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Current Notes.

Mr. Russell Gurney has already received 1400 claims by Englishmen on the United States.

Shirley House, Croydon, is being prepared as a residence for the ex-Emperor Napoleon.

The Duke of Edinburgh is, it is said, about to undergo a course of instruction in steam at Portsmouth.

The ex-Empress of the French, when a girl, was at school at Clifton near Bristol; among her school-fellows was a daughter of Dr. Pusey.

A Bill for promoting the voluntary and purchased manumission of slaves, and prospectively abolishing slavery in Brazil, is making successful progress.

The Napoleonic Eagle over the portal of the French Embassy at Berlin, has been covered with a zinc ornament. Not having been removed it may be unveiled again should events serve.

Dr. Russell is not to be the only recipient of honors, as a member of the Press, the Emperor of Germany having conferred on Mr. Robt. Landells, of the *Illustrated London News*, the war medals of 1866 and 1870, for sketches recording scenes in the wars against Austria and France.

It is said that Dr. Dollinger is about to visit England, to seek repose from the agitation consequent on the interest which he has excited by his recent action as regards the declaration of the infallibility of the Pope, and the troublesome attentions to which he has in consequence been subjected.

On and after the 5th October next, the inland postage rates of Great Britain and Ireland will be considerably reduced. At present the charge is 1d. per oz. The new scale is as follows:—For a letter not exceeding 1 oz., 1d.; exceeding 1 oz. but not exceeding 2 oz., 1½d.; exceeding 2 oz. but not exceeding 4 oz., 2d.; and so on up to 12 ounces.

One out of the many interesting results (announced by Professor Duncan) which have accrued to science from the deep-sea dredging by the Porcupine Expedition, is the discovery of a living coral, dredged up off the coast of Portugal, in deep water (690—1090 fathoms). A similar coral was obtained in the deep-sea dredging off the coast of Havana, by Count Pourtales.

Among the many ancient bequests to London churches for the preaching of sermons upon various occasions, not the least curious is that of Thomas Chapman, who, by his will dated March 11, 1615, left a sum of money for a sermon to be preached every year to commemorate the defeat of the Spanish Armada. His directions are still carried out, the sermon being preached at Bow Church, Cheapside, at the beginning of each August.

Whatever results may flow from the alliance of Germany and Austria in the future, there is no immediate prospect of war. Explanations have been exchanged between Berlin and St. Petersburg, and the Czar has professed himself satisfied. Unless any untoward event should precipitate matters, we may confidently expect peace in Europe for at least a year. France is not ready for revenge, and therefore Russia must bide her time. Meanwhile the Imperial family have separated for a season, the Czar going to his summer palace in the Caucasus, the Empress to the Crimea, and the Grand Duke Alexis on his long-promised trip to the United States.

The lower clergy of Hungary refuse to obey the order of the Bishops respecting the publication of the Infallibility dogma, and are manifesting reformation tendencies, the bearing of which cannot be appreciated as yet. This resistance is supported by a secret circular. A great popular meeting was held at Glognitz on the 20th August. Resolutions have been passed to oppose the Ultramontanes in the elections, and condemnatory of the Pope's Infallibility. It is also stated that the Hungarian Minister of Education has forbidden, in the strictest manner, the publication of the Vatican Decrees.

Several of the Generals in the Franco-Prussian war have laid down the sword and taken up the pen. General de Wimpffen has written a history of the battle and capitulation at Sedan; and Gen. Chanzy contributes a portly volume of 650 pages and an atlas of five "tres-grandes" maps on "the second army of the Loire." On the other side Count Von Moltke, the chief of the Prussian army, is superintending the composition of a complete military history of the war, treated scientifically, and illustrated with maps. The most part it will be written by contemporary French accounts will al-

The death is announced of Sir James the Government Architect of England, aged seventy. Sir James successfully carried out a number of metropolitan improvements, of which are the laying out and forming of Battersea Parks, the General Record Repository in Fetter Lane, the new west wing of Somerset House, the south wing of Buckingham Palace, and the University of London. He was hon. member of St. Luke's Academy, Rome, and of the Society of Architecture, Amsterdam; received the annual medal of the Royal Institute of British architects 1857, and the gold medal 1865, and was created a Knight in 1870.

American liberality sometimes takes an eccentric turn. According to the *London Builder*, a Mr. Harris Posler of the United States, has made M. Thiers an offer to rebuild the Palace of the Tuileries, at his own cost. So far so good. But there are one or two exceedingly modest conditions annexed:—That one of the wings shall be named after him; that apartments, overlooking the gardens, shall be reserved to him for lifetime, and also a standing invitation to all the ceremonies and fetes given by any Government that may hold the place in succession. The last proviso shows the presence of the great Posler, who is now awaiting a reply. He exhibits plans and estimates, amounting to £310,000.

The prospects of the new dynasty in Spain are brightening day by day. King Amadeus and the Queen have made a triumphant progress through the Provinces, as if to defy the daggers of the International Society. The *Times* correspondent says that they have been received everywhere with unbounded enthusiasm, in spite of the combined efforts of the Carlist, Republican and clerical parties. An experience of seven months has convinced the people that they have at last found an affable, intelligent and virtuous ruler. It is worthy of note also that the earnest efforts of the King to encourage literature have already had a marked effect on the publishing trade—four times as many books now being published as in the time of Isabella.

Louis Joseph Papineau, the great rebel leader of Lower Canada in 1837-8, died on Saturday last, at the age of

82 years. The life-time of the deceased politician thus extended from 1789, or thirty years only after the capture of Quebec, down to the present time. The struggles in which Mr. Papineau engaged are too well known to need recapitulation here. His opinions were strongly democratic, and with an intellect of no mean order, he combined a vigour and energy in action which secured to him widely-extended popularity amongst his compatriots. Unlike many radical politicians, Mr. Papineau remained a *rouge* to the last, and although his latter years were passed in retirement, he occasionally appeared in public to give a somewhat feeble party the prestige of his name.

The investigation into the gigantic frauds committed in the city of New York continues to command general attention. The so-called "ring" of which Mayor Hall, Controller Conolly, Peter B. Sweeney and Tweed were the chiefs, would appear to have quarrelled amongst themselves; although there is nothing certain known upon the subject. The disputes of which the telegraph informs us, are probably part of a deep game the speculators are playing with the public. Meanwhile, the Committee of Seventy is busy in exposing new facts in the history of a system of fraud almost fabulous in extent and audacity. Whether any of the delinquents will be compelled to disgorge their ill-gotten wealth, or even receive the semblance of punishment, is by no means clear. The prospect of reform in municipal government is far from promising; and when we hear honest New-Yorkers expressing the belief that many of those now foremost on the side of integrity would behave as truculently and dishonestly, if in office, the conviction is forced upon us that nothing short of a radical change in the civic organization will permanently arrest prevailing corruption. As long as the mass of New York voters—ignorant, needy and unscrupulous foreigners—are permitted to appoint the city officers, judicial or executive, so long will the game of grab continue to be played there with success.

A very interesting account, in the shape of a government blue-book, has just been given of Mr. J. D. Forsyth's mission to Yarkund. Last year, one Mirza Mohamad Shadee, Envoy from a chieftain known as the Atalik Ghazee, and ruling over Kashgar or Eastern Turkestan, requested the Viceroy of India to permit a British officer to return with him on a friendly visit to the court and capital of his master. Mr. Forsyth, C.B., was consequently sent to Yarkund, not in any political character, but merely to gather information upon the history and condition of Turkestan, and the state and prospects of the trade between that country and India. The double journey of 2,000 miles was accomplished in six months, over the highest tract of country in the world, without the loss of a single follower or a load of baggage. The country is a recently established Mohammedan kingdom, reconquered from the Chinese by one Yahoob Beg. The government appears to be in the main well constituted, and the people prosperous and contented. Yarkund lies due north of Lahore about 500 miles. The principal interest in the work naturally consists in the description of the route through magnificent mountain passes, some of which are from two to four thousand feet higher than the summit of Mont Blanc. Like other places, with which we are better acquainted, Yarkund has its shops, its college, its school, and its galleys "fitted up with pulleys so as to accommodate two criminals at once." The city is scrupulously clean, adorned plentifully with beautiful flower-gardens, and celebrated, it is interesting to know, for the excellence of its white bread.