

Opening of the British Parliament.

We take the following from the Press cable telegrams:—

London, Jan. 17.—Parliament met to-day. As the Queen did not open the session in person there was no state ceremonial.

The Queen's Speech states that she summoned Parliament before the usual time that it might become acquainted with the efforts made to terminate the war, and that she might have its advice and assistance.

She alluded to her having declared her intention at the outbreak of the war to preserve neutrality in the contest—so long as the interests of her empire were not threatened.

The Russian successes have convinced the Porte that it should endeavor to bring hostilities to a close and the Sultan's Government accordingly addressed to the neutral powers, parties to the treaty relating to Turkey, an appeal for their good offices.

It did not, however, appear to the majority of them that they should merely comply with the request, and the Porte was informed.

The Porte then determined to make a separate appeal to her Government, and she at once agreed to enquire of the Czar whether he would entertain peace overtures.

The Czar, in reply, expressed his earnest desire for peace and stated his opinion as to the course which should be pursued to attain it.

Upon this subject communications had taken place between Russia and Turkey through her Government offices and she earnestly trusts they may lead to the termination of the war.

She will spare no efforts to promote that result. Hitherto in the war neither of the belligerents has infringed on conditions on which her neutrality is founded, and she will willingly believe both are desirous to respect them as far as lies in their power.

So long as her contracts are not infringed, her attitude will continue the same, but she cannot conceal from herself that should hostilities be unfortunately prolonged some unexpected course may render it incumbent on her to adopt measures of precaution.

Such measures could not be effectually taken without adequate preparation, and she trusts to her Parliament's liberality to supply means required for that purpose.

The papers on these affairs will be forthwith laid before Parliament. Her relations with all foreign powers continue friendly.

Her Majesty expresses her thanks that the Indian famine is nearly ended. The condition of native affairs in South Africa has caused her some anxiety, the troops there have been increased, but she trusts for a reasonable and satisfactory settlement shortly of all differences.

The estimates of the year will soon be presented to the Commons. Her Majesty, in conclusion, details a number of measures of a local character that will be laid before Parliament.

The Queen's Speech had little effect upon the financial markets, which are heavy.

In the debate on the Address in the House of Lords, Earl Granville said the utterances of Lord Beaconsfield during recess had been couched in a belligerent hostility and had differed from the sentiments expressed by his colleagues.

He said if the assurances given by Russia in regard to British interests were unsatisfactory, Parliament should have been called together immediately. If they were satisfactory, the only effect of summoning Parliament was to cause a falling of securities.

Lord Beaconsfield said the summons to Parliament was issued when there first appeared to be an opportunity for the inauguration of peace negotiations.

The Porte's appeal to England to intimate her readiness to open peace negotiations was in a measure made at the instance of the British Government, although it was at the same time spontaneously adopted by the Porte.

Lord Beaconsfield repeated the statements concerning the Government's policy and strongly repudiated the accusation of division in the Cabinet.

When the Government, after mature deliberation, decided upon a policy of neutrality, they were not influenced by considerations in regard to the value of the policy and condition of many other countries. The Government never varied from the decision they had first arrived at.

He declared that he had written no letter on public affairs during the recess and had only spoken once, and then in presence of his colleagues, on the declared to have, with their approval, declared of conditional neutrality.

Lord Derby's felicitous statement that the greatest British interest is peace was a rhetorical expression, but Lord Granville seemed to take it as a statistical fact. Peace is a universal interest, but when speaking of the British interests of the Government meant material interests of wealth or advantage of the strength of the country.

When they spoke that they were told it was a mistake to suppose they were interested peculiar to England, as if there were, they should hide them in a corner. He did not think the Government, by defining British interests, were justified by all countries frankly declared they were actuated by the same motives. He concluded as follows:

"In negotiations, British influence is increased, (as God grant it may), I will express as the sentiment of the Government, that that influence will be used for securing an enduring peace; but if we are called upon to defend the rights and interests of England—if our present hopes and prospects of peace are unrealized—if there are circumstances that demand that we should appear again and again to Parliament for the means of vindicating the honor and interests of the country, I am certain that Government will never fail to take that course." (Loud cheers.)

The Duke of Argyll said Lord Beaconsfield's speech was brilliant but evasive.

The Marquis of Salisbury emphatically denied that the Cabinet was divided or England isolated. The summoning of Parliament could not encourage the Turks to resist, as they had been repeatedly told to expect no assistance from England. It was not, however, in disregard of peace that the Government was asked or would shortly ask Parliament to assist them in taking necessary precautions. He concluded—"If you will not trust the Government, provide yourselves with a Government that you will trust: if you trust the Government, provide it with the proper means of carrying out your confidence." (Loud cheers.)

A Remarkable Man.

It is not an unenviable thing, in this age of the printing press, that our chief heroes should be newspaper correspondents.

The two men whose deeds are, at the present moment, attracting the greatest attention in England and America are Stanley of the Telegraph and Herold, and Forbes, the war correspondent of the London Daily News.

Mr. Forbes is indisputably the man of the hour, whom all, from great monarchs down to the lowliest, delight to honor. He has recently delivered a lecture on the military tactics of the Russian campaign against Turkey, before some of the chief officers of the British army that displays those qualities that make a great general.

It is distinguished by the union of correct knowledge of details and broad grasp of all the possibilities of the situation. He had a good training in military tactics as correspondent during the Franco-German war. He seems to unite the highest physical endurance and energy with great intellectual force. From an interesting sketch of this heroic correspondent, by Mr. Smalley, of the N. Y. Tribune, we condense the following particulars, which will help to show the renown he has acquired by his exploits.

English journalism is ordinarily impersonal. The name of the writer of the brilliant article that enlightens and convinces thousands is rarely known to those whose opinions have been moulded by it. But Mr. Forbes, without any effort of his own, has completely broken through the disguise of an anonymous writer, and stands before the whole reading public in the full blaze of an extraordinary popularity. Even his personal appearance is minutely described. The Tribune correspondent describes him thus:—"Close upon six feet tall, square-shouldered, straight as a pine tree, a soldier every inch of him, his bronzed and handsome face close shaven, all but a moustache, once brown, now grey; a black coat, buttoned across his broad chest, on which a row of military decorations is neatly hung; the red and white ribbon and cross of St. Stanislas around his neck—that is Archibald Forbes, one of the Royal Dragons, now war correspondent of the Daily News, and one of the four or five men who have won fame in the present war."

The Times and other London journals, that rarely name a rival paper or any one connected with it, have freely spoken of the extraordinary distinction he has won. The Paris papers interview him, and publish sketches of his life. Mr. Gladstone has given a lecture in reply to his famous article in the Nineteenth Century; but frankly admitted that Mr. Forbes had perhaps surpassed every other writer in the brilliant and faithful of his military descriptions. The Emperor of Russia sent for him and consulted him respecting the difficulties of the route to be taken by his army; and Her Majesty Queen Victoria sent for him to come to see her at Balmoral. The Duke of Sutherland came all the way from his castle of Dunrobin in Scotland to London to see Forbes and hear his lecture on the war.

His brethren of the London press have honored him with a banquet. What ever newspaper correspondent so highly honored? But he has fairly won all these honors. The long rides, in which he distanced all others, under circumstances of hunger and severe exposure to the perils to which he has been exposed, which have gained him several foreign orders for bravery on the battlefield—the brilliant and correct dispatches which he has written and forwarded, under most unfavorable circumstances, are facts that could only have been achieved by a man of extraordinary heroism and great ability. We close this brief sketch with the following reference by Mr. Smalley to Mr. Forbes' interview with the Emperor of Russia, taken from one of his recent lectures:—"His clothes, once white, had been worn a fortnight without washing, and three days and nights without taking off, and were coated with mud and stained with the blood of General Dragimiroff, who had been wounded by his side. He had a stubble beard of a week's growth, and had not washed face or hands for half that period. With a torch worthy of Arminius Ward, Mr. Forbes added that he had not brought up much among Emperors, but understood they were very particular about dress—hence his hesitation about presenting himself in this plight. However, he was assured that, in the circumstances, a court costume would not be required, and he went. Describing the Tsar, and saying, as he said, a rough sketch of the position: 'You are an artillery officer, Mr. Forbes?' said the Emperor, 'No,' said Mr. Forbes, 'I was in the cavalry.' 'I did not know,' replied the Emperor, 'that English cavalry officers were taught military draughtsmanship. Whereupon Mr. Forbes replied that he had not been an officer, but a cavalry soldier; leaving the Emperor, he fears, under the impression that military draughtsmanship was a part of the regular education of the British dragoon. The truth is, I believe, that Mr. Forbes comes of a good British family, and had a university education, but chose to diversify his career by serving as private in a dragoon regiment.'"

Curiosities of Language.

Mr. M. Patterson, who seems to have a peculiar taste as well as a peculiar talent for examining into the peculiarities of language, gives the following as a specimen:—

"One of the principal difficulties of learning the English language is the innumerable manner in which most of the words are spelled, the twenty six letters of the alphabet being used in other than the forty or forty-two sounds of the language in the most bungling and discordant manner."

Be the capacity of a child never so good, yet he must spend years in learning those "curiosities of literature," while a foreigner can only master our noble language by vast expense of labor, patience, and time.

The peculiar nature of the vowel sounds is familiar to all. A few amusing examples will show that the consonants are nearly

Medical.

DR. WILLIAM GRAY'S SPECIFIC MEDICINE

THE GREAT ENGLISH REMEDY FOR ALL THE AFFECTIONS OF THE URINARY SYSTEM.

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