

News Department.

From Papers by Steamer Canada, Oct. 24.

ENGLAND.

The intentions of the French and British Governments with respect to Naples—for the latter of these two Powers, having no organs of speech of its own during the prorogation of Parliament, practically articulates through those employed by the former—are explained this week by an official article in the *Moniteur*. The Government of Naples, it says, persevering in its "rigorous and comprehensive measures"—refusing to listen to the advice which, with a view to the preservation of the peace of Europe, was addressed to it by France and England, and treating them with obstinacy and insult—diplomatic relations will be suspended, and a combined squadron assembled for the protection of the subjects of those States resident in the Two Sicilies; but this squadron will not be sent into the Neapolitan waters, and is not meant either as a direct menace or as an encouragement to revolt. A poor half-measure, says the public, if that is all. Certainly it is the mildest way of showing a sense of affront. It is a small annoyance in itself to the King of Naples, whose diplomatic intercourse with us of late has not been of the most pleasant kind. The upshot therefore is, that we quarrel but do not fight. An advertisement, however, by two great nations that they have ceased to do on terms with a third is in itself a standing menace. And if anybody is disposed to throw a stone at the King of Naples, he is hereby informed that England and France will not say him nay. Altogether it is but an unsatisfactory result, the more so as it must have been foreseen when the counsel the rejection of which we are now resenting was given. For who ever heard of one independent Sovereign taking advice as to the government of his own dominions, tendered unasked by another?

The Duke of Cambridge, known long ago by officers of cavalry regiments as an active and pretty keen disciplinarian, has shown himself prompt to punish.—Lord Ernest Vane Tempest and his associate, Cornet But, have been dismissed the service for "conduct unbecoming officers and gentlemen, and subversive of good order and military discipline." The misconduct visited with this summary justice was not, however—or was not solely—the "practical joking," which the chief culprit, it will be seen, partially denies, but a breach of parole committed on Sunday night. Lieutenant Winstanley, whose share in the first offence was less, and who took no part in the second, is said to have been liberated after a severe reprimand.

THE SURREY GARDENS ACCIDENT.—A most melancholy accident has broken the monotony of the Long Vacation. A certain Mr. Spurgeon, a popular preacher of extreme Calvinistic views and of the Baptist "denomination," undertook, on Sunday last, to hold a service and preach a sermon in the newly erected Music Hall in the Surrey Gardens, a building hitherto used only for concerts and musical entertainments, and which is, we believe, capable of accommodating from 10,000 to 12,000 persons. Mr. Spurgeon has for some time been preaching at St. John's Chapel, Park street, and recently, during the enlargement of that structure, has delivered a series of discourses in Exeter Hall, on Sunday evenings, which have attracted continually increasing crowds, chiefly from the middle classes. The repairs of his chapel being completed, the permission to use Exeter Hall was withdrawn; whereupon Mr. Spurgeon, instead of returning to an edifice which his congregation had now outgrown, conceived the idea of engaging the Surrey Music Hall, the most spacious room probably in the metropolis. His intention was largely advertised and placarded, and when Sunday evening arrived 15,000 or 20,000 persons, induced by various motives, came together and sought admittance to the building. Ten or twelve thousand are said to have found sitting or standing room in the place, while the remainder stood outside the doors, or besieged the iron gates of the garden. The service then commenced, but had not proceeded far when suddenly, from some unascertained cause, an alarm arose. A cry of "Fire!" was raised, whether by malicious or mistaken persons does not appear, and the whole audience was at once in commotion. A terrible scene followed. The people in all parts of the hall rose *en masse*, and rushed towards the exits, which were soon choked up by a struggling stream of human beings. Down the spiral staircases pressed the crowds from the galleries with such force and weight that the heavy iron balustrades gave way, and numbers were precipitated a distance of twelve or fourteen feet upon the stone floor below.

In the hall itself the human tide heaved and surged—screams, shouts, and groans commingled—while a few who saw that the whole alarm was causeless, endeavored in vain to calm it by singing some verses of a hymn. Frantic alarm seized on many. Some threw themselves over the galleries into the lobby of the hall, others burst through the plate glass windows, and jumped from the balconies to the ground. In this way the greater part of the deaths took place. Some, however, were squeezed, some trampled to death. A young girl was precipitated on her sister, and left that she suffocated her, but could not move for the crush, and for the weight of others who had fallen on her. A boy leapt from one of the staircases to the pavement, a distance of twenty feet, and dying instantaneously, was carried home in the arms of his father. One of the women trampled to death was probably within a few hours of her confinement, and had her condition been known at first, it is thought that the child might have been saved by the Cæsarian operation. As it was, both mother and infant perished.—The entire number known to have lost their lives is seven—one man, five women, and one boy; but it is impossible to say in how many other cases the injuries received may have a fatal termination.

Mr. Spurgeon and his friends seem to have been alike blind to the extent of the danger which they were incurring, and incompetent to deal with it when it arose. A sergeant of police and eight policemen in uniform, together with a few detectives in plain clothes, was all the force provided to maintain order and repress alarm in a body of 12,000 persons, from the middle and lower classes. True there were also sixty "office-bearers" (query, headles?) attached to Mr. Spurgeon's congregation; but the utility of such persons in time of need is more than questionable. We certainly do not hear of their doing any good when the panic arose; and it is not even clear that they did not themselves share in it. Thus the maintenance of order was, in point of fact, committed to some nine or ten policemen, who had each the superintendence of above a thousand persons. Further, there appears to have been no policemen at all in the galleries, where the alarm was consequently the greatest. Again, all the doors and windows were shut and barred, except those at the main entrance, whereas every facility of ingress and egress should have been given. Altogether, it may be said that the arrangements were left to chance—no care being taken except to secure the comforts of Mr. Spurgeon's "own congregation," who were admitted first to the best seats.

In all this, we have said nothing of the most painful feature in the entire affair. "As the people moved out," we are told, "a collection was made—the boxes for the new chapel (which it is proposed to build) were rattled about while the corpses were being removed, and the service concluded almost as if nothing had happened!" On this point we cannot trust ourselves to speak. We will content ourselves with echoing the charitable hope which we have seen expressed, that Mr. Spurgeon was so overpowered as to be insensible of what his friends were doing in his name, and that they were ignorant that any of the accidents had had a fatal issue.—*London Guardian*.

The *Gazette* of Friday contains the following order:—"The Queen has been graciously pleased to direct that the corps of Royal Sappers and Miners shall henceforward be denominated the corps of Royal Engineers, and form one body with the existing corps of Royal Engineers.

A former officer has been discovered among the privates of the 8th Foot, at Chatham Barracks. It appears that Ensign C. P. Cobbe, of the 46th, was in the Crimea with his regiment, and, with some other young officers, went over the boundary line to take a survey of the country; on his return, after two days absence, he found the 46th had embarked at Balaklava and sailed for England. He procured a free passage in a Russian prize ship, and landed at Cardiff; but having no friends in that part of the country, and supposing that his name had been erased from the list of officers in consequence of his absence, he was foolish enough to enlist in the 8th Foot as a private, and came to Chatham from Cardiff as a recruit. He is only nineteen years of age. The Commander in Chief has had him formally dismissed from the 46th Regiment, and his friends will purchase his discharge from the regiment in which he has enlisted as a private.

FRANCE.

"Paris, Oct. 20.—Our chief domestic incident has been the announcement, officially made by the Government, of its intention to prolong the present Custom-house tariff of France until the year 1861, after which the French commercial world, 'duly forewarned of the fixed determination of the Government,' must prepare itself for the inauguration of a 'new commercial regime.' All absolute 'prohibitions' will then be removed, and be replaced by protective duties only, such being declared to be 'the object at which all nations should ultimately aim, the development of commercial activity and international relations, preparing the way for the progress of civilization.' The official declaration is decidedly free-trade in its commercial tone and principles.

SPAIN.

It is stated that the day previous to the dismissal of O'Donnell, the Queen gave him most unequivocal proofs of satisfaction with his Cabinet. It was her birthday, and at the ball at night she danced first with O'Donnell, and next with Narvaez. The morning following, O'Donnell was sent for and his resignation accepted by Queen Isabella with tears in her eyes. Besides the restoration of Queen Christina's ill-gotten property, various other reactionary measures have followed the accession of Narvaez, chiefly, however, the dismissal of governors of provinces, and such like appointments, who have been gotten rid of for more convenient tools. That the restored Dictator is as overbearing as over we have early testimony, it appearing a day or two before he was minister he committed an assault on Senor Guell y Rente, the husband of the Infanta Josefa, the sister of the Queen:—

"Narvaez met him at the house of Gen. Alcon, the new Captain General of the Philippines, and, on ascertaining who he was, he cried out, in presence of the lady of the house and several other visitors, 'Ah, you rascal, you coward; turn out. You told lies of me in the Cortes. Take this, and this, and this!' suiting the action to the word, and striking him repeatedly. Guell did not return the blows, but merely tried to avoid them, calling out, 'Duke, for Heaven's sake! what are you about?' The persons present interfered, and put an end to the affair.—Guell subsequently sent a challenge to Narvaez to fight him with small swords, which Narvaez accepted. The Queen interfered, and some say she wrote a letter to Narvaez, saying that his sword and life belonged to her, and that she might want them and his counsels some day or other. Others say that her Majesty sent for him, and exacted his word of honor not to fight, which he gave. The result is that Guell has been packed off to San Sebastian to join his wife."

The Vienna correspondent of the *Times* intimates that Austria is greatly incensed against France, complaining that Count Walewski does not display sufficient firmness towards Russia, and it is whispered that he and M. de Morny are on such excellent terms with the St. Petersburg Cabinet, that it will be able to manage matters pretty much as it pleases about the Principalities when the Paris Conference are resumed.

The *Presse Belge* states that the Czar advised King Ferdinand to submit the settlement of the Neapolitan question to the wisdom and equity of the Emperor Napoleon. The accounts direct from Naples are very conflicting, and, of course, worthless. On one side it is stated that a change of Ministers and a general amnesty are on the point of being announced; on the other that the King is still at Gaeta superintending the fortifications.

The *Journal de Constantinople* confirms the rumor of a victory previously announced as having been obtained by the Circassians near the Laba; and a letter from Soudjah Kale, of the 24th ult., gives the following particulars:—

"The Russians having passed the Laba to construct fortifications in the Abzezh, Sefer Pacha immediately sent a flag of truce to the Russian commandant to inquire the object of the expedition.—The commandant replied—'By the treaty of Paris, Circassia was ceded to Russia, and I am come to take possession of it.' Sefer Pacha, on receiving this answer, sent a second message, telling him that Circassia is an independent country, and that no one could dispose of it without the consent of its inhabitants; and that if the Russians did not immediately retire the Circassians would compel them to do so. Twenty four hours after Sefer Pacha advanced with 30,000 men against the Russians, who had taken up a position on the crest of a ravine with sixteen pieces of artillery. The combat lasted three hours and a half, at the end of which the Circassians remained masters of the field, 800 prisoners, and the sixteen guns. A second affair took place two days after, in which the Russians lost a number of men and five pieces of artillery. The prisoners made by the Circassians are not made slaves, but are allowed to establish themselves on the frontier.

The boat race which took place in our harbor on Wednesday last, terminated in an easy victory of the South-enders over Dartmouth. We learn, however, that Dartmouth has challenged the South-enders for another race, to come off on Wednesday next—stakes \$100 a side.—*Journal*.