SUMMARY OF NEWS.

BY ALLAN STEAMER.

From Liverpool, May 10th.

THE PRINCE OF WALES AND THE LICENSED VICTUALLERS.

At the annual dinner of the Licensed Victuallers the Prince of Wales was in the chair, and in the course of the few remarks in which he acknowledged the customary loyal toasts, he said:—"I may state that during the last two or three days I have received some long printed petitions from various parts of the United Kingdom relative to my attendance here this evening. Of course I don't wish to say a word to disparage these societies, which no doubt have excellent objects in view, but I think that in this instance they have rather overshot the mark. The object of our meeting here tonight is not to encourage the love of drink, but rather to support a good and excellent charity. I can only say I am sure that all here will agree with me that no one had more at heart the interests of his adopted country than my lamented father, and I feel perfectly convinced that he would never have been the friend of the society unless he was sure that it was one likely to do good and was deserving of his support."

In a similar spirit of good-natured reproof, Lord Granville remarked that he had been recently warned by his friends of the risk he ran popularly by publicly associating himself with those monsters of iniquity the Licensed Victuallers, and had replied that, in any case, he should attend the dinner, if it were only to see three hundred monsters of iniquity pleasantly assembled together to promote a work of genuine charity and benevolence.

The Telegraph remarks:—"We doubt if any more flagrant instance of maudlemoon folly, bad taste, and bad feeling, could be well be imagined than that afforded by the conduct of those members of the United Kingdom Alliance and other temperance societies who have recently taken upon themselves to call the Heir Apparent to task for his kindness, and, we may add, his conscientiousness, in consenting to preside at the annual dinner of the Licensed Victuallers' Asylum, of which liberal charity his Royal Highness is patron, as his father was before him. The licensed victuallers are a powerfully organised body. They know very well how to protect their own interests; but, to do them justice, they know also how to aid those who need assistance, and succor the needy and sick among them; and their various charities, of which the Asylum in the old Kent road is the chief, are conferred upon a scale of the most munificent generosity, while at the same time the funds are administered with a care and economy which many similar institutions might well do well to imitate. The conduct of the teetallers who took upon it themselves to pester the Royal Highness with advice of far worse than foolish—it is mischievous; and if there be organisations which, in the metrical phrase it is to be hoped that the leaders of the movement will have the common sense, and, we add, the decency to express their regret at the astounding bad taste and bigotry of which some of their followers have been guilty."

The Standard has an editorial to a similar effect as the *Telegraph*.

THE PRETENDED SPEECH OF COUNT MOLTKE.

The speech attributed to Count Moltke, and which made so much sensation in Europe, is impudent and mischievous forgery." The *Daily News* says:—"It is to be regretted that responsible journals have given sensational purposes should have given space to such a palpable fabrication, although they prefaced it "under all reserve," which does not prevent the mischief of false news. The *Moniteur* says the forgery was hawked about to several editors and correspondents before being accepted by the *Figaro*.

BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

The Board of Trade returns for the last month are more promising than any of the previous returns for this year. There is a decline in exports, but the difference as compared with April, 1876, is so slight as to indicate that the downward tendency has spent its strength. Speaking generally, says the *Times*, the value of exports for the month of April in these two years may be taken at the same. This is a sign of the continued stagnation of trade, it is true, but it is re-assuring after the threatening indications of further decline shown in some of the returns for the earlier months of this year.

ENGLAND'S REPLY TO RUSSIA.

The leading French paper, organ of Earl Derby, replied to Prince Gortschakoff's note. The *Journal des Debats* remarks:—"The Foreign Office has never spoken more clear or plainer terms, and it perhaps uses them now only under the pressure of public opinion. It is not this journal, in England dotrine war, but they desire to be ready for anything. We are informed that the public events, and in the present to reject all moral adhesion to the conduct of the Russian Government and the explanation of it which has been furnished. Beyond that, England is neutral; the world has made a sensation declaration of the fact; and Lord Derby has addressed to the Continent a circular despatch, a note the tenor of which have been officially published in France. All Europe knows that the Russian belligerent powers the same attitude of expectancy and reserve, but no other power than England held it necessary to reply to the circular of Prince Gortschakoff. Germany and Austria appear to be agreed at the present moment in the course which they ought to follow, as is indicated by their simultaneously sending ambassadors to Constantinople. Like Italy and ourselves, those nations hold a neutr reserve, probably ready to offer their mediation when occasion permits."

La Presse after remarking that the British navy has generally been considered as being very stern, says that

After all, we must be impartial, and, how ever hard and we may shrink from the phrases of Lord Derby and Lord Beaconsfield, we must admit that the invasion of Armenia, the passage of the Danube, and the attack on the Turkish Empire evidently feels that the hour is approaching when her honour and her interests will be menaced.

The Russian *Le Nord*, on the other hand, says that there is no reason to be surprised at Lord Derby's disapproval of the conduct of Russia:—

Since the commencement of the Eastern crisis, Russia has rolonged the subject which she *notoriously* gave rise to the beginning, where as the English Government, in spite of the opposition of the Opposition, condemning one day a communication which it had made the day before. There is too great a difference between the line of conduct adopted by the respective Governments for the Minister who has followed Russia to be able to sympathise with the Government which has followed the first.

The article concludes by throwing the whole blame on the hostilities and contradictions of the policy of the English Government, which have prevented the European concert from becoming a reality.

ITALY AND THE POPE.

At a meeting of the Dublin Corporation on May 7th, the following letter from Lord Beaconsfield was read:—"10 Downing street, Whitehall, April 19, 1877. Sir,—Lord Beaconsfield has had the honour to receive your letter of the 20th ult. transmitting a memorial addressed to him by the Lord Mayor and Corporation of Dublin, in which attention is drawn to the relations existing between the Italian Legislature and the Holy See, especially with reference to a measure now under the consideration of the Italian Parliament. He desires me to point out that the measure is one which relates entirely to the internal and domestic administration of Italy, and that, however much her Majesty's Government may regret that the relations between the Italian Government and the Holy See should not be of a cordial character, it would be manifestly improper for them to attempt to interfere with the free action of the Italian representatives. Under these circumstances the Prime Minister doubts whether any useful purpose would be served by his receiving a deputation on the subject."

AMERICAN SHEEP.

The Anchor steamer Ethiopian, says the *Times*, brought to this country twenty-five sheep, which were landed in good condition. This is the first experiment made in the shipment of sheep from America. The same steamer brought over eighteen horses for a tramway company, which is a novelty.

RUSSIA IN ASIA.

Discussing the possibility of hostilities between England and Russia, the London Globe in connection with the numerical inferiority of the British land forces:—"It would be a huge mistake to imagine that we have no other means of offence than the troops quartered in the United Kingdom. If that were the case, our Continental friends might well ask what could England do in the event of a Czar marching Asia Minor the real objective point of the war, while massing his Sebastopolian army behind the Danube in order to keep the bulk of the Turkish forces in that quarter? It would be difficult indeed for this country to strike an effective blow in Asiatic Turkey so long as the Russian commander kept away from the Mediterranean littoral. There is, however, another direction from which a very destructive thunderbolt might be launched at the Russian authority in Asia. Our position in India is vastly superior for offensive purposes to what it was at the time of the Crimean campaign. Then we had less than 30,000 European soldiers of all arms in Hindostan; now we have more than 60,000. Then the native army, swollen to perilous dimensions and spoilt by over-petting, had almost all the great forts and arsenals, and comprised the greater portion of the artillery; now, every stronghold of importance is garrisoned by English soldiers, and there is no artillery military. Then, we stretched little line of railway connected Calcutta with Ranelgunge, a distance of about 120 miles; now the whole peninsula is covered with a network of railways, providing means for the rapid concentration of troops on any point. Then, the severity of our struggle for the Punjab was yet fresh in the minds of native princes, and beyond the Sikhs no foreign power existed a triumphant enemy of the disaster which befel our arms in 1857; now the Punjab is one of the most loyal and prosperous provinces of our Eastern Empire, the great fendatories feel their rights and privileges, and Afghanistan leans more and more on her powerful southern neighbour. It is not but the advance of a British column to Herat, for the avowed purpose of stemming the Russian and driving them out of the Khanates, to light a conflagration which would destroy Russian dominion in Central Asia? Kaufmann doesn't believe in fury was expended. Since Ali, of Yakoob Beg, of Kashgar, the holy King of Bokhara, the many Khans who have been dispossessed of their territories by Russian the restless nomads of Turkestan, all these, and many more, would heartily join in a crusade for the expulsion of the hated Cossack. And if the Czar were struck a mortal blow in this quarter, what would matter to great Britain, and quality, of his Asia Minor away from the litoral?

GREAT BRITAIN AND RUSSIA.

The Licensed Victuallers' dinner the Prince of Wales consisted his speech by proposing the Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces, and said:—"The toast is given, indeed, so often that it is difficult to vary the manner of giving it, and especially at the present moment I feel it would be unbecoming in me to dilate in any way on the army or the navy. But at the present moment, when the political horizon far away is so obscure, I feel sure that whatever may happen it is the wish of all Englishmen that our army, though small, should be in the highest state of efficiency, and that our navy should be, as it ought to be, the best in the world. (Applause.) I have lately returned from a short trip in the Mediterranean, where I had the pleasure of spending ten days on one of the finest men-of-war in her Majesty's service; and, though the captain of that vessel is my own brother, I feel I may say that there are few vessels which are in a better state of order and discipline, and I think that if all the rest of the fleet are in the same state we shall have no cause to complain of our naval service."

THE "NEXT LIBERAL MINISTRY."

A political *jeu d'esprit*, in the form of the "Next Liberal Ministry," is being circulated (says the London correspondent of the Boston *Advertiser*) among the members in the House of Commons. Mr. Gladstone, of course, occupies the position of Prime Minister; Mr. Mundella figures as Home Secretary; Mr. Fawcett as Indian Secretary; Mr. Rylands as Foreign Secretary; and Mr. Jenkins as Minister of Colonies.

CARDINAL CULLEN ON THE WAR.

Cardinal Cullen, in a pastoral to his clergy, which was read in the Dublin chapels to-day, says that it is not their business to discuss the conduct of the Turks, who have acted so barbarously towards the Christians of late years, or of the Russians, who, with a still worthy of Julian the Apostate, in his hatred of the true religion, have carried on a cruel and destructive persecution for so many years against the Poles. If Russia be allowed to take possession of Constantinople and of Turkish provinces, there is every danger that, under her influence, Cossack barbarity will be widely spread, that Governments will become despotic, that individual and family liberty will be destroyed, and God's church placed in great jeopardy.

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN.

The following bulletin has been issued:—

"CUMBERLAND LODGE,
"WINDSOR, May 7.

"Her Royal Highness Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, Princess Helena of Great Britain and Ireland, has been delivered a still-born son at 15 minutes past 6 this afternoon.

"Her Royal Highness is progressing satisfactorily.

"WILLIAM S. PRIESTLY, M.D.
"JAMES ELLISON, M.D.
"THOMAS FAIRBANK, M.D."

ATTEMPT AT REPUBLICANISM IN ENGLAND.

A trial shipment of frozen meat will shortly leave for England in the ship Northam. Mr. Bell, the promoter of the scheme in Australia, has purchased 500 head of cattle, and engaged cubic feet of space on board the vessel, which will be specially fitted up for the purpose.

THE ROYAL ARTICLES.

The printers of Portsmouth having conceived the project of erecting a monument to Charles Dickens in that town, and appealed to the Queen for her patronage; and her Majesty has felt compelled to decline, stating that she never authorized her name to such a mark of honour to any person—with, of course, no disparagement to people, as, we can easily believe, says the Manchester *Guardian*, that the request was an unusual one, and that compliance with it, if granted, would have raised a number of similar questions requiring for their settlement the exercise of a critical faculty which it would be inconvenient that the Queen or her personal advisers should exercise. Time was therefore, and is, no conceivable room for offence.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

We read in the Liverpool *Courier*:—"Amid the troubles and uncertainties of the Eastern Question, we now see the value of our investment in Suez canal stock. When Mr. Disraeli quietly agreed to purchase the Khedive his interest in M. de Lesseps' great waterway there were foolish people who argued at the time that they thought we had no need to pay four millions for property that was of no direct value to England, but the result has shown that, in giving privileges nil, and that the whole transaction was one that reflected the highest credit on the statesmanship of our public affairs. It has proved a very lucky "job" indeed. It has increased our wealth of fortune, however, but the precious understanding of events which it has. The Suez canal became our the cloud rising in the East before it was discerned by the statesmen of Europe, and, at the times for the storm. Our moderation in Turkey could arise without directly affecting England's interests, and nowhere were those interests more vitally at stake than in the Suez canal. We now fully we appreciate the fact. Through that channel a mighty fleet of steamers interchange the riches of Asia and Europe. It is a day passes without vessels sailing and arriving in the Mersey from India, China, Japan, Java, goods, and more distant China, and nineteenths of those steamers use the short-cut through the Red Sea and Mediterranean. Any interruption of this traffic would be an irreparable injury to the British commerce. No doubt England would have been prepared to keep open this highway of trade at all hazards, and, no matter who may say; but such interruption might have seemed gratuitous and aggressive without the cause of the Suez canal itself. That objection cannot now be raised. England has a substantial property in the canal. She has bought and paid for her shares, and, therefore, only protecting her property when she takes the defence of the Turks, who will shortly be in a position to protect their own interests; but, to do them justice, will do so, and, we add, will assist the needy and sick among them; and their various charities, of which the Asylum in the old Kent road is the chief, are conferred upon a scale of the most munificent generosity, while at the same time the funds are administered with a care and economy which many similar institutions might well do well to imitate. The conduct of the teetallers who took upon it themselves to pester the Royal Highness with advice of far worse than foolish—it is mischievous; and if there be organisations which, in the metrical phrase it is to be hoped that the leaders of the movement will have the common sense, and, we add, the decency to express their regret at the astounding bad taste and bigotry of which some of their followers have been guilty."

The Standard has an editorial to a similar effect as the *Telegraph*.

THE PRETENDED SPEECH OF COUNT MOLTKE.

The speech attributed to Count Moltke, and which made so much sensation in Europe, is impudent and mischievous forgery." The *Daily News* says:—"It is to be regretted that responsible journals have given sensational purposes should have given space to such a palpable fabrication, although they prefaced it "under all reserve," which does not prevent the mischief of false news. The *Moniteur* says the forgery was hawked about to several editors and correspondents before being accepted by the *Figaro*.

BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

The Board of Trade returns for the last month are more promising than any of the previous returns for this year. There is a decline in exports, but the difference as compared with April, 1876, is so slight as to indicate that the downward tendency has spent its strength. Speaking generally, says the *Times*, the value of exports for the month of April in these two years may be taken at the same. This is a sign of the continued stagnation of trade, it is true, but it is re-assuring after the threatening indications of further decline shown in some of the returns for the earlier months of this year.

ENGLAND'S REPLY TO RUSSIA.

The leading French paper, organ of Earl Derby, replied to Prince Gortschakoff's note. The *Journal des Debats* remarks:—"The Foreign Office has never spoken more clear or plainer terms, and it perhaps uses them now only under the pressure of public opinion. It is not this journal in England dotrine war, but they desire to be ready for anything. We are informed that the public events, and in the present to reject all moral adhesion to the conduct of the Russian Government and the explanation of it which has been furnished. Beyond that, England is neutral; the world has made a sensation declaration of the fact; and Lord Derby has addressed to the Continent a circular despatch, a note the tenor of which have been officially published in France. All Europe knows that the Russian belligerent powers the same attitude of expectancy and reserve, but no other power than England held it necessary to reply to the circular of Prince Gortschakoff. Germany and Austria appear to be agreed at the present moment in the course which they ought to follow, as is indicated by their simultaneously sending ambassadors to Constantinople. Like Italy and ourselves, those nations hold a neutr reserve, probably ready to offer their mediation when occasion permits."

La Presse after remarking that the British navy has generally been considered as being very stern, says that

After all, we must be impartial, and, how ever hard and we may shrink from the phrases of Lord Derby and Lord Beaconsfield, we must admit that the invasion of Armenia, the passage of the Danube, and the attack on the Turkish Empire evidently feels that the hour is approaching when her honour and her interests will be menaced.

The Russian *Le Nord*, on the other hand, says that there is no reason to be surprised at Lord Derby's disapproval of the conduct of Russia:—

Since the commencement of the Eastern crisis, Russia has rolonged the subject which she *notoriously* gave rise to the beginning, where as the English Government, in spite of the opposition of the Opposition, condemning one day a communication which it had made the day before. There is too great a difference between the line of conduct adopted by the respective Governments for the Minister who has followed Russia to be able to sympathise with the free action of the Italian representatives. Under these circumstances the Prime Minister doubts whether any useful purpose would be served by his receiving a deputation on the subject."

AMERICAN SHEEP.

The Anchor steamer Ethiopian, says the *Times*, brought to this country twenty-five sheep, which were landed in good condition. This is the first experiment made in the shipment of sheep from America. The same steamer brought over eighteen horses for a tramway company, which is a novelty.

RUSSIA IN ASIA.

Discussing the possibility of hostilities between England and Russia, the London Globe in connection with the numerical inferiority of the British land forces:—"It would be a huge mistake to imagine that we have no other means of offence than the troops quartered in the United Kingdom. If that were the case, our Continental friends might well ask what could England do in the event of a Czar marching Asia Minor the real objective point of the war, while massing his Sebastopolian army behind the Danube in order to keep the bulk of the Turkish forces in that quarter? It would be difficult indeed for this country to strike an effective blow in Asiatic Turkey so long as the Russian commander kept away from the Mediterranean littoral. There is, however, another direction from which a very destructive thunderbolt might be launched at the Russian authority in Asia. Our position in India is vastly superior for offensive purposes to what it was at the time of the Crimean campaign. Then we had less than 30,000 European soldiers of all arms in Hindostan; now we have more than 60,000. Then the native army, swollen to perilous dimensions and spoilt by over-petting, had almost all the great forts and arsenals, and comprised the greater portion of the artillery; now, every stronghold of importance is garrisoned by English soldiers, and there is no artillery military. Then, we stretched little line of railway connected Calcutta with Ranelgunge, a distance of about 120 miles; now the whole peninsula is covered with a network of railways, providing means for the rapid concentration of troops on any point. Then, the severity of our struggle for the Punjab was yet fresh in the minds of native princes, and beyond the Sikhs no foreign power existed a triumphant enemy of the disaster which befel our arms in 1857; now the Punjab is one of the most loyal and prosperous provinces of our Eastern Empire, the great feudatories feel their rights and privileges, and Afghanistan leans more and more on her powerful southern neighbour. It is not but the advance of a British column to Herat, for the avowed purpose of stemming the Russian and driving them out of the Khanates, to light a conflagration which would destroy Russian dominion in Central Asia? Kaufmann doesn't believe in fury was expended. Since Ali, of Yakoob Beg, of Kashgar, the holy King of Bokhara, the many Khans who have been dispossessed of their territories by Russian the restless nomads of Turkestan, all these, and many more, would heartily join in a crusade for the expulsion of the hated Cossack. And if the Czar were struck a mortal blow in this quarter, what would matter to great Britain, and quality, of his Asia Minor away from the litoral?

GREAT BRITAIN AND RUSSIA.

The Licensed Victuallers' dinner the Prince of Wales consisted his speech by proposing the Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces, and said:—"The toast is given, indeed, so often that it is difficult to vary the manner of giving it, and especially at the present moment I feel it would be unbecoming in me to dilate in any way on the army or the navy. But at the present moment, when the political horizon far away is so obscure, I feel sure that whatever may happen it is the wish of all Englishmen that our army, though small, should be in the highest state of efficiency, and that our navy should be, as it ought to be, the best in the world. (Applause.) I have lately returned from a short trip in the Mediterranean, where I had the pleasure of spending ten days on one of the finest men-of-war in her Majesty's service; and, though the captain of that vessel is my own brother, I feel I may say that there are few vessels which are in a better state of order and discipline, and I think that if all the rest of the fleet are in the same state we shall have no cause to complain of our naval service."

THE "NEXT LIBERAL MINISTRY."

A political *jeu d'esprit*, in the form of the "Next Liberal Ministry," is being circulated (says the London correspondent of the Boston *Advertiser*) among the members in the House of Commons. Mr. Gladstone, of course, occupies the position of Prime Minister; Mr. Mundella figures as Home Secretary; Mr. Fawcett as Indian Secretary; Mr. Rylands as Foreign Secretary; and Mr. Jenkins as Minister of Colonies.

CARDINAL CULLEN ON THE WAR.

Cardinal Cullen, in a pastoral to his clergy, which was read in the Dublin chapels to-day, says that it is not their business to discuss the conduct of the Turks, who have acted so barbarously towards the Christians of late years, or of the Russians, who, with a still worthy of Julian the Apostate, in his hatred of the true religion, have carried on a cruel and destructive persecution for so many years against the Poles. If Russia be allowed to take possession of Constantinople and of Turkish provinces, there is every danger that, under her influence, Cossack barbarity will be widely spread, that Governments will become despotic, that individual and family liberty will be destroyed, and God's church placed in great jeopardy.

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN.

The following bulletin has been issued:—

"CUMBERLAND LODGE,
"WINDSOR, May 7.

"Her Royal Highness Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, Princess Helena of Great Britain and Ireland, has been delivered a still-born son at 15 minutes past 6 this afternoon.

"Her Royal Highness is progressing satisfactorily.

"WILLIAM S. PRIESTLY, M.D.
"JAMES ELLISON, M.D.
"THOMAS FAIRBANK, M.D."

ATTEMPT AT REPUBLICANISM IN ENGLAND.

A trial shipment of frozen meat will shortly leave for England in the ship Northam. Mr. Bell, the promoter of the scheme in Australia, has purchased 500 head of cattle, and engaged cubic feet of space on board the vessel, which will be specially fitted up for the purpose.

THE ROYAL ARTICLES.

The printers of Portsmouth having conceived the project of erecting a monument to Charles Dickens in that town, and appealed to the Queen for her patronage; and her Majesty has felt compelled to decline, stating that she never authorized her name to such a mark of honour to any person—with, of course, no disparagement to people, as, we can easily believe, says the Manchester *Guardian*, that the request was an unusual one, and that compliance with it, if granted, would have raised a number of similar questions requiring for their settlement the exercise of a critical faculty which it would be inconvenient that the Queen or her personal advisers should exercise. Time was therefore, and is, no conceivable room for offence.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

We read in the Liverpool *Courier*:—"Amid the troubles and uncertainties of the Eastern Question, we now see the value of our investment in Suez canal stock. When Mr. Disraeli quietly agreed to purchase the Khedive his interest in M. de Lesseps' great waterway there were foolish people who argued at the time that they thought we had no need to pay four millions for property that was of no direct value to England, but the result has shown that, in giving privileges nil, and that the whole transaction was one that reflected the highest credit on the statesmanship of our public affairs. It has proved a very lucky "job" indeed. It has increased our wealth of fortune, however, but the precious understanding of events which it has. The Suez canal became our the cloud rising in the East before it was discerned by the statesmen of Europe, and, at the times for the storm. Our moderation in Turkey could arise without directly affecting England's interests, and nowhere were those interests more vitally at stake than in the Suez canal. We now fully we appreciate the fact. Through that channel a mighty fleet of steamers interchange the riches of Asia and Europe. It is a day passes without vessels sailing and arriving in the Mersey from India, China, Japan, Java, goods, and more distant China, and nineteenths of those steamers use the short-cut through the Red Sea and Mediterranean. Any interruption of this traffic would be an irreparable injury to the British commerce. No doubt England would have been prepared to keep open this highway of trade at all hazards, and, no matter who may say; but such interruption might have seemed gratuitous and aggressive without the cause of the Suez canal itself. That objection cannot now be raised. England has a substantial property in the canal. She has bought and paid for her shares, and, therefore, only protecting her property when she takes the defence of the Turks, who will shortly be in a position to protect their own interests; but, to do them justice, will do so, and, we add, will assist the needy and sick among them; and their various charities, of which the Asylum in the old Kent road is the chief, are conferred upon a scale of the most munificent generosity, while at the same time the funds are administered with a care and economy which many similar institutions might well do well to imitate. The conduct of the teetallers who took upon it themselves to pester the Royal Highness with advice of far worse than foolish—it is mischievous; and if there be organisations which, in the metrical phrase it is to be hoped that the leaders of the movement will have the common sense, and, we add, the decency to express their regret at the astounding bad taste and bigotry of which some of their followers have been guilty."

The Standard has an editorial to a similar effect as the *Telegraph*.

THE PRETENDED SPEECH OF COUNT MOLTKE.

The speech attributed to Count Moltke, and which made so much sensation in Europe, is impudent and mischievous forgery." The *Daily News* says:—"It is to be regretted that responsible journals have given sensational purposes should have given space to such a palpable fabrication, although they prefaced it "under all reserve," which does not prevent the mischief of false news. The *Moniteur* says the forgery was hawked about to several editors and correspondents before being accepted by the *Figaro*.

BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

The Board of Trade returns for the last month are more promising than any of the previous returns for this year. There is a decline in exports, but the difference as compared with April, 1876, is so slight as to indicate that the downward tendency has spent its strength. Speaking generally, says the *Times*, the value of exports for the month of April in these two years may be taken at the same. This is a sign of the continued stagnation of trade, it is true, but it is re-assuring after the threatening indications of further decline shown in some of the returns for the earlier months of this year.

ENGLAND'S REPLY TO RUSSIA.

The leading French paper, organ of Earl Derby, replied to Prince Gortschakoff's note. The *Journal des Debats* remarks:—"The Foreign Office has never spoken more clear or plainer terms, and it perhaps uses them now only under the pressure of public opinion. It is not this journal in England dotrine war, but they desire to be ready for anything. We are informed that the public events, and in the present to reject all moral adhesion to the conduct of the Russian Government and the explanation of it which has been furnished. Beyond that, England is neutral; the world has made a sensation declaration of the fact; and Lord Derby has addressed to the Continent a circular despatch, a note the tenor of which have been officially published in France. All Europe knows that the Russian belligerent powers the same attitude of expectancy and reserve, but no other power than England held it necessary to reply to the circular of Prince Gortschakoff. Germany and Austria appear to be agreed at the present moment in the course which they ought to follow, as is indicated by their simultaneously sending ambassadors to Constantinople. Like Italy and ourselves, those nations hold a neutr reserve, probably ready to offer their mediation when occasion permits."

La Presse after remarking that the British navy has generally been considered as being very stern, says that

After all, we must be impartial, and, how ever hard and we may shrink from the phrases of Lord Derby and Lord Beaconsfield, we must admit that the invasion of Armenia, the passage of the Danube, and the attack on the Turkish Empire evidently feels that the hour is approaching when her honour and her interests will be menaced.

The Russian *Le Nord*, on the other hand, says that there is no reason to be surprised at Lord Derby's disapproval of the conduct of Russia:—

Since the commencement of the Eastern crisis, Russia has rolonged the subject which she *notoriously* gave rise to the beginning, where as the English Government, in spite of the opposition of the Opposition, condemning one day a communication which it had made the day before. There is too great a difference between the line of conduct adopted by the respective Governments for the Minister who has followed Russia to be able to sympathise with the free action of the Italian representatives. Under these circumstances the Prime Minister doubts whether any useful purpose would be served by his receiving a deputation on the subject."

AMERICAN SHEEP.

The Anchor steamer Ethiopian, says the *Times*, brought to this country twenty-five sheep, which were landed in good condition. This is the first experiment made in the shipment of sheep from America. The same steamer brought over eighteen horses for a tramway company, which is a novelty.

RUSSIA IN ASIA.

Discussing the possibility of hostilities between England and Russia, the London Globe in connection with the numerical inferiority of the British land forces:—"It would be a huge mistake to imagine that we have no other means of offence than the troops quartered in the United Kingdom. If that were the case, our Continental friends might well ask what could England do in the event of a Czar marching Asia Minor the real objective point of the war, while massing his Sebastopolian army behind the Danube in order to keep the bulk of the Turkish forces in that quarter? It would be difficult indeed for this country to strike an effective blow in Asiatic Turkey so long as the Russian commander kept away from the Mediterranean littoral. There is, however, another direction from which a very destructive thunderbolt might be launched at the Russian authority in Asia. Our position in India is vastly superior for offensive purposes to what it was at the time of the Crimean campaign. Then we had less than 30,000 European soldiers of all arms in Hindostan; now we have more than 60,000. Then the native army, swollen to perilous dimensions and spoilt by over-petting, had almost all the great forts and arsenals, and comprised the greater portion of the artillery; now, every stronghold of importance is garrisoned by English soldiers, and there is no artillery military. Then, we stretched little line of railway connected Calcutta with Ranelgunge, a distance of about 120 miles; now the whole peninsula is covered with a network of railways, providing means for the rapid concentration of troops on any point. Then, the severity of our struggle for the Punjab was yet fresh in the minds of native princes, and beyond the Sikhs no foreign power existed a triumphant enemy of the disaster which befel our arms in 1857; now the Punjab is one of the most loyal and prosperous provinces of our Eastern Empire, the great feudatories feel their rights and privileges, and Afghanistan leans more and more on her powerful southern neighbour. It is not but the advance of a British column to Herat, for the avowed purpose of stemming the Russian and driving them out of the Khanates, to light a conflagration which would destroy Russian dominion in Central Asia? Kaufmann doesn't believe in fury was expended. Since Ali, of Yakoob Beg, of Kashgar, the holy King of Bokhara, the many Khans who have been dispossessed of their territories by Russian the restless nomads of Turkestan, all these, and many more, would heartily join in a crusade for the expulsion of the hated Cossack. And if the Czar were struck a mortal blow in this quarter, what would matter to great Britain, and quality, of his Asia Minor away from the litoral?

GREAT BRITAIN AND RUSSIA.

The Licensed Victuallers' dinner the Prince of Wales consisted his speech by proposing the Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces, and said:—"The toast is given, indeed, so often that it is difficult to vary the manner of giving it, and especially at the present moment I feel it would be unbecoming in me to dilate in any way on the army or the navy. But at the present moment, when the political horizon far away is so obscure, I feel sure that whatever may happen it is the wish of all Englishmen that our army, though small, should be in the highest state of efficiency, and that our navy should be, as it ought to be, the best in the world. (Applause.) I have lately returned from a short trip in the Mediterranean, where I had the pleasure of spending ten days on one of the finest men-of-war in her Majesty's service; and, though the captain of that vessel is my own brother, I feel I may say that there are few vessels which are in a better state of order and discipline, and I think that if all the rest of the fleet are in the same state we shall have no cause to complain of our naval service."

THE "NEXT LIBERAL MINISTRY."

A political *jeu d'esprit*, in the form of the "Next Liberal Ministry," is being circulated (says the London correspondent of the Boston *Advertiser*) among the members in the House of Commons. Mr. Gladstone, of course, occupies the position of Prime Minister; Mr. Mundella figures as Home Secretary; Mr. Fawcett as Indian Secretary; Mr. Rylands as Foreign Secretary; and Mr. Jenkins as Minister of Colonies.

CARDINAL CULLEN ON THE WAR.

Cardinal Cullen, in a pastoral to his clergy, which was read in the Dublin chapels to-day, says that it is not their business to discuss the conduct of the Turks, who have acted so barbarously towards the Christians of late years, or of the Russians, who, with a still worthy of Julian the Apostate, in his hatred of the true religion, have carried on a cruel and destructive persecution for so many years against the Poles. If Russia be allowed to take possession of Constantinople and of Turkish provinces, there is every danger that, under her influence, Cossack barbarity will be widely spread, that Governments will become despotic, that individual and family liberty will be destroyed, and God's church placed in great jeopardy.

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN.

The following bulletin has been issued:—

"CUMBERLAND LODGE,
"WINDSOR, May 7.

"Her Royal Highness Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, Princess Helena of Great Britain and Ireland, has been delivered a still-born son at 15 minutes past 6 this afternoon.

"Her Royal Highness is progressing satisfactorily.

"WILLIAM S. PRIESTLY, M.D.
"JAMES ELLISON, M.D.
"THOMAS FAIRBANK, M.D."

ATTEMPT AT REPUBLICANISM IN ENGLAND.

A trial shipment of frozen meat will shortly leave for England in the ship Northam. Mr. Bell, the promoter of the scheme in Australia, has purchased 500 head of cattle, and engaged cubic feet of space on board the vessel, which will be specially fitted up for the purpose.

THE ROYAL ARTICLES.

The printers of Portsmouth having conceived the project of erecting a monument to Charles Dickens in that town, and appealed to the Queen for her patronage; and her Majesty has felt compelled to decline, stating that she never authorized her name to such a mark of honour to any person—with, of course, no disparagement to people, as, we can easily believe, says the Manchester *Guardian*, that the request was an unusual one, and that compliance with it, if granted, would have raised a number of similar questions requiring for their settlement the exercise of a critical faculty which it would be inconvenient that the Queen or her personal advisers should exercise. Time was therefore, and is, no conceivable room for offence.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

We read in the Liverpool *Courier*:—"Amid the troubles and uncertainties of the Eastern Question, we now see the value of our investment in Suez canal stock. When Mr. Disraeli quietly agreed to purchase the Khedive his interest in M. de Lesseps' great waterway there were foolish people who argued at the time that they thought we had no need to pay four millions for property that was of no direct value to England, but the result has shown that, in giving privileges nil, and that the whole transaction was one that reflected the highest credit on the statesmanship of our public affairs. It has proved a very lucky "job" indeed. It has increased our wealth of fortune, however, but the precious understanding of events which it has. The Suez canal became our the cloud rising in the East before it was discerned by the statesmen of Europe, and, at the times for the storm. Our moderation in Turkey could arise without directly affecting England's interests, and nowhere were those interests more vitally at stake than in the Suez canal. We now fully we appreciate the fact. Through that channel a mighty fleet of steamers interchange the riches of Asia and Europe. It is a day passes without vessels sailing and arriving in the Mersey from India, China, Japan, Java, goods, and more distant China, and nineteenths of those steamers use the short-cut through the Red Sea and Mediterranean. Any interruption of this traffic would be an irreparable injury to the British commerce. No doubt England would have been prepared to keep open this highway of trade at all hazards, and, no matter who may say; but such interruption might have seemed gratuitous and aggressive without the cause of the Suez canal itself. That objection cannot now be raised. England has a substantial property in the canal. She has bought and paid for her shares, and, therefore, only protecting her property when she takes the defence of the Turks, who will shortly be in a position to protect their own interests; but, to do them justice, will do so, and, we add, will assist the needy and sick among them; and their various charities, of which the Asylum in the old Kent road is the chief, are conferred upon a scale of the most munificent generosity, while at the same time the funds are administered with a care and economy which many similar institutions might well do well to imitate. The conduct of the teetallers who took upon it themselves to pester the Royal Highness with advice of far worse than foolish—it is mischievous; and if there be organisations which, in the metrical phrase it is to be hoped that the leaders of the movement will have the common sense, and, we add, the decency to express their regret at the astounding bad taste and bigotry of which some of their followers have been guilty."

The Standard has an editorial to a similar effect as the *Telegraph*.

THE PRETENDED SPEECH OF COUNT MOLTKE.

The speech attributed to Count Moltke, and which made so much sensation in Europe, is impudent and mischievous forgery." The *Daily News* says:—"It is to be regretted that responsible journals have given sensational purposes should have given space to such a palpable fabrication, although they prefaced it "under all reserve," which does not prevent the mischief of false news. The *Moniteur* says the forgery was hawked about to several editors and correspondents before being accepted by the *Figaro*.

BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

The Board of Trade returns for the last month are more promising than any of the previous returns for this year. There is a decline in exports, but the difference as compared with April, 1876, is so slight as to indicate that the downward tendency has spent its strength. Speaking generally, says the *Times*, the value of exports for the month of April in these two years may be taken at the same. This is a sign of the continued stagnation of trade, it is true, but it is re-assuring after the threatening indications of further decline shown in some of the returns for the earlier months of this year.

ENGLAND'S REPLY TO RUSSIA.

The leading French paper, organ of Earl Derby, replied to Prince Gortschakoff's note. The *Journal des Debats* remarks:—"The Foreign Office has never spoken more clear or plainer terms, and it perhaps uses them now only under the pressure of public opinion. It is not this journal in England dotrine war, but they desire to be ready for anything. We are informed that the public events, and in the present to reject all moral adhesion to the conduct of the Russian Government and the explanation of it which has been furnished. Beyond that, England is neutral; the world has made a sensation declaration of the fact; and Lord Derby has addressed to the Continent a circular despatch, a note the tenor of which have been officially published in France. All Europe knows that the Russian belligerent powers the same attitude of expectancy and reserve, but no other power than England held it necessary to reply to the circular of Prince Gortschakoff. Germany and Austria appear to be agreed at the present moment in the course which they ought to follow, as is indicated by their simultaneously sending ambassadors to Constantinople. Like Italy and ourselves, those nations hold a neutr reserve, probably ready to offer their mediation when occasion permits."

La Presse after remarking that the British navy has generally been considered as being very stern, says that

After all, we must be impartial, and, how ever hard and we may shrink from the phrases of Lord Derby and Lord Beaconsfield, we must admit that the invasion of Armenia, the passage of the Danube, and the attack on the Turkish Empire evidently feels that the hour is approaching when her honour and her interests will be menaced.

The Russian *Le Nord*, on the other hand, says that there is no reason to be surprised at Lord Derby's disapproval of the conduct of Russia:—

Since the commencement of the Eastern crisis, Russia has rolonged the subject which she *notoriously* gave rise to the beginning, where as the English Government, in spite of the opposition of the Opposition, condemning one day a communication which it had made the day before. There is too great a difference between the line of conduct adopted by the respective Governments for the Minister who has followed Russia to be able to sympathise with the free action of the Italian representatives. Under these circumstances the Prime Minister doubts whether any useful purpose would be served by his receiving a deputation on the subject."

AMERICAN SHEEP.

The Anchor steamer Ethiopian, says the *Times*, brought to this country twenty-five sheep, which were landed in good condition. This is the first experiment made in the shipment of sheep from America. The same steamer brought over eighteen horses for a tramway company, which is a novelty.