

MARRIAGE DOWER OF THE PRINCESS ROYAL.

Although there are no external evidences of intriguing activity in the camps of the rival political parties and factions, the public must not be deluded into the belief that the leading spirits among the contending aspirants for power are altogether idle. It is determined that Lord John Russell and his oligarchical followers shall be reinstated once more in office. To ensure this, the grand project in contemplation is the fusion of the Old Whig Rump with the Philo-Russian and Manchester parties. As soon as peace is proclaimed, Lord John Russell, Sir James Graham, and Mr. Gladstone, and Messrs. Cobden and Gibson—who, by the way, have already betrayed symptoms of their future concert—will act together in the advocacy of liberal measures. The rare instincts of the navigator have warned Lord John to arrange his sails against the approaching change in the weather. The introduction of the Education Bill disclosed skillful seamanship. He could not have made a better tack in the then uncertain state of the horizon—and as he always, in such emergencies, has the weather-eye open, we may look for some bolder stroke, when the opportunity arrives. The Conservatives are also understood to be preparing their programmes—the question of the leadership is still, however, the great obstacle to their organization. In the present dislocated state of the party, Lord Derby, we believe, could not retain office for a day, even if he had the temerity to undertake the formation of a Ministry. The marriage of the Princess Royal with the Prince Royal of Prussia having been definitively settled, Parliament will shortly be asked to vote the dower of the bride. The sum, it is said, will be £70,000 per annum!!! Lord John Russell has frequently hitherto been the organ of making similar demands upon the Parliament, and it is considered possible, that he may recover office in time to be able to make the present. The King of the Belgians still continues to draw £50,000 per annum, the dower of the beloved and lamented Princess Charlotte of Wales. Will no member suggest, that the occasion of voting a dower to the Princess Royal would be an opportunity for him to surrender magnanimously that which he has so long enjoyed from this heavily-taxed country? [The above is from a daily paper. If it be really intended to give in marriage a child only fifteen years old, surely the House of Commons will not consent to vote away the enormous sum of seventy thousand pounds a year on the occasion. We regret to observe the silence of the government papers on this subject.]

THE RUSSIAN BLACK SEA PORTS DISMANTLED.

BANKS OF THE DNEPR, March 6.—Two days back (says a correspondent of the *Moniteur de la Flotte*) a commission, composed of five persons, and presided over by one of the heads of the Board of Admiralty, arrived here from St. Petersburg, to take an inventory of all that the dockyards and arsenal contained. It was received in due form by Capt. Schigir, of the Russian navy, formerly Secretary to the Board of Admiralty of the Black Sea, now dissolved, and at once commenced its operations. The Grand Duke Constantine is, it is said, to arrive here in a few days to inspect the proceedings of the commission. The material capable of being turned to account is to be transported to the Baltic, after having been classified and duly marked down in the books of the commission, article by article. All the utensils for manufacturing gunpowder and the materials from the artillery depot have already been loaded on carts belonging to the military baggage-train, and are to set out without delay. The Navy School for the Sons of the Nobility, the School of Maritime Engineers, and that of the Naval Artillery are already empty. Similar measures are to be applied to Kherson. That port, though short of its former splendour, still contains some fine establishments belonging to the Imperial navy, which are now to cease to exist; for the commission has received orders to proceed there, and to include that place in its labours. Moreover, in order to correspond with all these

measures, the defences and arsenals of Otchakoff, Ovidiopol, Tiraspol, and Voenesensk, and other fortified points of that district established to carry out the idea for which Sebastopol and Nicolaiëff were created, are about to be notably reduced. No one can precisely say, what Nicolaiëff will become, after its being thus abandoned by the war departments. It is said that, in spite of the representations of Odessa, it will be declared a free port, in order to attract the trade of all nations.

Thirty cases filled with Minie rifles, on their way from Belgium to Russia, have been seized at Berlin by the authorities within the last few days.

THE BLOCKADE IN THE BALTIC.

On the 14th inst., the steam-frigate Sampson, G. Capt. Brock, left Faro Sound with despatches for the senior officer, and letters from the advanced squadron, and at two p.m. of the next day the Imperieuse and Pylades, 21, Capt. D'Eyncourt, got under way for a cruise in the Gulf of Finland; the day was beautifully fine, with a gentle breeze from the north-west; thermometer at 20 degrees Fahrenheit. Faro Sound was completely frozen over, but the two vessels made their way through it without any difficulty; on getting outside they found the sea perfectly smooth and the weather most agreeable, but towards sunset it became very cold; sail was shortened and furled, and the two ships went on towards the old cruising ground, where one of them had weathered so many storms during this war. About nine a.m. detached pieces of ice were seen floating about, and two or three large floes passed during the night. The main body of the ice was not, however, fallen in with until about 5.30 a.m. of Sunday, when, from that time till 10 a.m., the ships passed through about 30 miles of it; the morning was ushered in by a magnificent sunrise. To one looking from the island of Dago, perhaps the most interesting part of the scene would have been the solitary ships moving through a sea of ice, and spurning the obstacles which came in their way. At seven a.m. the Imperieuse encountered two small vessels from Lubeck so imbedded in ice, that it was impossible for them to proceed to their destination or return whence they came. The history of their movements for the previous six weeks is somewhat curious, and proves that, instead of a brisk trade having been carried on between Russia and other countries (as was so confidently asserted in England), the Russian ports have positively been inaccessible to any sort of vessel whatever. These brigs left Lubeck on the 1st of February, and on the 8th, when 15 miles from Port Baltic, were compelled to return in consequence of a firm barrier of ice, through which it was impossible for them to penetrate. On the 7th of March they again started, but, instead of getting within 15 miles of their port, they are now frozen in at least 170 miles from it, with no prospect of getting liberated for the next three weeks. After communicating with these vessels, a light breeze sprang up from the NW., and, taking advantage of the channel which the Imperieuse and Pylades had made in the ice, the Lubeckers followed in their wake, vainly hoping for a way to be made for them out of their "fix;" but they had not gone many miles, when from the firm and compact state of the ice, and not being able from the masthead to see any open water, the senior officer most judiciously determined on not penetrating further, which the brigs perceiving, rounded to again, and in all probability will have to wait till a general break up takes place. Sail was now made, and, passing Dago at about eight miles' distance, the Imperieuse stood down the Baltic, passed Oesel about sunset, and was off the coast of Courland at eight a.m. on Monday, the 17th inst.; passed within ten miles of Windau, and sailing along parallel to the coast was off Libau at sunset and arrived at Danzig at 11.30 p.m., of the 18th, and left for Faro after completing coal.

Orders have been received at Woolwich Dockyard to suspend work of every description originally intended for the Black Sea, and no more ammunition is to be shipped from the arsenal.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

FIRE AND FLOOD AT THE VICTORIA DOCKING.—On the 31st of November there was a very destructive fire at Ballarat. It originated in an inn, which it destroyed, with the Adelphi and several other buildings, mostly of wood. Unfortunately, several lives were lost. On the 16th and 17th December, a calamity not less destructive of life and property occurred in a heavy flood, of which the following is the newspaper account:—On the evening of the former day, and again on the latter, a thunder storm was followed by a tremendous shower of hailstones as large as marbles, and by a deluge of rain. The gullies were soon flooded by torrents, and the ordinary channels proved quite insufficient to carry off the water; houses and stores were carried away; the deep shafts, sunk with much toil and at great expense, were filled to the brim and had their works undermined, and piles of washing stuff were swept away. The destruction of property consequent on this flood is estimated at £120,000. By this visitation, too, there was a lamentable loss of life, six persons having been drowned on the evening of the 16th. The severity of this calamity, it is stated, would have been much diminished had proper precautions been taken to provide for the unimpeded flow of water by its natural channels. The necessity of the erection of Ballarat into a municipality is obvious from these two events. Measures might then be taken for mitigating the effect of such occurrences, if they could not be in a great measure prevented. —*Australian correspondent of the Times.*

BRIGANDAGE IN ITALY.—The diligence running from Frosinone to Rome was stopped by robbers on the 12th, and the travellers were rifled of all they possessed. The Brigands even examined the luggage of the passengers, and after having selected what pleased them, burnt the remainder. "Such occurrences," says the letter which mentions this attack, "are so frequent, that the journals do not always speak of them, and in Rome the number of robbers and the boldness of the assailants surpass all belief."

The salary of the clerk of the House of Commons is £2000, that of the clerk assistant, £1750, that of the second clerk assistant, £1250. There are four principal clerks, at average salaries of £950; six senior clerks, at average salaries of £897; twelve assistant clerks, at average salaries of £474; twelve junior clerks, at average salaries of £162; and two accountants, at average salaries of £605.

THE EASTERLY WINDS.—Letters from Amsterdam state that a singular spectacle now presents itself, which has not been seen for the last half century; the Zuyderzee, in consequence of the long continuance of northerly and easterly winds, is almost dry. Between Geneminden, Bloekzel, Lemmer, Kampen, and Harderwyk the bed of the sea may be crossed dry-footed, and steamboats and other vessels are everywhere high on the sands.

A MONSTER CANARD.—The *Presse Grayloise* relates that a discovery of great scientific importance has just been made at Culmont (Haute Marne). Some men employed in cutting a tunnel which is to unite the St. Dixier and Nancy railways, had just thrown down an enormous block of stone by means of gunpowder, and were in the act of breaking it in pieces, when from a cavity in it they suddenly saw emerge a living being of a monstrous form. This animal, which belongs to the class of animals hitherto considered to be extinct, has a very long neck, and a mouth filled with sharp teeth. It stands on four long legs, which are united together by two membranes, doubtless intended to support the animal in the air, and are armed with four claws terminated by long and crooked talons. Its general form resembles that of a bat, differing only in its size, which is that of a large goose. Its membranous wings, when spread out, measure from tip to tip 3 metres 22 centimetres (nearly 10 feet 7 inches). Its colour is a livid black; its skin is naked, thick, and oily; its intestines only contained a colourless liquid, like clear water. On reaching the light this monster gave some slight signs of life, by shaking its wings, but soon after expired, uttering a hoarse cry. This strange creature, to which may be given the name of "living fossil," has been brought to Gray, where a naturalist well versed in the study of paleontology immediately recognised it as belonging to the genus *Pterodactylus* anas, many fossil remains of which have been found among the strata which geologists have designated by the name of lias. The rock in which this monster was discovered belongs precisely to that formation the deposit of which is so old that geologists date it more than a million of years back. The cavity in which the animal was lodged forms an exact hollow mould of its body, which indicates that it was completely enveloped with the sedimentary deposit.

MARRIAGE OF THE PRINCESS ROYAL.—As the subject is one of much interest, we subjoin a brief memoir of the would-be bridegroom. Prince Frederick William Nicholas Charles of Prussia stands on high. He was born on the 18th of October, 1831, and is consequently in his twenty-fifth year, and ten years the senior of his supposed fiancée. He holds the commissions of major, *a la suite*, of the 1st Foot Guards, and *chef and propriétaire* of other regiments in the Prussian service. He is the eldest son and heir of Frederick William, Prince of Prussia, brother to the King, and heir to the throne. Consequently, if the projected marriage shall become *un fait accompli* it may be anticipated that the time is not far distant, when the throne of Prussia will be occupied by a Princess of England. The Prince is more a soldier than a politician; but, so far as his political feelings are known, they are held to be in accordance with the views of his father. According to general report, the Prince is a person of gracious and conciliatory manners, popular with the army and people, and the favourite of his royal uncle. The lady whose hand is about to be made the pledge of renewed amity with Prussia, Victoria Adelaide Maria Louise, Princess Royal of England, was born at Buckingham Palace, on the 21st of November, 1840, and was baptised on the 16th of February following. From the well-known character of her royal parents, it may be assumed that the education, both moral and mental, of the Princess has been watched over with unceasing vigilance and that every effort has been used to excite in her mind principles and feelings that will enable her to fill the high stations to which she will be called with practical usefulness and becoming dignity.

During the search instituted by the editor of the *Newark Times* for female compositors, it is reported that the following short dialogue took place:—Brister: "Mr. Henpec, have you got any daughters who would make good type-setters?" Henpec: "No, but I've got a wife, who would make a very good devil."

ACCIDENT TO THE PRINCE IMPERIAL.—The following story is current in Paris:—The imperial heir has scarcely made his appearance on the stage of this life, so full of vicissitudes, when, notwithstanding the minute cares by which he is surrounded, he is already exposed to the same dangers that occasionally happen to his inferiors. The wet nurse has had the misfortune to let the imperial infant escape from her hands, probably while handling him too softly, and he fell to the ground. He was not picked up immediately by her, as she was so frightened, that she fainted away for half an hour; but the Duchess of Esslingen, who happened to be on the spot, raised the Prince in her arms from his irksome position. As this accident was happily not attended by any serious consequences, the awkward female attendant was quit, this time, for the fright she had experienced.

FRANCES ANNE, Marchioness of Londonderry, is the possessor of the most extensive and valuable coal-mining field in the northern district of England. It extends over an area of 12,000 acres, lying between Sunderland and Seaham on the coast, and stretching as far inland as the city of Durham. The yearly wages of the work-people, exclusive of contracts, amount to about £135,000. It is said that Lady Londonderry has resolved upon enlarging the works at Seaham harbour, at an outlay of £100,000. The product of the tracts of ironstone leased by her ladyship in the Cleveland district is to be brought to Seaham, where blast furnaces are to be erected.

THE GUNBOAT FLOTILLA.—The fleet of screw gunboats now at Motherbank were expected on Tuesday by the first lord of the Admiralty, the Right Hon. Sir Charles Wood, when several manoeuvres were put into practice by this new branch of our naval power, which will act as light cavalry to the army in bringing the enemy to action or cutting off their retreat. These screw gunboats, of 60 horses' power, average nine knots an hour.

Some Austrian capitalists, says the *Mercure de Souabe*, propose to avail themselves of the right recently granted to Europeans to acquire real estate in Turkey. A society is being formed to effect vast acquisitions of land in the European provinces, especially in Roumelia.

Mr. Daniel Cameron, who was elected representative for the digging district of Woolshed, Australia, had the compliment paid to him by his supporters of having the horse he rode on at the time of the contest shod with shoes of solid gold. He was also presented with a sum of £1500.

The Queen of Spain, as usual on Holy Thursday, took part in the ceremony of washing the feet of 24 poor people at the Madrid palace, on that day, and visited different churches with the Princess of the Asturias.

HASZARD

Wednesday

We give an extra day's paper, which is a privilege of Elective ground, and is a land. It is a nuisance of this sort, how a government party is that those of the Australia, the no Legislative Council of having two Houses would it be an ex-majority could be that the Council a suicidal act. If about, it must be direct the Lieut. solve the Assen and House of P new Parliament. in the first inst form the constitu and when elected by the Queen as a species. It is true, seats by virtue authority of the of the electors, b not be likely to for the purpose of permanently ele method of electio there be anything though the press Council hold th could not compl that they should mulgated, and same tenure wou rest upon the rather than on v short it is va the assent of the They do not owe but to George C pleasure of Geo have them chan viceroy he woul totally independ Colonial Minist you have got a domestic maxim of which, no o have got good on's, men who murmur, and i he is mistaken that he is wron is a crime for buried on the e through their b will endeavour politically bur

MECHANICS I ded his Lectur ning. He ent opendi not on Tin Mines—fr the shafts, to to grass. He dredged or sep each. Tributary then gave som ing, and he concluded an because it wa describing the ners themselves speaking, the people.

A discussion questions were vered by the passed unanim lectures. Mr. Murphy will lecture Gas.

New Smar Dempsey, Esq Queen's Coun

The Courier American M Brunswick Pa via New York treaty of Pa page.

Youse M J. Brewster next; before elation: Su path of you may be avoid

Our Harbo this morning partures to r