

inaugurated on the fourth of the present month, when the crisis can scarcely be longer averted, nor the declaration of the line of policy to be pursued much longer delayed. The present state of matters is looked upon with interest almost amounting to alarm, by the English in consequence of their dependence upon the Southern States for cotton. Nine millions bales were consumed last year in England, of which seven were supplied by America. It will probably lead to greatly increased cultivation in India, Australia and Africa, conducing in the end to the increase of the wealth of these important portions of the globe.

Public attention continues to be directed to the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada, which seems to possess the power of absorbing money in the same ratio almost that a bank of sand absorbs water. We are just told that it will require three millions to discharge existing liabilities. In the meantime the traffic is increasing enormously, being some \$11,000 a week greater than last year, but there must surely be something rotten at the bottom of the management.

The siege of Gaeta continues, and the deposed King of Naples has expressed his determination of resisting to the last. The country continues in a state of anarchy, and fearful cruelties are inflicted on both sides, as is always the case in civil war. The appearance and position of Europe are still warlike, and the speech of the Emperor of the French has done nothing to re-assure it of his peaceful purposes. Every nation is armed to the teeth, and France especially seems to be directing her principal aim to increasing her powers of destruction. We hear of her arming her soldiers, in addition to the arms of precision, with the revolver, of the increase of steel-clad frigates, &c., which betoken no peaceful purpose. The worst of it is she compels England to imitate her in this respect, at immense cost to her people, and it is questionable whether a war which would probably annihilate the vaunted navy of France in a couple of months would be more expensive. France compels her neighbor to spend on armaments ten millions a year more than she would otherwise do, which would build 1000 miles of railway a year. The very thought is an intolerable outrage.

England, too, is building and launching her steel-clad frigates. The Warrior and Black Prince, each some 6000 tons, have been launched, and will possess powers of destruction unknown in ancient or modern times.

We see from the papers that a series of fresh massacres have been perpetrated by the Druses in Syria, notwithstanding the French army of occupation. It is difficult to say what ought to be done with this unhappy country. One thing is certain, that were it in possession of England, France or Russia, such things could not take place. But who

is to have it? That is the question. At all events, whatever may happen, they will not and ought not to suffer the wholesale murder of Christian people in that part of the world, by cruel and ferocious fanatics.

General Bosquet, the distinguished French General, who so gallantly rushed to the succour of the English at Inkermann is dead.

A scheme for a transatlantic Telegraph, starting from the North of Scotland, touching the Shetland and Faroe Isles, Iceland, Greenland and Labrador, is enthusiastically spoken of, and is very likely to be successfully accomplished.

Prince Alfred, the sailor son of Her Gracious Majesty, has left England in the St. George for the West India and North American Station, and will visit us in course of the summer.

The Cardross Case is being agitated throughout Scotland on the principle on which O'Connell agitated for Repeal. Meetings are being held all over the country, inflammatory speeches delivered, attacks made on the judges, and persecution generally invited. The object in view is not very clear. Public feeling, if the press of all parties is any index of it is almost entirely against them. They seem to be pretty much in the case of the agent who instructed his counsel, "that they had no case, abuse the opposite party." These indignation meetings may produce excitement, but will do nothing whatever to help the Free Church out of her present difficulty.

The Scoonie Case has again been before the Presbytery of Kircaldy, and Mr. Blackwood the presentee was sustained by a majority of one. The case was appealed to the Synod and will probably go before the General Assembly.

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