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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Imperial Parliament re-assembled on the 19th, and the Queen's speech was read. Her Majesty refers to a continuance of friendly relations with foreign powers, and alludes to the marriage of the Duke of Edinburgh as a pledge of friendship between two great Empires. Warm praise is given to the troops comprising the Ashantee expedition for the courage and endurance displayed in the campaign. Speaking of the famine in Bengal, the Queen says the Governor General has been directed to spare no cost in his efforts to mitigate this terrible calamity.

The troop ship *Tamar* has arrived at Portsmouth from the Gold Coast with the Fusiliers on board.

A detailed account of the capture of Coomassie confirms the reported sacking of the King's Palace, and says:—"On the morning of February 6, the city was fired, the Palace blown up, and the troops started on their homeward march."

The congratulatory address to the troops, issued in Coomassie on February 5th, said: "All the people, both European and native, unjustly held captive by the King of Ashantee are now at liberty in camp, and you have proved to this cruel barbarous people that England is able to punish her enemies, no matter what their strength in numbers or position may be."

Stanley writes to the *Daily News* that after careful investigation he is convinced that Dr. Livingstone is dead.

The Roman Catholic Bishops of the Reichsrath say they will withdraw if the obnoxious ecclesiastical law is pressed.

The Paris *Pays* publishes a correspondence which shows that the Empress Eugenie and her son have finally broken off relations with Prince Napoleon. The cause assigned is because he refused to go to Chislehurst on the 16th.

Marshal Serrano, with 34,000 men and 90 pieces of artillery, is now face to face with a Carlist force of 35,000, while General Loma, with a column 8,000 strong, is moving on the enemy's rear.

The Right-Hon. Benjamin Disraeli and Sir Stafford Northcote have been re-elected to Parliament without opposition.

The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh visited the Empress Eugenie at Chislehurst on Tuesday.

The London *Times* announces that the Prime Minister of Ashantee, the King and his Captain-General have been brought prisoners to Cape Coast Castle.

The steamship *Laconia*, while on her voyage from Alexandria, Egypt, for Algiers, having as passengers 278 pilgrims returning

from Mecca, encountered a terrible gale. One huge wave which struck the vessel washed overboard from her deck 117 of the pilgrims, and all were drowned.

Sir Garnet Wolseley will go to Malta or Aden to meet the remains of Dr. Livingstone, and will escort them to England.

About seven thousand people were at the Chislehurst *fete* held on Monday the 16th. An address was read, to which the Prince Imperial replied. He said the presence of such a large assemblage on that occasion showed the alarm of France for her future. He considered a *plebiscite* as the only salvation of the country. If the decision was against Imperialism he would accept it. If in favour of restoring the Empire, he was ready to accept the responsibility of Government. His address was received with great enthusiasm.

M. DeKeraty was examined by the Committee of the French Assembly on Monday in relation to the charges preferred against M. Gambetta. He testified that M. Gambetta, while a member of the government of national defence, purposely refused arms to Bretons, that they might suffer defeat, and be unable later on to fight the Communes, the rise of which was already anticipated.

The report that Prince Frederick of Prussia is to make a tour of the world next summer, is contradicted.

A volunteer crew of the steamship *Algeria* rescued the captain and seven men of a ship discovered in distress on the 25th February. The heroic act was performed at great risk during a violent gale.

A committee has been appointed to investigate the charges against Dr. Kenealy, counsel for the Tichborne claimant. Mr. Whalley, M.P., demands that a similar committee be appointed to investigate the charges against Hawkins, the prosecuting Attorney.

The Fenian Amnesty Association has decided to present petitions for pardon to the Queen in person.

The Committee of the Reichstag, has voted a second time against fixing the ordinary strength of the army at 400,000 men.

General Sir Garnet Wolseley arrived at Portsmouth on the 20th.

The Brahmans in India chanted in their temples this prayer in Sanskrit, imploring their god, Vishnu, to avert the famine:—"O all-powerful and supreme Vishnu! Since thou art the preserver of the world, save Bengal and the other districts from the famine which threatens them. O God, we thy faithful people, humbly implore thee to remove from us this scarcity of grain. O asylum of mercy, pour upon us the rich dew of kindness, and let the world be nourished by a liberal harvest. In this age of sin, we

men live only upon grain. Spare, then, our lives while giving us this food, and spread far and wide over the universe thy divine glory. O Lord and governor of the world, thou art the only protector of the unfortunate. Pardon our transgressions in thy goodness, and whilst listening to our prayers give us thy universal benediction. Prolong, too, the life of the sovereign who governs us, for the prosperity of the subject depends entirely upon the well being of the monarch."

The ship *Thor*, from Jamaica for Europe, was abandoned at sea and the captain and crew rescued by the ship *Saterwell*, which arrived at Queenstown on the 16th.

Brady, the gallant seaman who brought the steamship *Pennsylvania* in safety to port, after she had lost her principal officers and all hope had been abandoned, is evidently as sharp witted as he is brave. He has returned a present of a paltry thousand dollars, and claims salvage.

The fire at Panama, reported by telegraph some days ago, resulted in the destruction of property amounting to between \$800,000 and \$1,000,000.

On the 18th a dense fog prevailed over and around New York, which seriously interfered with navigation and prevented thousands of people in Brooklyn, Jersey and elsewhere from reaching New York.

Bills have passed the New York State Legislature to facilitate the construction of the New York and Canada railway.

An Havana letter states that the *Arapiles* was leaking badly, having started her plates when she went ashore below New York harbour.

The celebration of the anniversary of Ireland's patron Saint seems to have been very general, at least on this side of the Atlantic, and to have been characterized everywhere by the utmost good feeling.

A Cincinnati despatch says the whole number of hogs packed in the West, from November 1st to March 1st, was 5,383,800, showing a decrease compared with last year of 72,194.

A committee of Temperance ladies in Chicago, petitioned Mayor Colvin to veto the Sunday license ordinance, but he refused, saying the repeal of the Sunday prohibition was one of the issues upon which he was elected, and he was pledged to its repeal.

Bald Mountain, in the western part of North Carolina, is in a state of volcanic eruption, and it is stated that farm houses and cottages along the sides and base have been prostrated by the convulsions and many of the inhabitants have fled. A thin vapor issues from the top of the mountain. A low rumbling sound is audible over the entire surface, and snow melts as fast as it falls.