UNHAPPY FRANCE.

Scenes on the Boulevards of Paris.

PALADINES BEFORE THE MAYORS

Why the National Guard Seized the Cannon of Montmartre.

THE FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

M. Thiers' Argument in Favor of Leaving Bordeaux.

GENERAL CREMER AND THE RIOTERS.

The National Guard—Belleville—A Calamity Averted—The Cirque Narrowly Escapes Destruction—Arrest of Supposed Murderers—Riotous Demonstrations—No Germans Need Apply—Various Items.

PARIS, March 6, 1871.

The Prussians have evacuated all the forts on the left and Montmartre is armed to the teeth and occupied by the National Guard. The Place St. Pierre is a little artillery park, containing twenty-five pieces of cannon. These cannon are pointing on Paris and not towards the enemy. The discipline and service carried on are more strict than they were ever, and when Paris was in a state of siege Montmartre was almost a threatening citadel for Paris, and especially Belleville. This threatening attitude has attracted the attention of the population in that quarter of the city, who demand of the government an explanation of the matter and the displacement of the cannon thus directed on the city; and they say that if the National Guard had attended as well to their duty and cannon during their defence against the Prussians as they now appear to do towards the population of the city things would bear a different aspect to-day. The Guards who are stationed there say that the republic is threatened, and they mean to defend it, even at the risk of a civil war. Their commander is a simple sailor, whom at a recent club meeting they elected to direct the cannon when needs be. They have also a large quantity of powder and balls hidden. The press in general demanded an explanation of the government—what means this threatening attitude at Montmartre? and why so? questions to which the government make no reply.

THE POPULATION OF BELLEVILLE

are calm, but much anxiety prevails on account of the strange manner in which this affair of pointing the cannon on the city is carried on.

At an early hour on Sunday the Guard Mobile received notice to be ready for an early start on Monday morning. They are going to Orleans, and will march there, taking three days to complete the journey.

SCENES ON THE BOULEVARDS.

All day Sunday the Boulevard Malesherbes was completely taken up with the troops folding up their bedding, clothes and cooking utensils. It was almost impassable from the church of St. Augustine to the Madeleine. Although the conduct of the moblots has been beyond reproach, it is a great relief to the residents in the vicinity to be rid of them, because of their daily smoking, eating and drinking in the street. The boulevard was turned into a cookshop or laundry and very frequently a barber shop, the fine weather permitting all kinds of outdoor work.

NEARLY A CONFLAGRATION.

Paris came very near having a terrible fire through the carelessness of the Prussians. The Cirque on the Champs Elysees, which they occupied during their short stay, was in a most filthy state; they used all the wooden benches for firewood and cut the cushions in several seats; they left early, leaving several candles burning, and had not the janitor of the building entered at the moment they evacuated it would have been in flames. In the Cirque were two busts in marble, one the ex-Emperor and Empress. They cut the head off the former and the nose off the latter, taking them as souvenirs of their *entrée* into the capital. They really needed to take something, because, were they willing to pay any price for a souvenir, they could not obtain one, as all the stores were closed. Among the accused for

THE HEARTLESS MURDER OF VINCENTINI,

a policeman, who was seized by an infuriated crowd at the Bastile, February 28, and thrown into the Seine, are two soldiers of light infantry. These two young men are now in prison to answer the charge of wilful murder.

RIOTOUS DEMONSTRATIONS.

Scarcely a day or night has passed since February 26 but some demonstration or disturbance has occurred, and there seems to be no authority to prevent these disturbances, which amount to nothing more than great excitement and broken ribs. During the past months some of the National Guards have taken it upon themselves to smash open prison doors and liberate their political friends, who have been incarcerated for exciting civil war and taking advantages of the uniform and arms they bear. Landlords have publicly declared that all Germans holding leases in Paris cannot renew them.

NO GERMANS NEED APPLY.

Some have gone so far as to get up lists and hold meetings, refusing to let any houses, stores or land to any German. Some of the large houses, where from fifty to four hundred have been employed, have gone so far as to notify, through the medium of the press, "no Germans employed here," and even on many of the stores and warehouses. Many families, who have always had German servants, feel this keenly, but it cannot be otherwise; the feeling of hatred is so deeply rooted in the French mind towards a nation whom they feel has so entirely humiliated them. In the city of Paris alone 50,000 Germans were employed, while 30,000 were employed or engaged in business pursuits and professions.

THE RUINS OF ST. CLOUD.

On Sunday no less than 8,000 visitors were seen at the ruins of St. Cloud and its environs. It is not necessary now to have a laisser-passer to go and come; all communication is free, although the gates of Paris are closed as usual at six, and will be till the Prussians leave the forts. Landowners at St. Cloud have rented the ruins they possess to ambitious speculators to start restaurants for the visitors who will probably come in large numbers to visit the desolated and burned down village. Pieces of shells are all carefully gathered up and sold at from ten cents to one hundred, according to the size and the spot where they fell.

NUMBERLESS FAMILIES FROM ALSACE AND LORRAINE,

who refuse to live under the Prussian Power, have arrived in Paris and will be employed in the banks and commercial houses where heretofore Germans have filled the position. Great sympathy has been expressed for them in the city, and the papers have made a warm appeal in their favor to the public. With the news of peace and the evacuation by the Prussians

PARIS LIGHTED UP WITH GAS

the evening of the 3d, all the cafés were opened, the boulevards thronged, and things in general presented as lively an appearance as if such suffering as a siege was unknown. Nearly all the places of amusement were open and many interesting pieces produced. Several new pieces are in active preparation when peace is settled.

THEATRES.

A new comedy has just been presented called "English Assistance," and is fair. *Entrée* to Gymnase theatre was impossible on the evenings of Saturday and Sunday with the immense crowds awaiting admission. The Porte St. Martin, likewise all the cafés chantants are opened. Paris is the Paris of old. The transformation is wonderful. Two weeks since a little dim oil lamp here and there and the streets perfectly deserted; to-day all bright, all light.

THE SANITARY CONDITION OF PARIS

improves every week. The deaths from smallpox are only 147 and scarlet fever only five, while typhoid fever remains about the same. The number of deaths this week is 260. The whole number for the week ending March 4 was 3,500. Measures are being taken to better the condition, and quick lime will be put in the trenches surrounding the city where many of the dead were buried during the different battles which took place. Nothing will remain undone to purify the air and condition of the city; nearly all the wounded are sent off and others are quite well; so that Paris will be as safe as ever it was in a few weeks.

ITEMS.

The Parisians, commenting on the Emperors of Russia and Prussia congratulating each other, say, "The two Cæsars" to each one his Poland.

The mobilized National Guard will not be paid after March 11. The government will send them home to the cities and towns in the provinces from whence they came. Many will go to cultivate the soil, as hands are badly needed in the country, and now in the spring they should commence. Several line troops left for Algeria on Saturday.

Counterfeit bills on the Bank of the Republic are in circulation in and around the city, and some poor soldiers have been the principal victims. It has been proved that they are gotten up by the Prussians.

Rumor says that Emperor William demanded 50,000,000 francs of the ex-Emperor before giving him his liberty, and that he can well pay it.

The Garden of Plants, possessing some of the most rare collections in Europe and perhaps in the world, suffered severely during the siege. All the fine plants and a large collection of rare shells were completely destroyed by the bombardment. It took nearly seventy years to collect them, and the loss is an irreparable one. As to the menagerie, the losses caused by cold and hunger are great, but time and money will replace them. Over one hundred monkeys died from cold and hunger. The number of birds that died is innumerable. A fine lion, who died from exhaustion, was eaten by the gardeners and keepers. A fine African elephant died of hunger. These are as nothing to compare with the number of deer, porcupines and all kinds of animals dead from empty stomachs.

The Rue de la Paix is to be called Rue de l'Alsace. Rue de Berlin is now called Rue Richard Wallace, in honor to this gentleman, who did so much for the poor of Paris since the war. Several other streets will be christened the coming week.

Financial affairs are dull at the Bourse, and it will be some time before it resumes its ancient prosperity. Money is scarce, and what there is needs to be employed in the agricultural and commercial line, which have been at a standstill the past eight months. The question of rents is daily discussed and meetings held on the subject at the different clubs.

Scenes in the House—Members Reprimanded by the Speaker—Speeches of Louis Blanc, Delescluze and Others—The Government of National Defence Charged With Treason.

BORDEAUX, March 6, 1871.

The Speaker, M. Grévy, opened the proceedings to-day by reading a letter from the famous Colonel Charrette declining his election as Deputy from the Bouches du Rhone, preferring, as he said, to serve his country in the capacity of soldier to entering the stormy career of politics.

M. Grevy took the occasion to administer a well-merited rebuke to the members for their noisy and unruly conduct, telling them that if they wished to arrive at any satisfactory result in transacting the business of the nation they must conform to strict parliamentary rules. M. Grévy is a large, fine-looking man, with bald head, square jaws and side whiskers, and as seen from the reporters' gallery bears a striking resemblance to King William. The reprimand was administered right royally, and has not been without its effect, this being the quietest day we have had yet, although there were two or three little incidents which might have led to the usual disturbances if the members had not made an effort to contain themselves.

M. Louis Blanc put in a petition asking that the members of the Paris government be requested to give an account of their acts since the investment of Paris, remarking, in a very moderate manner, that the conduct of this branch of the government was greatly blamed by many of the members, and especially by the Deputies of that city itself. He wished to speak further, but was interrupted by cries of *"Déposez la!" "Déposez la!"* and retired, after having read the petition.

M. Delescluze, one of the reddest of the reds, then demanded that the whole of the government of the National Defence be tried for the crime of high treason and put under immediate arrest. He read his petition and was immediately assailed with cries of "The signatures!" "The signatures!" which he declined reading, however, and descended from the tribune looking defiantly at the Assembly, as if asking them what they were going to do about it.

M. Millière followed M. Delescluze with a petition worded differently, but having the same end in view, including, however, only the members of the Paris government. He was also assailed with cries of "The signatures" and upon informing them that his own was the only name attached to the petition, was greeted with a burst of derisive laughter.

Neither member put in a motion proposing that the Assembly, after its adjournment from Bordeaux, meet in some other town but Paris not supporting the proposition with any arguments, however, as it is understood that the majority of the House have their reasons for not wishing to go to Paris.

M. Thiers here arose and insisted that they should take the matter into immediate consideration, adding that under ordinary circumstances, with a part of the government at Bordeaux and a part at Paris, it would be very difficult to transact business; but in the present state of affairs, with railroad and telegraph communications in the hands of the Prussians, it would be utterly impossible, and moved the urgency of their transferring the seat of government to some point nearer Paris.

This was agreed to, not without some reluctance, and the speaker proposed that they should retire immediately to their respective bureaus and decide upon the point they should think most desirable for holding the future sittings of this Assembly. *"Non," "non," demain, demain,* "to-morrow" from the Right, who are evidently not in the least inclined to hasten the matter and get any nearer Paris than they are at present. They discussed the question a few minutes, and it was clear that they were going to put it off just as long as possible, saying they did not see that there was any reason to hurry the matter.

M. Thiers arose again and insisted that they should retire instantly and decide it, telling them that in an affair of so much importance unnecessary delay was the most culpable negligence; that as the communications with Paris were difficult and uncertain, it was almost impossible to transact business, and that it was of the utmost importance to come to a decision immediately. *"Très bien, très bien,"* from all parts of the House.

They obeyed, therefore, and withdrew, remaining out about two hours, and came in about half-past five, having decided, it is thought, for Versailles. It was discussed pretty warmly, however, the members being nearly equally divided between that place and Paris. The commission charged to examine the matter not having had time to report will be heard to-morrow, and then we will know the decision of the House.

Those who are opposed to going to Paris say there is too much noise and tumult and confusion in the city at present, and they wish to deliberate in peace and quiet. The papers say they are afraid.

Without pretending to pronounce upon so grave a question, I must say it seems rather strange that they should prefer Versailles, where there is neither hotel accommodation nor a place to meet, even if they do not improvise one, as they have done here. In Paris, where everything is ready to receive them. Of course, it cannot be supposed for a moment that the government is not able to protect itself, and yet it is rather a curious proceeding to go to Versailles, unless, indeed, they prefer that place because King William was made Emperor there. That might be a reason, scarcely a sufficient one, however, and if they are not afraid of the Parisians, if they are not in real bodily fear, one might naturally think they would not mind a little noise. Some will say, at least, that men of such delicate organizations are scarcely the men to treat of peace and war with those great animals, Bismarck and Moltke.

The ratification of the election of Prince Joinville will probably come up to morrow, and it is said that Thiers will oppose it. If he does so the Prince will not stand the ghost of a chance, for the majority seem perfectly disposed to obey Thiers in everything. "If he should resign," they say, "what would become of us?" The question is not without its signification. What would become of them, indeed, without Thiers? He is the only man in France to whose standard all parties seem to feel they can rally—the only man to whose authority all seem inclined to submit. There is something touching in this sentiment of respect and sort of childish obedience on the part of the Assembly to the great statesman.

They seem to feel that they are mere children in everything relating to politics and affairs of State; that they know nearly nothing of the questions that are to be submitted to them; that they do not know, in fact, how to make a government, and they are looking with hopeful eyes for help and deliverance in their great need to the white-headed patriarch who for fifty years has served his country in almost every capacity—whose advice, if it had been taken, would have spared France her present terrible misfortunes—who has gained the unbounded respect and confidence of Europe, and whose statesmanship, honesty and patriotism are acknowledged by all, even his most bitter political enemies. He has a great *rôle* to play—a great mission to fulfil; but he will, no doubt, be equal to the occasion, and history will write the name of Thiers first among the names of the great men of France.

Meeting of Commanders of the National Guard and the Mayors of Arrondissements—Speech by D'Aurelle de Paladines—He Is for Peaceful Persuasion and Will Remain True to the Republic.

Translated for the NEW YORK HERALD from Rochefort's paper, Mot d'Ordre.]

General D'Aurelle de Paladines convoked the staff of the National Guard and the chiefs of battalions of the four arrondissements around Montmartre on the 9th inst. The mayors of these arrondissements, who were also invited, were present at the meeting. General de Paladines declared that he desired to conform as much as possible to the wishes of the National Guard and to act according to their ideas.

The Mayor of the First arrondissement then spoke and declared in terms of indignation that the suspicions of the National Assembly, which persists in its refusal to sit in the capital, are an insult to the population of Paris, and principally to the National Guard. He requested the General to see that this state of affairs should cease. The Mayor of the Ninth arrondissement then said that he feared that the abrupt suppression of the daily pay of one and a half franc, which was accorded to citizens who had no resources, would lead to terrible disorders in Paris. He spoke also of the payments of rents and saw in this question many difficulties, which should be solved as soon as possible.

The General replied that this question was under his consideration and that the attention of the government was occupied by the plan of reorganizing the National Guard. He added that the Minister of the Interior had already chosen a commission of competent men and that the work would be finished within a few days. As to the question of rents, the General could only advise the landlords to be indulgent towards their lodgers.

The commander of a battalion then accused the municipality of the Eighteenth arrondissement of having encouraged the citizens of his battalion to refuse him obedience, and he added that at the mairie of Montmartre the disorders in that quarter are openly applauded.

He was followed by the citizen Clémencean, who expressed his apprehensions of grave troubles that would ensue in his arrondissement.

Commander Barbaret (a rouge) then drew the attention of the General to the incendiary articles of the reactionary press, which encourage civil war. The *rappel* is beaten everywhere, and the citizens are kept night and day in alarm of an enemy that does not exist. Such a state of affairs, continued the speaker, can be tolerated no longer. He declared that the National Guard only seized the cannon of Montmartre; it was in order to prevent their falling into the hands of the Prussians, and that they should not serve as an instrument for any army what might be directed by a tyrant who could inaugurate another 2d Decembre. He affirmed that the cannon are not directed against his fellow citizens of Paris; that those who occupy Montmartre do not desire civil war any more than the population of the other arrondissements, and if these arms were to be confided to the National Guard the citizens who compose it would distribute them among the other battalions of Paris. In concluding his discourse citizen Barbaret requested the General to give a formal contradiction to the rumor of those sinister plots which some unworthy papers charge him with harboring toward the Parisians.

General De Paladines replied that he was an honest man, that he had a record of thirty years' good and loyal service in the cause of his country, and that in accepting the chief command of the National Guard he had no thought of serving as an instrument to anybody. He declared that he would serve the republic, and was for persuasion rather than for means of violent suppression.

One of the Mayors then said that tranquillity has not been restored because the people had no confidence in the present government and National Assembly, and that in order that the present fermentation of spirits should cease it is necessary that the representatives of the people should sit in Paris and the members of the government declare that the republic would not be put in question.

General Cremer, One of the Leaders of the Paris Insurgents—His Farewell Address to the Soldiers when Relieved from Command by the Thiers Government.

General Cremer, one of the present leaders of the Paris revolt, addressed the following proclamation to his soldiers when he received his order from the Thiers government to resign his command into the hands of General Polhès:—

SOLDIERS, LORRAINIANS AND ALSATIANS!—I must address to you my last farewell. I am no longer your general. The illustrious General Le Flo, Minister of what formerly used to be called "War," has supplanted me by the equally illustrious General de Polhès, one of the victors of Mentana. I am the victim of Bonapartist, clerical and legitimist intrigues. They have condemned me without a hearing.

Your brothers, your sisters will henceforward bear the marks of the Prussian livery. The cousins of Bismarck will smile upon your sisters. But we must remain what we are. Farewell—no, not farewell, for we shall meet again. You are republicans; so am I. Each of you has a carbine; so have I. In the moment of danger you will find me on your side to fight the invader; if not as your chief it will be as a brother soldier. Brethren, they have abandoned us; no matter, we can carry on the defence ourselves. Let us all swear death to the Prussians. Death to the traitors and cowards who have betrayed and delivered us to the enemy. *Vive la République!* Death to Prussians and to cowards!

Which is the Government of France? Anarchy the Hydra With Many Heads—The So-Called Government of Montmartre—The Reds Revolt Because They Don't Want to Pay Rent.

[From the Journal des Débats of Paris, March 9. Translated especially for the NEW YORK HERALD.]

If it were not a tragedy in prospect it would be a veritable comedy; but unfortunately the present situation has a tendency to lead to the former. They say we have no government. We have half a dozen of them. We have already all the governments of National Defence, which are, however, at present only occupied in mutual accusations—a sure way of promoting the public welfare. But at last we commence to believe that we have had elections that produced a National Assembly, which again produced executive power. Vain delusion; meet in some other town but Paris not supporting the proposition with any arguments, however, as it is understood that the majority of the House have their reasons for not wishing to go to Paris.

M. Thiers here arose and insisted that they should take the matter into immediate consideration, adding that under ordinary circumstances, with a part of the government at Bordeaux and a part at Paris, it would be very difficult to transact business; but in the present state of affairs, with railroad and telegraph communications in the hands of the Prussians, it would be utterly impossible, and moved the urgency of their transferring the seat of government to some point nearer Paris.

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The Armaments of the Montmartre Insurgents—List of the Cannons, Mortars and Mitrailleuses—Their Value.

[From the Journal des Débats, March 9.]

The attention of the population of Paris is still absorbed by the armaments which Montmartre, Belleville and a few other quarters persistently retain. We shall give some interesting details of this war material that will indicate its force and value. The cannons which the National Guards seized the day before the entry of the Prussians are those which were manufactured during the siege, in private works, partly from the proceeds of subscriptions, and partly at the cost of the government. This war material was portioned off to the National Guard, comprising 350,000 men, and having by its numerical strength a right to 875 pieces of artillery. Part of these armaments were delivered to the National Guard at different times, and deposited in the Avenue Wagram. On the 28th February there must have been enclosed and guarded by them 192 cannons and 53 mortars, and a number of military trains, forming in all twenty batteries with complete armaments. The total material which is believed to be in possession of the National Guards comprises 400 pieces, of which, however, only 256 are ready for service; 202 mitrailleuses, of which 80 are in readiness, and 53 mortars, the whole representing a value of 15,000,000 francs.

AN EXPLANATION OF AN "APOLOGY" AND A WORD FOR PARIS.

NEW YORK, March 22, 1871.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

A month ago I sent you a letter correcting a statement which had appeared in your columns that Hugo, Blanc, Rollin and Delescluze had been elected to the Assembly "from the slums of Paris." The calumny was so ridiculous and absurd as to be unworthy of notice; moreover, as calumny has been the daily dish served up to American readers since the beginning of the war by nearly all American journals, in order to cast a stain upon Frenchmen, and especially republicans, it was useless to suppose that a straw of truth thrown upon so foul a stream could have any effect. But I yielded my own conviction that no statement of fact, however incontrovertible, can have any influence in arresting the flow of malignant scurrility constantly directed toward France, and, at the solicitation of friends, I wrote to you in the month of February the letter which you published yesterday. In that letter I represented to you that "the slums" of Paris, unlike those of New York, never voted, and that thieves, burglars and convicts were debarred the franchise, and could take no part in French politics, and had no control over our judges and politicians. That Hugo, Blanc, Rollin and Delescluze were as far removed from "the slums" as Sumner, W. C. Bryant, Phillips, and other Americans who speak in behalf of labor and liberty. I explained how republicans, during the siege of Paris, had urged, and in vain, vigorous war on the enemy by the immense and idle army of Trochu; and now, when the fate of all France has been sealed, and when I had almost forgotten the letter sent to the HERALD so long ago, I find it produced in your columns at a moment of revolutionary outbreak as an "apology" for riot and assassination. I have read somewhere in American newspapers—wherein so many wonderful facts are related—of a boy having been struck by lightning and changed into a girl. This smartness on the part of Yankee lightning did not at all surprise me, but I most emphatically object to my letter undergoing a like process in passing through the lightning press.

Now as to Paris. The only thing which astonishes me is that the well known sagacity of the HERALD should not have discovered that the "reign of terror" at Paris is a temporary storm, produced by the blundering of the government, with its reticence as to future plans; its choice of dukes and counts for diplomatic service; its erasing of the words "French republic" from State papers; its coldness and indifference to the Paris deputies, and its partaying of locating the government elsewhere.

Paris is in a passion. But a city that behaved as she did during starvation and months of siege—a city that behaved as she did while a horde of valiant glorious thieves, a part of the flock of military pack-horses of the Hohenzollern, hoping that "the gay and frivolous Parisians" would flock to gaze upon their glittering new uniforms donned for the occasion, passed through her streets—may have faults, and many of them, but the future will not shame her past. There is but one of the hundreds of recent falsehoods set afloat which I care to correct. It is entirely untrue that any application from the French government, Paris or any individual has been made to the "Germans" to quell the revolt now agitating in my native city. The meanest Frenchman of the "slums of Paris" would not stoop to such a degradation.

No government but a very unwise one will treat Paris with indifference. There is no other proof of her importance needed than the intense agitation now moving the American press. It can calmly look on while "a band of assassins, powerful, well organized and widespread throughout the South, murders whole families, tears men from their beds and hangs them upon trees, drives mayors and governors and federal officers fleeing for their lives from the place assigned them by the American government—despised, hated and defied by these murderers." This is the language of an American journal, and written only two days ago. But let law and order be outraged at Paris and chaos is all come again—American editors are in a blaze of excitement and indignation. But if the reports of Congress are true there is a "revolt" slowly preparing for careful attention among you to which that of Paris is as the summer breeze to the whirlwind.

HENRI DELESCLUZE.

THE AMERICAN PROPOSAL TO ASK FOR CANADA.

[From the London Economist, March 11.]

It is, of course, therefore the object of his enemies within the party to frustrate his nomination; and their leader, Senator Sumner, is said to have decided that the easiest method of opposition will be to represent President Grant's foreign policy as too favorable to England. More, they wish to insist on it, could be gained if the Alabama claims were kept open, and more is angrily demanded; and they propose, as the demand most acceptable to the electors, that England should be requested, as the first condition of permanent peace, to retire from the American Continent. Such a proposal, it is reported, has been gravely made by a Mr. Howard, and gravely considered in the Senate; and although it had no chance of acceptance in that body, it may have a very great influence upon people outside. It is doubtful if the monstrous character of the proposition would be perceived at all in America itself. It is a fact throwing a curious light on the effect of democratic institutions, that great cessions of territory without the consent of the inhabitants do not greatly surprise, far less horrify, the inhabitants of the United States. They are accustomed to them. They themselves are there without the consent of the aborigines, and they have acquired at different times Louisiana, Florida, Texas and California, without the consent of their white inhabitants. They have bought Alaska, they have made repeated offers for Cuba, they are in treaty for St. Domingo, and it is natural, therefore, that they should regard the cession of British America as quite within the limits of diplomatic proposals. Moreover, their habit of erecting conquered Territories into States with almost complete internal autonomy, so complete as to allow of enormous differences of civilization—for example, free divorce exists in Connecticut, prostitution is legalized and made a source of revenue in a fixed district of St. Louis, and polygamy is tolerated in Utah—conceals most of the oppressiveness of conquest, which seems to American eyes to partake rather of the character of absorption. And finally, there is a belief, almost universal, in the Union, and not without a certain truth, that any honorable method of severing herself from her Continental possessions in America would be welcome to Great Britain. It is by no means incredible, therefore, that a proposal to negotiate for the cession of British America might strike the people of the United States as a display of mere diplomatic skill, quite within the bounds of propriety, and involving no particular difficulty; and in that case President Grant would be, as it were, outbid, and his chance of obtaining the party nomination very materially diminished.

The plan is worthy of attention, but it will, we believe, fail. In the first place, the political leaders will probably consider the election of their own man to the Presidency more advantageous than the addition to the ranks of the electors of vast numbers of new Canadian electors with unknown sympathies, able favorites and a tendency to make geographical rather than party alliances. The Dominion would make at least ten States, and that would upset almost all calculations, particularly if the new States were sufficiently out of temper at annexation to join some depressed section of the Union, such as the South or New England or the Pacific Coast. This fear would of itself make Mr. Sumner's proposition much less tempting to politicians, for the Canadians are strong enough to insist on their own terms of admission. In the second place, the Irish vote, which Mr. Sumner would like to gain, would be lost at once. The Irish are ruled by men who hope ultimately for war with England, not for the removal of all causes of war, and of all probability of waging it successfully. They care for what they conceive to be the interests of Ireland, not for the increased grandeur of the Union. And finally, all Americans will reject the proposal as soon as they know that it would be entirely inadmissible, except as a result of the defeat of Great Britain. They do not want to wage a vast, doubtful, and dangerous war, in order to absorb a people who, as a consequence of that war, would be hostile for a generation. And there is no doubt that this is the fact. The Canadians may quit the empire by vote whenever they please. When they have quitted it they may join whomsoever they choose. But any attempt to surrender them without their own consent, or to make their consent the makeweight in any treaty, would cost the government which made the proposal to Parliament its existence. The British people are not anxious to retain Canada; but they will defend it as long as it chooses to remain a colony, and will neither cede nor sell it. The proposal is, therefore, rejected from the beginning, and the moment that is comprehended it will cease to stand in the way of the labors of the Joint Commission.

MISCELLANEOUS FOREIGN ITEMS.

The oldest rabbi died on February 19, in Lovas-Bereny, Hungary, at the age of 102.

The Paris *L'Opinion Nationale* has resumed its former size.

Princess Dora d'Istria has been nominated honorary member of the Sillogos Philologikos, a learned society in Smyrna.

At the request of Bishop Dunpanloup the churches which had been transformed into military warehouses will be returned by the government to their former.

A shocking railroad accident lately happened in France by the collision of the trains from Redon and Rennes. Both engines and eight carriages were completely smashed. There were six dead and twenty-four wounded.

According to an official statistical report the imports of Italy for 1870 amounted to 888,539,293 francs, the exports 757,076,905 francs, showing a considerable decrease in comparison with the figures of the preceding year. This, however, may be ascribed to the late Franco-German war.

The Italian Parliament has granted a credit of 150,000,000 francs for the fortification of the passages of the Alps and the increase of the fortifications of Alexandria, Civita Vecchia and Rome. It is said that with a good system of defence and a population of 500,000 souls the capital of Italy could, at an expense of 50,000,000 francs, be made strong enough to hold out for six months.

The *Echo du Parlement*, a clerical paper in Brussels, has formally announced that the Pope will, at the earnest entreaties of the Belgian Roman Catholics, take up his residence in Belgium. The other Brussels papers, however, say that the scheme was got up by the Jesuits of Rome, who have threatened the Italian government to take the Holy Father with them if they should be expelled from Rome.

The Paris journal *Figaro* makes thus known the key to the cipher by which the correspondence between the government of Paris and the delegation of Tours was carried on during the siege. At the beginning of the investment the Ministers of Paris and the delegation agreed upon a number composed of several figures, no matter which. Let us take, for instance, 3, 2, 0, 7, 4, 9, 8. Admitting, now, that General Trochu wanted to send to M. Crémieux and Glais-Bizoin the following despatch:—"Gambetta arrivé," the expeditor proceeded in the following manner:—He had under his eyes the twenty-six letters of the alphabet—A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z. He wrote the number as many times as it was necessary, and under each figure the corresponding letter of the despatch in observing the rotation. That done he counted three letters after the G to I, two letters after A to C; the 0 (zero) represented the veritable letter M; seven letters after B to I, and so on. The following will better explain the system:—

32074983 207498
GAMBETTA ARRIVE.
JCM I ICBD CZYMEM

The last series of barbarian consonants left for Tours; and, in order to decipher the despatch, the person to whom it was addressed had only to do the contrary operation, count three letters before the I, two letters before the C, and so forth, and he obtained the words "Gambetta arrivé." As a matter of course the number may be changed or reversed from time to time, according to previous agreement, in order to elude discovery. Such despatches, which fell into the hands of the Prussians, must have puzzled them a little. Taking, for instance, jemicbdczymem, what could they make of it?

YACHTING.

Promising Prospects for the Coming Season.

Additions to the Atlantic and Brooklyn Yacht Clubs—The Agnes, Alert, West Wind, Maggie B, William M. Tweed and Others Not Named—Alterations and Additions to the Sloop Addie V and Schooner Madeleine—Interesting Particulars.

Not alone are the enthusiastic members of the New York Yacht Club doing their utmost to make the coming yachting season of that nature to satisfy the most aquatic epicure, as the same feeling noticeable among them seems to actuate all like organizations in the country, and the notes of preparations that come from the Brooklyn, Atlantic and other clubs are of the most satisfactory nature. New vessels for the several pleasure navies around us are being constructed in great numbers, and alterations and additions to well known and well tried craft can be counted

BY THE SCORE.

On the borders of the Hudson, on Long Island Sound, on the Delaware and at Gowanus creek symmetrical hulls are going on frames or being finished and furnished, each with an eye single to one purpose—that speed may be developed and this or that yacht not be last in the coming races of her class. The HERALD has frequently of late adverted to the construction and models of the larger yachts now in progress of erection; but while these larger sisters should demand their meed of attention, the smaller boats must

NOT BE NEGLECTED,

as in such many veterans of the aquatic school pass their pleasantest days, and they do much towards educating the rising scions of the country in a taste for and thorough knowledge of sea-going pursuits that has so much helped to make the United States of to-day and aided the spirit of adventure and enterprise among us.

First of these, and possibly the nearest completion, is the centre-board

SCHOONER AGNES,

being constructed for Mr. Edward Harney, of the Atlantic Yacht Club. Although her owner declares that she is not intended for a racing vessel, her lines are such that she may have a right eventually to dictate terms to some of her aquatic companions. The dimensions of the Agnes are:—Length on water line, 54 feet; length over all, 60 feet; breadth of beam, 17 feet 6 inches; depth of hold, 6 feet. Her frame is of white oak, hackmatack and locust, which is fastened in the most workmanlike manner. It will be fully three weeks before she is so far progressed as to be launched, but yet her spars and canvas have been determined upon, and are as follows:—

SPARRING.

	Feet.
Mainmast	54
Foremast	56
Bowsprit	20
Topmast	20
Mainboom	36
Foreboom	20
Fore and main gaffs	19

The Agnes will be fully rigged excepting in the particular of a foretopmast, which she will not carry, in this being alike to our pilot boats.

She will be fitted with mainsail, foresail, jib, main gaff topsail and maintopmast staysail.

In her finish and appointments this yacht will be handsome and tasteful. Her cabin will be finished in white and gold, while rich black walnut trimmings will be observable throughout.

THE SLOOP YACHT ALERT.

Mr. John Dimond, of the Brooklyn Yacht Club, is having constructed a centre-board sloop, to be called the Alert, at the yard of Mr. James Lennox, which next demands attention. Much care has been taken with the model of this pleasure vessel, and indeed if architectural appearances are not altogether deceptive, she will prove among boats of her class a difficult vessel to run hull down. Her lines are handsome and denote speed. For this she is being built, and it is hoped her owner will be fully satisfied when her abilities are measured with

THE KEEN ONES

in the enterprising Brooklyn Club. The dimensions of the Alert are:—Length on deck, 40 feet; breadth of beam, 15 feet; depth of hold, 4 feet 9 inches. The frame of the yacht is of white oak and hackmatack, while her bottom is of cedar. Her spars will be of the annexed dimensions:—Length of mast, 45 feet; mast head, 3 feet 6 inches; mainboom, 40 feet; main gaff, 20 feet; bowsprit, outboard, 18 feet; topmast, 19 feet. She will spread in racing trim 2,050 square feet of canvas. In finish and interior ornamentation the Alert will be of black walnut, and painted in colors that will be pleasing to the eye.

Alongside of the Alert is the centre-board

SLOOP YACHT WEST WIND,

building for Mr. John W. Rich, of the Brooklyn and Atlantic yacht clubs. Her model will command attention from all yachtmen, and it will undoubtedly be a sad disappointment if she proves unworthy of her name. No such fate will overtake her owner, it is believed, as everything indicates that the little boat will be both speedy, saucily so, and beautiful in the water. The dimensions of the West Wind are:—Length of keel, 43 feet; length on deck 48 feet; breadth of beam, 15 feet; depth of hold, 6 feet 4 inches. The frame of this handsome "feather weight" is of white oak and locust, while her planking through and through is of yellow pine. Her spars are nearly finished and will be of the following dimensions:—

	Feet.
Length of mast from deck to bounds	52
Masthead	5
Mainboom	44
Maingaff	22
Bowsprit outboard	22
Topmast	20

Her canvas will be in excellent proportion, and enough of it to show on a good day in a good breeze a clean pair of heels to many captains of sloop yachts that claim their boats are invincible.

Appreciating that the motto of the true yachtman should be progress, Vice Commodore Langley, of the Brooklyn Yacht Club, has caused his pretty little craft, the

SLOOP ADDIE V.,

to be lengthened, resparred, rigged anew, and refitted and reappointed. This work has been actively prosecuted at Nyack, on the Hudson, for some time past, and is in such a state of forwardness that the taut craft will be in perfect trim early in May. The addition to the hull consists of making her nine feet longer aft, which, with a handsome stern, so changes her appearance that many of her old friends will not recognize her. Her cabin work will be entirely new, as is the entire

INTERIOR ARRANGEMENTS,

which have been planned with the view to obtaining more comfort and convenience than formerly.

Her length on the water line, with the addition noted, will be 58 feet. The character of her new spars may be adjudged from the following:—Length of mast, 67 feet; masthead, 6 feet; mainboom, 59 feet; mainga