the American government in respect to Central America and the West Indies, and last, not least, the question of the American tariffs, the American coasting trade and the inland navigation of the States. There is no reason, so far as we can see, why an understanding should not be arrived at on all these questions by the present Commission. A great deal will depend upon the manner in which the English Commissioners discharge their functions. Our friends across the Atlantic are more sensitive than is generally believed, and they have not, we fear, been treated by our diplomatists at all times with the consideration to which they are justly entitled, and which the governments of Continental States invariably receive at the hands of our Foreign Ministers. We have never believed that the Alabama claims presented of themselves any formidable difficulty, but it is just the question which, improperly handled, might lead to a serious misunderstanding. The Americans know very well that they have at all times insisted upon their right, as neutrals, to deal with belligerents in all articles, ships included. They are not so unfair as to deny to us the exercise of a right which they claim for themselves. We say, therefore, that, the foundation of these claims not being sound, the claims themselves, when they come to be examined dispassionately before an international commission, must abate. The fisheries question, if carefully examined, will be found to be somewhat more complicated and to present a somewhat unexpected feature. It is quite true that the Treaty of 1818 reserves strictly the three-mile limit to the British fishermen. It is also true that American fishing vessels have been found of late, and in many instances, within these limits. This will not be denied; but the Americans contend that the offenders had brought their vessels in for repairs or shelter, and when, under the first article of the Treaty of 1818, they have a right to do, to say nothing of the free access to British ports accorded to American vessels in common with those of all other nations. If the American fishermen, therefore, who have been caught within the three-mile limit could show that they had entered for repairs or shelter, that would be a good answer to a charge of violating the treaty. This is a point which seems, up to the present time, to have escaped those who have discussed this fishery question. It has, probably, been lost sight of in the excitement which the repeated invasions of the fishery limits, and the steps taken by the Canadian authorities to uphold the treaty, have created. Perhaps the strongest feeling which has been thus elicited is on the side of the Canadians; but as they will be fully and ably represented on the Commission, it may be hoped that a satisfactory adjustment may be arrived at, and the whole question of these fishery rights placed upon an intelligible and proper footing. We do not believe, and we never have believed, that there is any intention on the part of American statesmen to sanction a disregard of treaty obligations and attempt to assume territorial rights which appertain to the British crown. The claims of British subjects whose property was seized or destroyed during the war need present no difficulty. Once the right to compensation is conceded, the rest is merely a question of amount. The points of difference which may arise respecting territory ought not at this time of day to involve prolonged discussion. We have more possessions in the West Indies than we can turn to any account; and if we were to hand over the Bahamas group to the States for a proper equivalent, we should be getting rid of a useless annual expenditure, and we should confer an obligation on the Union which would render other concessions to British interests matters of certainty. The opening of the American coasting and lake trades is, no doubt, a large question, but it will not now be discussed for the first time. Every enlightened politician in the States knows that the adoption of this policy is, like the reduction and eventual abolition of import duties, but a question of time. How far the Commission may be authorized to treat remains to be seen. Their powers may be restricted, as intimated last night by Lord Enfield, to the discussion of the points of difference at present existing between the two countries, with a view to ascertaining how they may best be adjusted, whether by arbitration or otherwise. These powers must be extended if the Commission is to have the desired result and produce the international benefits which may flow from its labors if properly directed.

SWITZERLAND.

Desperate Condition of Bourbaki's Army—Dreadful Sufferings of the French Troops.

From Lausanne, says the London *Globe*, there comes another letter describing the condition of the large French army which crossed the border into Switzerland. The writer says the horses seemed hardly able to stand. They were under-sized and half famished. Their legs were knotted and swollen; their tails and manes often rotted away; the long, shaggy hair of their ungroomed coats matted with dirt. The riders were warmly clothed in large overcoats, and, what seemed to be nearly universal among officers and men of all arms, the broad-peaked cap. For two days infantry poured into Lausanne, the intervals between the arrivals of the large bodies being filled by stragglers in every stage of exhaustion. They came slowly in, shuffling along, with hanging heads, sunken cheeks and starting eyes. Those unable to march came in by train. Hundreds of poor fellows, their uniform torn to rags, limped past. The feet and hands of nearly all were frostbitten, causing the greatest pain. On many a face incipient fever had begun its ravages; many would never march again. In all the shrunk features and crouching gait told of gnawing hunger, while the deep cough and hoarse voice bore witness to long nights spent on snow and frozen ground. Some had tied bits of wood under their bare feet to protect them from the stones; others wore wooden *sabots*; hundreds had no socks, and when they had they were merely of thin cotton; others, who appeared well shod, would show a soleless or heelless boot, the exposed part of the foot, once frozen, being now a wound crusted with dirt. For weeks none had washed or changed their clothes, or removed their boots. Nothing but hurried march and counter-march. Their hands were blacker than any African's. The men stated that for three days they had had neither food nor fodder served out to them, and that before that they often got only one loaf between eight men. As the long columns toiled wearily through the villages, defiling from the Jura passes—choked deep with snow—upon the Lake of Geneva, the inhabitants everywhere turned out with literally "their all" to supply their wants. As regiment after regiment of tottering, starving men passed into this town, rich and poor, young and old, distributed to their necessities; while rugged, hard, ill-favored faces broke out in sunny smiles, as though ministering angels had met them amid scenes of death and murder. Since their arrival the troops have been very quiet and well behaved, and have shown themselves deeply conscious of the kindness they have received. The churches have been cleared and straw laid down for their reception. During the day those who are well roam about at large, but inside lay many sick and maimed. Fresh linen and flannel and socks are supplied by committees, and warm baths are offered all day long. In the churches ladies sit mending tattered garments, bathing frozen feet, writing letters, or supplying little delicacies for the sick.

SUSPICIOUS DEATH.

A Colored Laborer Turned Doctor—Investigation Before Coroner Young.

For the last two months a young colored couple named Anthony have occupied apartments in the rear of premises 163 Mulberry street. Anthony is a laborer and works in Whitehall street. On Tuesday morning last Dr. Franklin Smith was called to see Mrs. Anthony without the knowledge of her husband, and found her suffering from excessive inflammation of the bowels. He prescribed the proper remedies and was afterwards told by Anthony that his professional services would be no longer required, inasmuch as he could properly treat his wife and thus save expense.

ANTHONY AS A PHYSICIAN

was not a success. He had evidently learned from some sources that sulphate of iron and sulphate of copper were good for inflammation of the bowels, and determined upon experimenting with his wife by administering to her doses of the above named medicine. As she grew worse under this treatment Dr. Smith was again summoned by Mrs. Anthony, who stated that she had been taking pills composed of iron and copper at the direction of her husband, and felt that the medicine was doing her more harm than good, at the same time expressing fears that she was about to die.

Her fears were speedily realized, as she grew rapidly worse, and died at eleven o'clock yesterday morning. Dr. Smith refused to give a certificate, and reported the case to Coroner Young in person. To-day Deputy Coroner Marsh will make a post-mortem examination on the body and thus determine the cause of death. If the medicine given deceased by her husband in the least hastened her death it is not believed he intended it to have that effect. As far as known they had lived happily together, with only an occasional misunderstanding, such as will sometimes occur in the best regulated families.

DOUBTFUL.—The Springfield *Republican* says that vexation, caused by his quarrel with the President, was the cause of Senator Sumner's recent illness. If the statement is true the disease was a long time in making its appearance.

THE FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

Scenes During the First Day's Sitting.

Jules Favre and Garibaldi—Favre Delivers Up the Powers of the Government of National Defence—Garibaldi Resigns His Position, Tries to Get a Hearing and Fails—Particulars of the Disturbance in the Chambers.

BORDEAUX, Feb. 14, 1871.

The Chamber opened yesterday exactly at two o'clock, over 350 deputies being present; and while nothing of very great importance took place there were two scenes which must always be historical—one, Garibaldi suffering humiliation in the Assembly of a country he had served, and the other, M. Jules Favre rendering up the government of the National Defence to the deputies of the people.

GARIBALDI RENOUNCES HIS FUNCTIONS OF DEPUTY.

Garibaldi, I need not tell you, has been the most complete sensation of the sitting. Among the first to enter, he was not the least to attract attention. He was ostentatiously dressed in his Garibaldian costume, and always remained with covered head. The General bears the marks of age, though but now sixty-seven years old, and exhibits signs of rapid physical, if not mental, decadence. He appears childish and self-contained as well. The Italian sat on a bench to the left of the tribune and near the members of the government, who were placed nearest the President. In the tribune of the diplomatic corps were the Prince Metternich, of Austria; Lord Lyons, British Minister, and Chevalier Nigra, Minister from Italy.

The house was brilliantly lighted; indeed, no sitting can be held here without some artificial illumination. The theatre was constructed especially for night acting, and for that alone, but now it is devoted to day *séances*.

The sitting is now under way, and after a preliminary address upon the organization the President declares he has received a letter addressed to the Assembly. He reads:—

CITOYEN PRESIDENT DEL ASSEMBLEE NATIONALE—

As a last duty to render to the cause of the French republic I have come to bring you my vote and place it in your hands. I renounce the functions of Deputy, of which I have been honored by divers departments. Je vous salue.

G. GARIBALDI.

This document is received with manifestations of approval and disapproval, and all eyes rest on Garibaldi.

JULES FAVRE REFORS THE HOUSE.

At this moment M. Jules Favre rises, and from his place throws down the powers of the street government of Paris—a government which has had a brief but most eventful history. The commanding presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, his reputation as an orator, his dignity of manner and the important trusts still remaining in his hands, give him the silence of the Chamber and the close attention of the Deputies. Jules Favre stoops a little, yet is impressive. He begins:—

"I fulfil a duty which, to me, is particularly sweet, in placing the powers of the government in the hands of the representatives of the country."

Loud applause follows—appreciation from the republicans, joy from the monarchists.

M. Favre continued in a vein of dignified explanation, stating that his Ministry has had but one aim—to save and to serve France—and that this Ministry now rendered its account to the deputies of the people. He was sorry to find his countrymen assembled under circumstances so cruel and unhappy, but he trusted in their patriotism. In a voice of great solemnity M. Favre exhorted the Assembly to keep in mind its great work and to examine with care and fidelity all propositions that might come before them. M. Favre demanded permission to return to Paris to negotiate with Bismarck, and continued his discourse by repeating often times that France would do her duty.

HOW THE SPEECH WAS RECEIVED.

The speech of the great republican has been well received by all classes. Not only chaste and elegant, but pointed and serious, it is taken as an indication that M. Favre will cease to shed tears over the disasters of his country and give himself more thoroughly to their practical redress.

The sitting proceeds.

EXIT GARIBALDI.

Garibaldi addresses the Tribune. But M. Cochery mounts the tribune. There is confusion.

The President speaks, but indistinctly—M. Le Franc also.

Several rapidly put questions follow.

M. Cochery descends from the tribune.

Garibaldi demands anew to be heard.

The President affects not to see him—not to hear him—and the *séance* is declared dissolved.

Garibaldi cannot be heard in a house to which he has thrice been elected.

Protestations are hurled at the President. Indignation is expressed and the hall rings with cries of "*Vive Garibaldi! Vive Garibaldi!*" There is great disorder. A citizen rises and pronounces a discourse, which is heard by the Assembly. He is indignant, fiery, and condemns the deplorable fate of Garibaldi at the hands of a country he aided and for which he had suffered. The citizen orator wound up his frothy periods with these refrains:—"Royal Chamber!" "Chamber of dismemberment!" "Chamber of Bismarck!" "Chamber of Uhlans!" "Treason to the people!"

The President cries "Order! order!" calls upon the citizens to retire and the Garde Nationale purge the Chamber.

Thus ends the first day of the National Assembly, doing little credit to its name—tumultuous, factional, unharmonious, as it will probably prove.

The Assembly now has all the power in its keeping—the ministry, the armies, the treasury—and it is divided into bureaus for the purpose of expediting business. A thorough examination of the finances, national expenditures, the army, navy, Church, foreign relations, telegraphs, railroads and interior system will be made. I am not sure that M. Gambetta will be handled with great charity, though it is believed here that no money has wrongfully adhered to his purse.

All the generals are here, two admirals and all the professions. General Chanzy came yesterday, and appears upon the street in fine health and good spirits.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Reduce Canal Tolls—The New Building for the Chamber of Commerce—Memorial to Congress—A Paradoxical Proposition.

The regular monthly meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held yesterday afternoon. There was a good attendance. Mr. George Opdyke presided.

Mr. JOHN TAYLOR JOHNSTON, chairman of the Committee on Railroads and Canals, read the following proposed amendment to the constitution of the State of New York:—

In order that the tolls on the canals of the State may be reduced so as to meet the requirements of commerce and prevent the diversion thereof from this State, the Commissioners of the Canal Fund shall borrow, on the credit of the State, such sums as may be necessary for the paying the canal and general fund debts now charged on the canals, as the same shall fall due, by the issue and sale of bonds or certificates of stock, having forty years to run from the date, bearing interest at the rate of five per cent per annum, payable semi-annually. For the payment of the principal whereof at maturing a sinking fund of one per cent per annum shall be established, and the tolls of the canals shall be fixed from time to time by the Canal Board, at rates sufficing, as near as may be, to provide only for said sinking fund, the interest on the debt so created and the expense of keeping the canals in repair.

Mr. FREDERICK A. CONKLING said he was opposed to the practice of deferring the payment of public debts beyond the generation during which such debts were contracted.

After an animated debate Mr. Johnston's report was accepted by an almost unanimous vote.

Mr. S. B. RUGGLES said, while approving the report, he wished to impress upon the Chamber the fact that canals, railroads and telegraphs in different parts of our vast system form what is known as the solidarity of commerce, and that any increase in the rate of charges for the transportation of goods by rail or canal, if only of one cent on a barrel of flour, was felt in the markets of Chicago and Liverpool.

On his motion the following resolution was adopted:—

Resolved, That canals, railways and telegraphs form parts of one common system of commercial machinery for facilitating and cheapening commerce, interchanging between nations the varied products of the globe, and any facility afforded to any part benefits the whole; that any needless imposition of tolls, expenses or other charges on any part of that system is the fruit of a policy unit for the present enlightened age, and injurious to the general welfare and advancing civilization of the human race.

Mr. A. A. LOW, from the committee appointed to purchase the site for a new Chamber of Commerce, read a memorial to be addressed to the Senate and House of Representatives. It stated that in the year 1869 the government of the United States was in quest of a suitable location for the Post Office of this city; that the amount of money at the command of the Post Office Department was limited to $200,000, and that the present site could only be had for $250,000. Congress was therefore asked to permit that the present Post Office site be sold to the Chamber of Commerce for the sum it originally cost the United States, viz.:—$200,000.

The memorial further urged that Congress will be the means of extending more widely the benefits of an organization that ante-dates the Revolution, and by securing to it a proper site for a new and costly fireproof building for preserving the valuable archives and portraits which once have been scattered by fire and are still exposed to untimely loss.

The memorial was received and adopted.

LEOPOLD BIERWIRTH then arose, and after saying that intelligence had been received in this city of the ratification of peace in Europe, proposed a resolution expressing the gratification of the Chamber at the news, their sympathy with France in her defeat, and offering the congratulations of the Chamber to the victorious Prussians.

Sharp discussion ensued. Mr. Sinclair Tousey proposed that the latter part of the resolution be struck out, and that the first part only, referring to the establishment of peace, be adopted.

After a sharp discussion Mr. Low moved that the resolution be committed to Committee No. 4 for alteration and presentation at a future meeting.

Captain AMBROSE SNOW submitted the following resolution, which, on account of the lateness of the hour and the importance of the subject, was laid over for consideration at the next meeting of the Chamber:—

Resolved, That in future it shall be the rule of this Chamber to limit the time that each member may consume in the discussion of any question to five minutes, unless the unanimous consent of the meeting is given to suspend the rules.

The Chamber then adjourned.

THE SMALLPOX.

A Hoboken Dutchman Tells What He Saw During Five Days in the Smallpox Hospital—A Story of Blood and Death and Fearful Sufferings—The Doctors at the Hospital Interviewed—Their Refutation of the Dutchman's Statement.

A gentleman giving his name as A. Herman, residing in Hoboken, N. J., called at the HERALD office on Wednesday with a communication, written by himself and giving his experience of "five days in the Smallpox Hospital on Blackwell's Island."

Mr. Herman had been in the hospital for five days suffering from the dread disease, and left it a few days since after being perfectly cured. This communication was intended to startle the public into an idea of what horrible things are done in the Smallpox Hospital. First, he started by saying that he, suffering only from the first stages of the disease, was put in a room in which were three patients, two of whom were convalescent, while the third was in the worst stage of the disease. Second, this man, who was the sickest, fell out of bed twenty times during the night, keeping those other patients in the room awake thereby. Third, a little boy who was in a bad state of disease fell out of bed and died a few hours thereafter. Fourth, a patient in the last stage of the disease died with his face covered with thick blood. Several other charges, such as that the night orderly said, in reply to a remonstrance in regard to a patient, "G—d d—n him, let him die; what the hell do I care?" that the night orderly, "a dreadful, stupid Irishman," brutally treated another orderly, whom he got discharged next day, "under pretence" of his having been

DRUNK THE NIGHT BEFORE;

that a Catholic priest was allowed into the wards of the smallpox hospital, to attend spiritually to the patients, when a patient's wife, even, was excluded on all occasions; that he (Herman) ate only fifty cents' worth of food, and had to pay $4 30 for it, and that said food was bad; that the orderly, on one occasion, when told to give a narcotic to a patient in two doses, gave the medicine all in one dose.

The communication containing the above charges was of such a startling kind that a HERALD reporter lost no time in getting up to Blackwell's Island to see for himself what there was in the allegations. After calling on the warden, Mr. Fitch, who has nothing at all to do with the management of the Smallpox Hospital, he was escorted to the hospital buildings and introduced to the doctors in charge of the institution. It so happened that the three doctors who are in charge of the hospital were in the office, and the reporter proceeded to interrogate them as to Herman's story. Herman made no charge against the doctors, simply confining his observations to the "dreadful stupid" Irishman who is the night orderly, so that the presence of the latter became a necessity. The orderly's statement was to the effect that he never made use of the expression, "G—d d—n him, let him die; what the hell do I care?" that he never refused any assistance asked by a patient; that he was on duty all night in the hospital, never left and, though he could not be in two places at the one time, he was always about the wards; that the boy who fell out of bed did not die until next morning, and that the delirium seized him suddenly and then he jumped out of bed. The man who died was in

THE WORST STAGE OF THE DISEASE

all along and in his delirium tumbled out of bed sometimes, though the sheets were tied over the bedclothes in the usual way to prevent him from doing so. The assistant orderly was discharged for drunkenness, and several persons saw him drunk, including the doctor in charge that night, and while drunk he treated him (the orderly) badly. Whenever a patient fell out of bed in the delirious fever he always helped him back again, though sometimes for a short time he might be attending some other patient.

The statements of the three doctors entirely endorsed the answers given by the orderly. The doctors also gave a high character to the orderly for attention to duty. They state that it has been their custom for some time past to question every patient when leaving the hospital after recovery as to the attention they had received, and the answer uniformly is a satisfactory one. Invariably the patients prefer their thanks to the doctors and speak highly of the attendants. It is noteworthy, say the doctors, that patients who enter the hospital really sick are always the

MOST LAVISH IN THEIR ENCOMIUMS

upon the treatment they have received, while those who are sent there when suffering from merely the early symptoms of disease, and who are, therefore, in tolerably good health and enjoying excellent appetites are always sure to complain. The doctors do not heed this much, however, for they know that a smallpox hospital is no place for a sound man to be, and he sees everything around him with a disgusted eye. Even medical men cannot help being disgusted with the loathsome disease. The replies of the doctors to the four points raised by Mr. Herman, who, as has been said already, entered the hospital almost to the surprise of the doctors, so slightly was he affected by the disease, may be summed up as follows:—

First—There being 112 patients in a smallpox hospital which was built originally for the accommodation of 30 patients the first bed vacated should necessarily be taken by the next incomer.

Second—The very bad patient who was so delirious had been despaired of before Mr. Herman entered the hospital.

Third—The boy who died could not have recovered, and two doctors in consultation the morning before that on which he died so opined. They did not believe his falling out of bed hastened death.

Fourth—The man who died had no hope of recovery. In his case hemorrhage had set in, and that accounted for the thick blood on his face and the rattling in his throat.

As to the complaints about the food, they are not of much importance. Whatever the doctors order must be supplied, and the Commissioners of Charities and Correction hence have hesitated in paying the bills for extra supplies. There is no doubt that the assistant orderly who was discharged was drunk. He met the doctor in charge that night and did not know him. The orderly denies having given two doses in one, and the doctor who prescribed the medicine informed the reporter that even had he done so it would not have hastened death. As to the

ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST'S PRESENCE

in the midst of smallpox patients, administering his religion to the dying and the sick, it is a matter that concerns the reverend gentleman himself, as most sensible people will readily admit.

Such are the two sides of the question. The complaints made against the management of the hospital have been stated, and in the same spirit the answers given by the managers have received equal attention. It would seem that

THE GREAT POINT OF TROUBLE

lies in the want of room for the accommodation of patients. Mr. Fitch, Warden of the Island, informed the reporter that he himself superintended the erection of the smallpox hospital about fourteen years ago, and the idea then was to construct a building suitable only for the reception of sixty patients, some of whom were to be of that class who could easily afford to pay all expenses incidental to the sickness. Now, as has been stated above, this building is crammed with 112 patients in various stages of the disease, and no arrangements can possibly be attempted by which the wards would be regulated according to the order of convalescence. The attendance in the hospital consists of one regular orderly and one regular nurse for day, one night orderly and one night nurse, with thirteen helpers in all.

It is stated by the doctors that the disease this year has assumed a more malignant type than in previous years. During the last two months there have been 386 patients treated in the hospital, of whom fifty-eight died. In 1870 there were 969 cases in all, and in 1869 there were 662 cases, of whom fifty-two died.

The Disease in Brooklyn.

There were only five cases of smallpox reported in Brooklyn during the past week. In the month of December there were 139 cases; in January 92 cases; in February, 108. The patients now at the Flatbush Hospital are doing well, and Dr. Cochran, Health Officer, does not anticipate any further spread of the contagion. Every exertion is being made by the authorities of the Sanitary Bureau to guard against the loathsome disease becoming epidemic in that city.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CORONERS.

Yesterday morning the Board of Coroners, with Coroner Schirmer, President, in the chair, held a meeting at their office in the City Hall and took action in relation to immediately fitting up their rooms, which are sadly in need of repairs. The Board also appointed a committee (Schirmer and Young) to confer with the Board of Health, which Board had complained that the law relating to the filing of inquests in that department had not been fully complied with. It is also desirable that more perfect harmony should exist between these two boards than has heretofore prevailed, and a conference may bring about the desired result.

THE BOSTON PROVISION SHIP FOR FRANCE.—Says the Boston *Traveller* of Wednesday:—The United States steam frigate Worcester is still lying alongside of the wharf at Charlestown Navy Yard receiving cargo for the French, and, from her appearance outside, must be nearly loaded, for she is quite deep. Her topgallant yards are aloft, most of her stores are on board, her sails are bent, and so far as her own condition is concerned, aside from her cargo, could be made ready for sea in a few hours.

SIR STAFFORD NORTHCOTE.

Arrival of the Last Named High Commissioner.

He is Interviewed by a Herald Reporter and Goes Into the Interviewing Business Himself—What He Thinks of the Alabama Claims and What He Wants to Know About Nelson, Sumner and Butler—An Interesting Conversation in a Railroad Car.

The Cunard steamer Russia, which arrived at her dock at Jersey City yesterday morning, brought Sir Stafford Henry Northcote, Bart, late Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Derby-Disraeli Ministry. This distinguished statesman is the last of the English members of the Joint High Dining Commission who left England, and is, perhaps, the most sagacious and the best informed on the points of difference between America and Great Britain of the entire delegation. He is a man of figures and loves to drag his weaker political brothers down into the awful depths of prepared statistics. The *bête noir* of the eloquent Gladstone, the hope of the tories, he is undoubtedly the best man that England could send us to audit our little account and strike a balance. He should pride himself on being a cockney; for London first saw his infantile face, and that educational adjunct of the British metropolis, Oxford College, held him within her folded arms until he had begun to see that an intimate acquaintance with the philosophy of Plato and the romances of Herodotus would do him but little service in the battle of life. Sir Stafford is undoubtedly one of the great men of England; learned in

THE SCHOOL OF STATECRAFT,

not unacquainted with current politics and cherishing views of sufficient elasticity to suit the party to which, for the time being, he avows allegiance, he is the darling of his constituents. Mere declamation he despises; of political intrigue he knows nothing; but if any rash American legislator wishes to wreck himself on the hard rock of statistics and figures, Sir Stafford Northcote is the man to pilot him to his doom. But his awful fondness for figures is not apparent in his manner or deportment. To an innocent interlocutor he will not hurriedly propose a financial conundrum, and, remembering that he is in a country where titles are lightly considered, he will probably declare, in defiance of all diplomatic usage, his entire ignorance on all matters of importance, and his ardent desire to be considered diplomatically a regular oyster.

THE EX-CHANCELLOR

is negatively communicative; he is more desirous of interviewing newspaper men than of being interviewed; he knows he is a big gun, but he does not care to fire off a heavy shot without first ascertaining the range.

This will be enough of Sir Stafford's antecedents and manner. Something of his personal appearance will be interesting; his disposition may be inferred. He is a hairy statesman—auburn on the chin, mildly light on the other lip and decidedly sandy under the fur cap he aggressively wears. Were it not for the fact that his small inquiring eyes have the peculiar faculty of drawing down over their pleasant lightning the woeful thunder of a pair of portentous eyebrows, Sir Stafford might expect to attract to frightful discomfiture a vast horde of the yearning maidens of Washington—and he wears spectacles; he has the French habit of hoisting his shoulders over the high roof of his aristocratic head and of smiling when nobody is prepared to take the hint and laugh. For the benefit of the lady readers of the HERALD it may be mentioned that

SIR STAFFORD

affects a rough dress, is careless of his personal appearance, and for an Englishman has a wonderful respect for the tastes and prejudices of people whose dire misfortune is that they were not born within the sound of Bow Bells. The right honorable baronet is of that peculiar complexion which defies criticism; he may be forty years of age or he may be fifty; the most accomplished physiognomist would scarcely dare to say that he was fifty. But then he is one of those men, but seldom met with in a lifetime, who are at their ease in every position in which they are placed. A tory in heart,

A POLITICAL TRIMMER

through necessity, and an aspirant for high governmental honors in the little island from which he hails, he challenges admiration as a statesman. His specialty is figures. Give him any plausible excuse, and with his peculiar gifts he will bewilder more British taxpayers in a shorter time than any other man on the tory or liberal benches of the English House of Commons. Let us hope that it was not for the purpose of muddling our representatives on the High Commission that he was sent here by his financial antagonist, W. Ewart Gladstone.

Of course, when the Russ arrived at the dock at Jersey City a HERALD reporter was there ready to hold a conversation with the ex-Chancellor. But there was a good deal of confusion, as usual in the disembarkation of the passengers, and our reporter deferred his contemplated attack on the Sir Stafford's

DIPLOMATIC STRONGHOLD OF SECRECY.

Contrary to all expectation Sir Stafford, as soon as he left the steamer, wended his way for the midday train, then puffing and blowing at the station, and got on board a compartment car. His son, Mr. Henry Northcote, Mr. Howard, an attache of the distinguished baronet, Mr. Riggs, two ladies and a number of servants, seven persons in all, speedily followed. After a brief stay on board the cars Sir Stanford sallied out alone for a short walk, but finding the sidewalks unfavorable to the assertion of British dignity, and in fact exceedingly slippery and treacherous, he gave vent to a few strong expressions, as Englishmen are wont to do, and returned to the car in a hurry. It was just at the moment when the illustrious baronet had his aristocratic eyebrows elevated to an attitude of forty-five degrees and that his gold spectacles trembled on the extreme point of his High Commission nose, that the HERALD reporter knocked at the door and entered the compartment. Sir Stafford was reading the HERALD, and was fast in the account of the spread of the smallpox. His son, a slender but good looking youth, sat opposite to him. Whenever

THE OLD MAN WINKED THE YOUNG MAN SMILED.

Having introduced himself and accepted the vacant seat in the compartment, Sir Stafford dropped the HERALD with a sigh and confronted its representative. He was affable, pleasant and courteous—there were none of Sir Richard Mayne's people about to obey his orders, no British exclusiveness surrounded him, and he was conscious of the fact. In reply to the first few complimentary observations of the reporter he said that he was greatly pleased with his voyage, but that, though greatly impressed with the beauties of New York harbor, he was not prepared to express his sense of the magnificence of the country from so cursory a glance as had been afforded him. The reporter did not reply, and Sir Stanford never adventured an allusion to the Jersey sidewalks.

The reporter being seated, and the English statesman having prepared himself for the interview by laying back in his seat and assaulting his waistcoat sleeves with his nervous fingers, the following conversation occurred:—

REPORTER—I am sent, Sir Stafford, to congratulate you, on behalf of the HERALD and the country which it represents, on your safe arrival on our shores. I hope you had

A PLEASANT VOYAGE?

SIR STAFFORD—The voyage was very pleasant, indeed. Please thank the editor of the HERALD for me for his kind message. We know the HERALD in England. It is a great paper, and has immense influence, being recognized as the leading American journal. When I was in the Indian Office—it was during the Abyssinian war—we were often

INDEBTED TO THE HERALD

for early news. You beat our special messengers on several occasions; and, indeed, you seemed to have a monopoly of telegraph and courier facilities. It is a great journal, and must wield an immense influence.

REPORTER—The HERALD is modest,