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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

English advices of the 1st March state that a testimonial banquet was given last evening to the Hon. Peter John Locke King, the eminent English politician and member of Parliament. Five hundred persons were present, including Messrs. Gladstone and Cardwell. A number of speeches were delivered. Gladstone's was the occasion of much comment; in the course of his remarks the Premier adverted to the Irish Education Bill recently introduced in Parliament, and intimated that the Government would consent to modifications which would not better the Bill, in order to avoid the adoption of any worse measure. In concluding his remarks upon this subject, Mr. Gladstone said, "When the hour of the dissolution of the Ministry arrives, we will be ready to retire, but we will not needlessly abandon our posts."

A despatch from Berlin to the *London Times* says that many Russian officers and diplomatists left St. Petersburg for Asia, and probably the Khiva campaign will commence at an early day.

An official despatch from Berlin to the *London Times* says the Government of France has officially given Germany financial guarantees for the payment at the designated time of the last milliard of the war indemnity, and that negotiations between the two Governments for the entire evacuation of French territory by German troops at an early day have already been commenced.

The *Daily Telegraph* of this morning has a special despatch from Madrid stating that the streets in the vicinity of the palace of the Cortes were thronged with people during the session of the Assembly yesterday and much excitement prevailed. Detachments of the Civic Guards were stationed at various strategic points in anticipation of an outbreak. The same despatch says that Senor Figueras, President of the Council, will to-day propose the dissolution of the Assembly.

Col. Egerton Leigh, Conservative candidate, has been elected member of Parliament for Middle Cheshire.

A contradiction is given to the report from Madrid that the Spanish Government has received an intimation that the European powers will jointly refuse to continue diplomatic relation with Spain if a Federal Republic is proclaimed.

In the House of Commons on Tuesday, the 11th inst. Mr. Gladstone's Irish Educational Bill was rejected by a majority of three votes in a full house; he has since waited on the Queen with his resignation, but it is extremely doubtful whether the Conservative party, with such a leader as D'Israeli could manage the present House. Reports state that a *replacage* of the old material with Grenville at its head will be the *dernier resort* of the Whig Radicals—it will most decidedly be a change for the worse.

The most joyful intelligence which could be received throughout the outlying provinces of the Empire would be that of the political death of the miserable *doctrinaires* who had done more to lower England in the scale of nations in their four unlucky years of tenure of office, than her enemies could accomplish in as many centuries. The dissolution of the present House of Commons is a foregone conclusion, and the new franchise in the hands of the sober working man will give the conservatives a decided majority by which some of the error perpetrated by the Whig Radicals may be retrieved.

Advices from Gibraltar states that 200 carbineers attached to the Spanish prison at San Roque, a city of Andalusia, 7 miles north-west of Gibraltar, attempted to create a rising in favour of Don Carlos, but the insurrectionary demonstration was suppressed and the offenders imprisoned.

The Committee of the Assembly having charge of President Figueras' bill for the dissolution of the Assembly and other purposes are still in conference with the Ministry. A compromise is sought by which the threatened crisis may be averted. At a late hour last night nothing had been made public concerning the probable issue of the conference.

Among reports current in Madrid is one

to the effect that a mixed directory will be appointed to assume control of the Government. The members mentioned are Figueras, Roviero, Orenz, Martos and Castelar. The Government will be styled Pure Republican.

A despatch from the Provinces says that they were undisturbed by the movements of Carlists and reports state that quiet prevails. A band of men which was attempting to leave the Province of Madrid to join the Carlist forces were overtaken yesterday by Government troops and dispersed after a short conflict. Fifteen of the band, including its chief were taken.

A despatch from Pampeluna, under date of the 12th says there is no truth in the reports which have been current for some time that the Carlists are besieging that place. The insurrectionists cut the telegraph lines and railroads, severing the communication with the town, and then spread false reports, but at no time has it been in danger of falling into their hands. The Carlist force in the Province of Navarre does not number 3,000 men. Gen. Norilla arrived at Lagrono yesterday and immediately assumed the command of the army of the North.

The debate on the bill dissolving the Assembly, convoking the constituent Cortes, and providing for elections for members of the latter, opened in the Assembly yesterday. The President of the Chamber left the chair and made a patriotic speech, declaring that he should not oppose the Government's determination to dissolve the Assembly and call a constituent Cortes. Prime Minister Figueras exhorted the Liberals to pursue a conciliatory course, and urged Conservatives to trust in the Republic Assembly. Voted to take the bill into consideration, 186 yeas to 19 nays.

A large crowd of people in front of the Hall, on learning the result of the vote, gave repeated cheers for the Republic.

The *Imperciel* says the vote is a death blow to the Radical party. It is expected Henri, Martos, Sarroska and Griro, who voted against the Government, will resign.