

having been intercepted (probably in the French Post-office) from an illustrious personage in this country to one of his German relatives, in which the hostile intentions of the English Court towards Louis Napoleon's dynasty were unreservedly spoken of, and he himself freely commented on. The English nation has been exposed to, and most narrowly escaped the greatest evil which could possibly befall it, by a most imprudent indulgence of family prejudices on the part of one who, of all others, is bound to sustain and protect the country which has so generously adopted him.

COBURG INFLUENCES AT COURT.—The country will learn with pleasure, that one of the most spirited and independent Members of the House of Commons, has intimated to his friends his intention of bringing the whole question of the Coburg influences at the Court of Queen Victoria, before Parliament, immediately on its reassembling. The subject could not have fallen into better hands, provided the state of the Hon. Gentleman's health will be such as to admit of his going fully, and with his wonted fearlessness, into it.—*Daily Paper.*

LORD CARDIGAN.—An absurd story is going the rounds of the provincial press, to the effect that the Lieut.-Colonel, commanding the 11th Light Dragoons pressed her Majesty's hand upon the occasion of his being her partner in a dance at the Vice-Regal Palace, in Ireland. We need not say it is a fabrication. Whatever Lord Cardigan's faults of temper and caprice may be, and however severe his disciplinary system, he is too well-bred a gentleman, too well versed in the usages of courts, to be guilty of the preposterous *gaucherie* ascribed to him.

Arrival of the Arabia.

NEW YORK, Feb. 4.

The *Arabia* from Liverpool, arrived at Halifax at a quarter past 12, p. m. with 79 passengers.

The *Pacific* arrived at Liverpool on Wednesday.

TURKISH WAR.

We have further accounts of the battle of Citala. The Turkish success is confirmed. It appears that the Russians were concentrating all their forces at Citala to attack Kalafat.

On the 6th, 15,000 Turks marched out of Kalafat and attacked and stormed Citala. They resumed the conflict with the Russians on the 6th, which ended with the total discomfiture of the Russians, who confess that they had 1000 killed and 4000 wounded, including 3 Generals. On the 9th, the Turks having remained over night in a field beyond Citala, attacked the reserve of the Russians and drove them back upon Krajova, with the loss of their cannon. There was immense slaughter on both sides.

On the 10th the Turks having razed the Russian fortifications returned to Kalafat.

The Turks were commanded by Selim Pacha, Zedlinsky and Mahomed.

Mahomed is reported killed.

The above victories have been officially announced to the Turkish, French, and British Ambassadors.

ASIA.—A letter from Rebizond, 16th December, says:—Schamayl had organised a Polish regiment, 1200 strong; he has plenty of ammunition, and is organizing an army in Dagheston; the Abyssinians are in alliance with him. The Hungarians who had waited at Constantinople for employment were shipped Jan. 2nd for the Asian army. Klappa declined an Asian command but offers to serve in Europe. On the 5th, while the allied fleets were in the Black Sea, two ships were sent with the following message to the Russian Governor of Sebastopol:—"Conformably with orders of our Government, the British squadron, in concert with that of France is on the point of appearing in the Black Sea. The object of this movement is to protect Turkey's territory from aggression or hostile acts.

We apprise you thereof with the view to prevent all collision tending to disturb the amicable relations existing between our Governments, which we are desirous of preserving, and which you are no doubt equally anxious to maintain, and should feel happy to learn that you are animated by similar intentions. We have deemed it expedient to give instructions to the Admiral commanding the forces in the Black Sea so as to obviate any occurrence calculated to endanger peace."

It was at first intended to send only a portion of the fleet into the Black Sea, but the rumour reached them that the whole of the Russian fleet had sailed from Sebastopol, with the intention it was believed of intercepting a Turkish Convoy, which, under the protection of the Allies carries 15,000 men for Asia.

Merchantmen at Constantinople report not having seen the fleet, which is supposed to be towards Batoum, where it is surmised the Russians have also gone.

Around Sebastopol, and the coast of Crimea, the Russians are erecting batteries and destroying light-houses.

On the 31st December, the Porte made the following modifications to the Note of the Four Powers:

1st—The evacuation of the Principalities as soon as possible; say within 15 or 20 days after acceptance by Russia.

2nd—The renewal of treaties to be with special reference to the integrity and independence of Turkey, the Porte to ameliorate his administrative system alone and spontaneously.

On the receipt at Vienna, the English, French, Austrian & Prussian representatives met and drew up a protocol, stating that the terms of the Porte were good and satisfactory. They were immediately sent off by courier to St. Petersburg, where they would arrive on the 16th.

The Porte demands that the Note shall be definitely accepted or rejected within 40 days from January 2nd, and the Principalities evacuated within 20 or 30 days after the Czar's letter of acceptance. This demand was on its way to St. Petersburg on the 12th inst.

The British and French Ministers at St. Petersburg also communicated to the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs the entry of the Allied Fleets into the Black Sea. The Czar's reply was not known when the *Arabia* sailed, all Europe anxiously awaiting it, as indications had already transpired that he would at once withdraw his Ambassadors from France and England, and formally declare war. Nothing else is expected.

Destruction of the Parliament Building by Fire.

THE VALUABLE LIBRARY OF THE ASSEMBLY SERIOUSLY INJURED AND MANY VALUABLE MANUSCRIPTS DESTROYED.—THE MINERALOGICAL, ZOOLOGICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL SPECIMENS, BOOKS, PAPERS, OPTICAL AND PNEUMATICAL INSTRUMENTS, AND LIBRARY OF THE LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY IRREPARABLY INJURED.

This morning, at half-past three o'clock, a dense smoke was seen to issue from the upper part of the left or new wing of the Parliament building, facing Mountain Street, the smoke issuing the most densely from the three gable windows over the Prescott Gate Guard Room. The alarm of fire was soon given and the utmost exertions used to arrest the progress of the flames, which had broken out seemingly in full fury in the attics, extending downwards in the direction of the furnaces in the south-eastern vault, by which the whole building was heated, and the lighting of which originally occurred at one in the morning, so that by office hours the house might be agreeably warm. There lived in this end of the building the Messenger of the Legislative Council, Mr. Keating, and his father-in-law, Mr. Mimeo, Crier of the Court of Queen's Bench, both exceedingly careful persons who, with difficulty saved part of their effects. The library, containing new books which had cost upwards of £6000, was as rapidly as possible cleared of a great part of its contents through the great exertions and activity of the Revd. Dr. Adamson, Dr. Winder, and Mr. Todd the li-

brarians; but we regret to learn that many valuable manuscripts, including a catalogue which has been three years in preparation, and the journals and sessional papers of the Imperial Parliament (complete), which after the destruction of the library by fire in Montreal, had been collected from the libraries of noblemen in England by Mr. Speaker Loebner of the House of Commons, with great difficulty, on account of the Commons' House extra copies having been destroyed when the Westminster Parliamentary buildings fell a prey to the ravages of fire. The left wing was one blaze of flame by five in the morning and the fire having broken out in the attics, the flames seemed to have run along and taken possession of the interior of the cupola, the outside of which was as it were breathing smoke of various tints, the deep red indicating flames within. Every exertion was now being made to save the newly classified specimens of ornithology, mineralogy, and zoology in the newly arranged museum of the Literary and Historical Society, to preserve the very valuable library and still more valuable manuscripts, the society's museum and library being situated directly under the burning cupola. Many specimens and the great bulk of the books were possibly saved; but any one who knows the difficulty of saving from fire mineralogical, zoological, or ornithological specimens will have an idea of the great loss which the society has sustained. About 6 in the morning and while it is said some persons were endeavouring to clear out the museum, the roof of the room fell in causing the people to retreat hastily. Fortunately no one was injured. The room, however, was speedily one sheet of flame, and the flames shortly after burst through the cupola.

For a moment, the spectacle was grand, as the lurid flame twisted about and lapped the certainly, architecturally considered, most beautiful part of the immense building. But the grandeur of the sight was even increased by the snapping off of the cupola in the centre, which bent over towards the Lower Town and reeled head foremost, wrapped in fire, either just outside of the building or into the body of the Assembly room below.

The centre part of the building was now every where in flame, and the attic of the old, or right wing of the building on fire. A dense black smoke was issuing from the oval gable window next the Bishop's Palace and from every ventilator; and fire showed itself occasionally at one of the lower windows, and by half-past seven the upper part of the old wing was in the grasp of the devouring element, the fire engines apparently not being of the slightest service in even checking the conflagration. The offices had been however previously gutted of their contents and considerable quantities of furniture tossed out of windows and smashed on the ground below. By this time the old has probably met the fate of the body and new wing of certainly one of the most substantial if not most elegant public edifices of the province.

The loss is estimated at £150,000 and insurance to the amount of £30,000 has been effected in several offices, the Quebec Assurance Company suffering in the sum of £6000.

Parliament will not, of course, meet in February, but may in June in the Music Hall, Sword's Hotel being rented for offices. The fire still burns.

The fire is supposed to have been caused by the hot-air heating apparatus. The ventilators contributed very much to the rapid extension of the flames.—*Quebec Gazette.*

The decision of the Queen's Bench, Toronto, as rendered by the Chief Justice, has been given against Mr. Ogle R. Gowan; that person is therefore *unseated* from the Corporation, and the City of Toronto thereby relieved from the services of the "giant mind," for a year to come.

The trials of the persons accused of attempting to demolish Chalmer's Church at Quebec, at the time of Gavazzi's lecture, have ended in acquittal.