NEWS BY THE ENGLISH MAIL.

BOMBARDMENT OF CANTON.

From the Times' correspondent.

Monday, Dec. 28.—It is five o'clock in the morning, and the north wind whistles through the shrouds, and it is thick darkness as we climb the rigging to the maintop of Her Majesty's ship ——.

Yeh knows what must happen at daybreak. It has been told throughout the fleet, it has been intentionally allowed to be known to the bumboatmen, and all who have communication with the opposite shore, that the bombardment will commence at daybreak. The frequent reconnoissances on the eastern side have also told them that the attack will be on that side, and we know they have taken the hint, for two new embrasures have broken out yesterday, and guns mounted.

Before the first streak of daylight every glass is directed upon the berth of the green passage boat. We call it Howqua's boat, moored on the other side of the river, and used to carry messages to and fro, and always having a white flag flying. The boat and the flag are still there, but she does not move. No, she does not move. I must use the seaman's more practised eyes to tell me so, for I cannot yet distinguish objects. Surely, surely, these men will yield while there is yet time. There seems to be no thought of such a thing. Had there been, it is now too late. A cheer tells me that, not in the dawn but in the less thick darkness, up goes the white ensign to the main of the Actæon, and at the same moment a yellow flag flies on the main of the Phlegethon. I expected at that moment to hear a concussion that should have shaken the earth. Not so. A dropping fire, gun by gun, runs along the line. I fancy that the Cruiser, which has the guns from the bastion in front of Yeh's yamun pointed down upon her deck, fires a broadside to anticipate them, but I may be mistaken, for I am some way off, and the puffs of smoke are already wreathing about. Some minutes elapse, and the light strengthens. Then off goes one of the mortars upon Dutch Folly. It is fired upon Gough Fort. The whistling shell speeds high over the city, just as I have often seen them and heard their plaintive whistle over the heights of the Tchernaya, or from the earthworks on the north of Sebastopol harbour. It does not reach its object. At its highest elevation—far, far away—it puffs forth in a white cloud. I can now see the dark fragments falling, and in the cold, cloudless morning sky that little cloudlet hangs—

As though an angel in his upward flight
Had left his mantle floating in mid air.

Strange fancies seize us in these highly wrought moments—the angel of mercy has fled from the doomed city.

Slow and continuous, with a sombre monotony, like the firing of minute guns, the cannonade begins. No broadsides, no quick firing, no excitement. Every gun is accurately pointed, after many minutes' care, to strike or sweep the appointed wall, and to avoid the habitations. The shells are not so obedient as the round shot. What the opposing guns are doing we cannot see, for the smoke gathers thick below us, and the big guns seem to have brought down the wind. Vainly do the mortar shells strive to reach those hill forts, which seem to be sleeping in tranquil security against the cold grey sky. They all fall short. That red five-storied barn, which is called the five-storied pagoda, and which is said to be the barrack of five hundred Tartars, was nearly touched. A shell burst half way up the hill. But Gough Fort has never yet been approached. Some who must have keener sight than I have say that the Chinese are endeavoring to bring their monster guns to bear this way. The strength of the armament of those forts was placed to bear upon the eastern face when we reconnoitred them on Wednesday last. But it is useless, even if practicable, to change the bearing of those guns. If we cannot reach them at this nearly 4000 yards' range with our mortars they will never reach us. The morning wears on and the smoke thickens, and still this dull monotonous minute-gun sound continues. Still no sign of surrender. These strange Chinese actually seem to be getting used to it. Sanpans and even cargo boats are moving down the river like London lightermen in the ordinary exercise of their calling; people are coming down to the bank, and watch the shot and shell fly over their heads. Even the great kites which hover about here all day have returned, and are circling above the smoke.

Now the gun-boats leave their stations, embark the troops, and hurry down the river to the landing place at Kupar Creek. I also change my position, and dot down these hasty memoranda as I fly. A strong body has already landed, and through my glass I can distinctly see the general and his staff, protected by a party of blue jackets and red coats—either marines or 59th, I can't distinguish which, for they are crouched on the ground—pushing a close reconnoissance to Fort Lin.

Half-past Twelve.—No signs of surrender. The embarkation of the land force continues, and the bombardment goes on.

Before Canton, Dec. 29, 1857.—I broke off my first despatch while the bombardment was still proceeding, while the troops were landing at Kupar Creek, and while the general was prosecuting a close reconnoissance of the East (or Lin's) Fort.

So near did the reconnoitreing party advance without any appearance of defenders that we imagined the fort must be deserted. I suppose, however, the general had reason to think otherwise, for the 59th and the Artillery were ordered up, and were posted in the broken ground to the left, while some of the Naval Brigade and Marines, who had now formed upon a hill-side, were advanced into the village on the right of the fort. Immediately this movement took place some matting which covered a square building on the top of the round stone fort was removed, and three guns from the lower embrasures and a volley from jingalls on the top soon told that the place was occupied. Our men were well under cover, and skirmishers were pushed forward, who, with the deadly Enfield, made it dangerous for the gunners to appear in their large embrasures. They continued their fire, however, with great pertinacity until the nine-pounder field-pieces were got into position, and battered and shelled the place (from the village side and across the ravine which separates the village from the fort) at close quarters. A storming party was now formed, but the Chinamen had had enough of it, and after firing a general volley at the advancing column they absconded in some mysterious way, and were seen swarming up the hill towards Gough Fort; a moment after, and two men appeared in the embrasures waving the English and French flags.

My view of the operations was from the river side of the fort. What happened afterwards I saw less distinctly. About an hour after the fort had been in our possession it blew up with a loud explosion. The occupying party, and also the troops encamped on the hill side, were put in motion, ascended the hill, and descended on the other side. I saw Captain Maclure's and Captain Osborne's men, conspicuous by their white gaiters over their blue trowsers; gather on a little summit, and disappear into the valley beyond. There we lost sight of them. Volleys of musketry and flights of rockets continued in that direction for several hours, and there was all the appearance of an obstinate fight, which lasted till sundown; but whether this was occasioned by the discovery of some unknown fort commanding the east fort, and rendering it necessary to blow up the latter, or whether some body of Chinese troops had come out into the open, we shall not know until we can draw out the separate threads of this widely-spread entanglement.

Then came the night—and such a night. The ships almost ceased from their firing, but the city soon became like our own Shropshire iron counties at night—a plain of fire. At first it appeared as though the besiegers were bent upon reducing the place to ashes; but little by little, as I gained, by a change of position, some idea of the scene as a whole, the destruction was not without a plan. There was a great blaze at the north-west angle of the city. The gate there is surmounted by a Chinese guard-house, with the usual grotesque upward pointed roof. Shells and rockets were poured in volleys upon this structure, and it soon became a sheet of flame, through which the roof, the rafters and the walls stood out in dark outline. By constant showers of rockets the flame was led up and down the city wall, and in an incredibly short time the long, thin line of fire shot high into the heavens, and then subsided into a smouldering smoke.

While this was still raging those vengeful rockets described a new parabola. They came hurling through the moonlight along the line of the eastern wall. They sought out the three spots which have been marked as the objects of the triple assault of the English and French troops to-morrow. As those dreadful 24-pound rockets flew, flames arose. They seemed to lead the fire about as a tame element, precisely as they willed; and, strange to say, it never seemed to spread inwards or to stray from the line of the city walls. I expect that when, at some more convenient season, I come to see the interior, I shall find that all the conflagrations we have been watching to-night with an awe-stricken pity have destroyed only that line of old houses which leant against the inner side of the wall, and afforded cover to those jingalls whence all our great losses in affairs with the Chinese have arisen. I may be wrong, for I pledge myself to nothing that I write in this confusion of showering rockets and crashing roofs. If I am wrong I can correct my impressions hereafter.

Tuesday, Dec. 30.—I mark the change of days, but they are not divided by repose. All night the city was girt by a line of flame. The approach of morning was indicated by a suspension of the rocket practice, and by the re-opening of the mortar battery with redoubled energy. As the day broke the flames sank down, and the sun rose upon a perfectly smokeless city. It is necessary to describe the conformation of a Chinese city more accurately than I now have time to do to account for the rapidity with which the wall side houses perished. For police purposes every city is divided into walled departments of some 50 yards square, with gates that can be closed. The houses that lean upon the inner walls are, in most cities that I have seen, divided from the rest by a mound or a ditch; they are encroachments—hovels made by squatters—wood and thatch, that blaze and vanish.

The charges of powder must have been increased in the mortar batteries, for the shells now flew high up to the hill forts. One of them at daybreak burst upon an embrasure of Fort Gough, and another went right over it. The ships that had been enfilading the eastern wall now ceased firing. It was the moment for the assault. In the neighbourhood of the east fort the three divisions formed and the rush was made. For two hours nothing is visible but smoke, nothing is heard but the rattle of musketry and loud cheering. What deeds are done among this broken ground—among these trees and brushwood—on the tops and in the interstices of these grave-covered hillocks—how fare these forces, spread over more than a mile of attack, what divisions are first, who fall and who survive, I must tell hereafter. At eight o'clock the wall was gained, and I see the blue jackets, English and French, racing along it northwards. Gough's Fort gives out its fire, let us hope without effect, but, well-served, its guns might sweep the wall. There is a check and silence for half an hour. I can recognise the blue trousers of one of the divisions of our naval brigade. The leaders are probably teaching them how to take that five-storied pagoda upon the north-western wall. Along the city wall, and protected by its battlements, they pass, I think, unscathed, the fire from Gough Fort away to their right, and come in front of a gleaming white battery, newly built, and full of guns erected upon a ledge of the rock upon which the wall and the five-storied pagoda here stand. If the assailants would only go to a proper distance, how these guns would riddle them. But with a rush and a cheer a detachment strikes from the cover of the wall, which the guns do not command, and houses itself safely at the foot of the very rock which bears the battery. Not a shot can it fire. The riflemen from the walls now ply this half moon for some minutes, and in a quarter of an hour the detachment at the foot of the rock has gone round and taken the position from behind. Relieved from these guns, which might have swept them down by hundreds, our men in serried masses are now swarming along the wall. The five-storied pagoda (which is no more a pagoda, according to our notion of a pagoda, than it is a bum-boat, but an old square red building divided into storeys) is carried by the bayonet, and the French and English colours are hoisted simultaneously. Now Gough's Fort opens out sulkily upon its late ally; but the assailants, not waiting to reply, hurry along the intervening wall westward. I can follow them for some time from my position, and I hear them cheering, when I lose them in the hollow. A few minutes of sharp fusillade, and blue-jackets emerge from the trees and buildings upon Magazine-hill. A moment after and up go two bits of bunting which tell that this key of Canton is our own.

It is now twenty minutes after ten. In four hours, therefore, the hill defences of this city have been captured. Gough's Fort yet holds out, but this is a mere question of a few hours or minutes more or less—the Magazine-hill commands it, and it is within point blank range. The whole of the operations have been conducted with a view to occasion the smallest possible sacrifice of life, and especially of the lives of our own men and of our allies. We may hope, therefore, that the victory will be a cheap one. I purposely refrain from repeating any of the rumours that are flying about as to deaths and wounds, but I may state it as within my own knowledge, that Captain Bate was killed while superintending the placing of the scaling ladders. Captain Hackett was also killed, and Lord Gilford is wounded in the arm. How many others are lost it is impossible to say. The Chinamen are still shooting at our men from the tops of the houses, and if this goes on I fear it will be necessary to treat the city less tenderly than hitherto. While the Algerine gunboat, Lieutenant Forbes is with steam up, taking the supplemental despatches on board, 2 5 p. m., Gough's Fort is assaulted and taken.

DETAILS BY THE INDIA AND CHINA MAIL.

The Overland Mail has arrived with advices from Calcutta to Jan. 23, and Hong Kong Jan. 15. The Chinese news is seventeen days later.

The *Bengal Hurkaru*, of Jan. 23rd, gives a summary as follows of the events of the preceding fortnight:—Our letters from Bombay and the North-west now arrive in due course, and there is every sign of an early restoration of peace and security. The official bulletins give but scanty accounts of the proceedings of the Commander-in-Chief and the officers in command of columns in the North-west, but they record nothing but successes, and the lull which has taken place in their operations indicates that they have no emergent work on hand which need prevent them from waiting to gather strength.

Colonel Seaton has defeated the rebels at Mynpoorie; cut up 250 of them, and taken six of their guns.

Jung Bahadoor has captured Goruckpore in a most gallant manner, killed 200 of the rebels, and taken seven guns. Our gallant ally has gained great credit by this achievement—the force opposed to him being immensely superior in numbers.

The relief of Sumbulpore has been accomplished by Captain Wood, with a squadron of the Nagpore Irregular Cavalry, and the Captain fought a battle with the rebels the next morning, in conjunction with the infantry, in which he was completely victorious.

The Commander-in-Chief is supposed to be marching upon Bareilly, with the intention of entering Oude from that direction. Oude will be the next, and, it is hoped, the final battle field. Here a determined resistance may be expected.

CHINA.

TAKING OF CANTON—SUBJECTION OF THE CITY TO BRITISH RULE.

(*From the Overland Friend of China, of Jan. 15th.*)

The last mail announced briefly the capture of Canton. The following is a summary of events on that and on subsequent days:—

December 29.—Bombardment continued through the night until the hour of 9 a.m. General escalade earlier than intended; not half the scaling ladders provided being up in time. Determined stand of the Tartar troops; charge and route of them by the naval brigade and marines. Retreat of the braves from the vicinity of Gough's and the other forts on the heights when they saw the five-storyed pogoda in our possession. Capture of the Nigle Fort and Temple on Magazine Hill. Establishment there of head-quarters and entrenchment.

December 30.—Circumvallation of the walls of the old city, by a strong party, headed by the Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Seymour, the French Admiral, and General Van Straubenzee; submission of the people and their evacuation of the city.

December 31st.—Engaged in quartering the troops, and in landing provisions for permanent occupation.

January 1st.—Grand procession to head-quarters of the Plenipotentiaries of France and England.

Jan. 2nd.—Commencement of wet weather. Garrison occupied in securing themselves from its bad effects.

Jan. 3rd.—Second day of rest. Jan. 4th, continued rain; 5th, grand coup capture of the Viceroy Yeh, at the quarters of the Lieutenant-General of the Tartar troops, Pehquie, governor of the city, at his own palace adjacent, and of £65,000 sterling, in dollars and ingots of silver at the imperial treasury. Removal of Yeh as prisoner to her Majesty's steamer Inflexible, on board of which vessel, at the Bogue, he still remains, contented and cheerful, being engaged throughout the day generally in conversation, on French subjects, with Mr. Alabaster, or the interpreter attached to the suite of the fallen magnate.

Jan. 6.—Time afforded to Pehquie and the Tartar general to consider the terms offered them by the British and French, viz.,—the issuing of a proclamation to the people, in which it is stated that they now rule the province under the protectorate city's captors.

Jan. 7.—Installation of Pehquie as the re-installed governor of the city, exercising, also, the powers of the deposed viceroy. Addresses on the occasion by the Earl of Elgin and Baron Gros, both being to the effect of advising the newly-installed officer to eschew all treachery or underhand proceedings, warning him of the consequences of doing so, and announcing that the protectorate would be continued until satisfactory terms had been made with the Government of Pekin. Pehquie replied that he understood his position, and would act with fidelity.

Jan. 8th.—The commissioners, viz:—Colonel Holloway, M. le Capitane de Chenuez, and Mr. Harry Parks, charged with the supervision of the Government, took up their quarters with a strong guard at the palace of the Governor, and proceeded to the work on which they have since been engaged, viz:—the issuing of proclamations to the surrounding country, inviting people to return, and assuring them of protection to their persons and property.

From the 8th to the 15th everything has proceeded with the greatest smoothness, and there appears to be a fair prospect of the taking off of the blockade, and the resumption of trade within the next week. In all the quarters of the city the people have established signs of submission to our rule, and an apparent relief from the incubus under which they have so long laboured. It was expected that the east gate, the main artery of the old city, would be opened to-day.

THE INSTALLATION OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF CANTON.

Yeh being safely caged in the Inflexible, and the authorities of the city being prisoners, the Plenipotentiaries being afraid that the city would be sacked by the populace, it was resolved therefore to formally reinstate Pehquie in his palace, and to assist him with a Council of three, composed of two English officers and one French officer. Pehquie, the former Lieutenant Governor, is now Governor of Canton, and the Tartar-General the Lieutenant-Governor. The ceremony of installation took place January 9. At mid-day large bodies of French and English troops defiled into the city. The residence of the Chinese Governors was strongly garrisoned; the Plenipotentiaries and their suites and the naval and military commanders assembled in the hall of audience. Lord Elgin and Baron Gros were seated on a sort of dais, the naval and military commanders were seated on chairs at a right angle with the dais, and opposite to those chairs were others left vacant for the Chinese. A throng of English and French officers, a band, and colors filled up the hall. There were only three Chinamen spectators present. When Pehquie came in, the Plenipotentiaries advanced and received him, resuming their seats on the dais, and moved for him to take those assigned for him. Pehquie demurred, and caused a scene which lasted some minutes. Lord Elgin at last yielded, and made way for the Chinaman next to him. With great satisfaction the mandarins enjoyed the victory granted to their pertinacity, and sat on seats of honour, taking preference of the English and French admirals and the British generals.

ADDRESS OF THE ENGLISH AND FRENCH PLENIPOTENTIARIES.

Lord Elgin then addressed Pehquie, sitting—We are assembled here to welcome your excellency's return on your yamun, and on your resumption of the functions of your office, which have been interrupted. It is proper, however, that I should apprise your excellency, and through your excellency the inhabitants of Canton, that the Plenipotentiaries of England and France and the Commander-in-Chief of the allied forces are firmly resolved to retain military occupation of the city until all questions pending between our respective Governments and that of China shall have been firmly settled and determined between us, the high officers, appointed by our Governments as servants, and plenipotentiaries of rank and powers whom his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of China may see fit to appoint to treat with us. Any attempt therefore, whether by force or fraud, whether by treachery or violence, to divest us of our possession of the city, will not fail to bring down upon its authors the most severe and signal punishment. I am, however, no less to apprise your excellency that it is equally our determination, when the questions to which I have referred shall have been so settled, to withdraw the military occupation of the city and to restore it to the Imperial authorities. Meanwhile it is our sincere wish that during the period of our military occupation the feelings of the people be respected, life and property protected, the good rewarded, and offenders, whether native or foreign, punished. We are desirous to co-operate with your Excellency for these objects. With this view we have appointed a tribunal composed of officers of good character and discretion to act in concert with you. We hope that through the agency of this tribunal confidence may be restored to the people and the foundation made of a better understanding between foreigners and natives, so that henceforth all may pursue their occupations in peace, and traffic together for their mutual advantage.

The address of the French plenipotentiary was to the same effect.

These addresses were successively translated to Pehquie. His address was interpreted in so low a tone that the correspondent of the *Times* could not catch it. In his answer to the French plenipotentiary, Pehquie said that man Yeh has been the cause of all the troubles.

EXAMINATION OF YEH.

If he had six headmen in his train, and if we all stood kidnapped men before him, he could not hold his head more haughtily. It is a huge, sensual, flat face. The profile is nearly straight from the eyebrow to the chin. He wears his mandarin cap, his red button, and his peacock's tail, but in other respects has the ordinary quilted blue tunic and loose breeches, the universal winter wear of this part of China. He seats himself in an armchair, and some inferior mandarins, who have pressed in after him, stand round and make him a little court. The officers who fill the room are passing to and fro upon their duties, and of course refrain from staring at him. Yet no one can look upon that face without feeling that he is in the presence of an extraordinary man. There is a ferocity about that restless, roving eye, which almost makes you shrink from it. It is the expression of a fierce and angry, but not courageous animal. While the long nails of his dirty fingers are trembling against the table, and his eyes are ranging into every part of the room in search of every face, his *pose* of dignity is too palpably simulated to inspire respect, even if you could forget his deeds. But no one can look upon him with contempt.

The two admirals and the generals now arrive, and after some salutations, which were naturally more embarrassing to the captors than the captive, the English admiral inquired whether Mr. Cooper, sen., was still living. You will recollect the circumstances under which this gentleman was kidnapped. Yeh burst forth into a loud laugh, which sounded to every one present as though he were recollecting and enjoying the recollections of this poor man's sufferings. When he had finished his cachinnations he replied, "I can't recollect about this man, but I will make enquiries to-morrow, and if he can be found you shall have him."

The disgust was at that moment so great, for many in the room had known and esteemed poor Cooper, that if the audience could have decided the matter, Yeh would have been taken out and hanged.

He was told that his answer was not courteous, and he replied that it was, at any rate, the only answer he could give.

After some further conversation, Yeh was sent on board the ships.

CAPTURE OF THE TREASURY.

For six days the Western gate had been open, and exit had been denied to neither men, nor goods, nor treasure. Surely there could be nothing left to reward the captors. How can we strain our minds to comprehend the stolid, stupid confidence of these Chinese officials! The Treasury was full of silver, as full probably as it ever was. As many as fifty-two boxes, which a man could not singly lift, were found, and sixty-eight packets of solid ingots. There was also a store-house of the most costly Mandarin fur dresses, lined with sables and rare furs, and there was a room full of copper cash. Now a strange scene occurred. The instructions were to bring away any bullion, but to touch nothing else. These orders were obeyed with a strange and self-denying fidelity. The soldiers and officers with difficulty turned their eyes away from the rich dresses. But how to remove the heavy load of bullion. Crowds had assembled in front, and a happy thought occurred to one of the officers, "A dollar's worth of cash to every coolie who will help to carry the silver to the English camp." In a moment the crowd dispersed in search of their bamboo poles, and in another moment there were a thousand volunteer Cantonese contending for the privilege of carrying for an enemy their city's treasure. With their stipulated strings of cash around their necks, away they trudged with the English soldiers and the sycee silver.

CASUALTIES.

The deaths of Captain Bate and Midshipman Thompson have been already reported. Three men of the naval and marine brigade killed; three dangerously wounded; eighteen severely wounded, including Viscount Gilford, and Lieutenants Dalson and Butler. Total killed 10. Total wounded 110, in naval and marine brigades. Admiral Seymour had a narrow escape from the same volley which killed Captain Bate.

The casualties in the 59th regiment, at Canton, include Lieutenant Hacket, killed; Lieutenant Thinkwin, wounded, and Ensign Bowen, since dead of his wounds. One rank and file killed and 16 wounded. The total of killed and wounded in the assault of the city is estimated at 140 British and 30 French.

THE NEW CABINET.

(*From Wilmer & Smith's European Times.*)

We announced in our last the defeat of Lord Palmerston's Government in the House of Commons, on the Conspiracy to Murder Bill, by a majority of 19. Such a result, on such a subject, left the late Premier and his colleagues no option but to resign, and accordingly, the next day, Lord Palmerston waited on the Queen, and placed in her hands the seals of office; but, it is added that, contrary to etiquette on such occasions, he did not advise her Majesty for whom to send, the inference being that he expected to be re-called in a short time with additional *eclat*. Probably, he thought that Lord Derby was not in a position to form a Ministry. If this were his calculation, he has been mistaken. Lord Derby lost no time in consulting the leaders of the Conservative party, and, as appears by the list in another column, has filled the leading offices of the State with the best available talent at his command,—the men who six years back formed the staple of his Government when he was then unexpectedly called to power.

Nineteen is a fatal number to Ministries. It was exactly the same number which destroyed the Government of Lord Derby in the winter of 1852, on Mr. Disraeli's unfortunate budget, and that, too, in a Parliament called by himself—a Parliament which made free-trade the established law of England. The same number has now brought Lord Palmerston's career as the First Minister to an end in a Parliament also called by himself—a Parliament in which he was supposed to be omnipotent, and which passed the first reading of the Conspiracy Bill by a majority of 200.

Lord Derby on the present, as on the former occasion, calculated on the adhesion of the Peelites, as they are called—the small but brilliant knot of men who are described as Statesmen without followers—the Duke of Newcastle, Sir James Graham, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Sidney Herbert, and Mr. Cardwell. But the offer was met by an immediate and pointed refusal. It is true that Mr. Gladstone's name figured in the first published programme of the Derby Ministry as the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but the statement was wholly inaccurate. All the versions which we have seen relative to these phase of the negociations are more or less incorrect. Lord Derby, in the course of Saturday afternoon after he had received the Queen's commands to form a Government, did certainly write to Mr. Gladstone, but there was no personal interview, and in the course of the same afternoon that eminent Statesman forwarded to Lord Derby's house in St. James's Square a note, courteously expressed, stating emphatically and on the instant his refusal to join the new Government. We happen to know that this is what actually occurred, and it is only worthy of notice in the way of dispelling the rumours which have crept into print relative to the nature of the negociations. Deprived of all assistance, then, from the quarter to which he had looked for support, his lordship had no alternative but to fall back upon the members of his former administration; and looking at the composition of the new Ministry, it is hardly likely to satisfy the House of Commons, and will not satisfy the country without progressive measures.

But while we say this, we are bound to add that it is only right to give the new Government a fair trial. It is beset with difficulties of every kind, and it would be both unreasonable and unjust to condemn it without a hearing. We may here state another fact which has not yet appeared in print, namely:—that a large section of independent members of the House of Commons, uninfluenced by either of the great aristocratic parties, is determined, not only to offer no factious opposition to Lord Derby, but to wait quietly the development of his measures, and to judge of him by his acts. There are no less than 119 members of the House of Commons who have come to this determination, and in their hands the fate of the Derby Ministry may be said to rest. If Lord Derby should proceed with the Conspiracy to Murder Bill,—the measure which has upset his predecessor, he will at once annihilate on the threshold the support of this large and numerous section of the Liberal members. They expect that he will at once declare his views on this point, and if he pursue a thoroughly English policy—if he will at once assure the French ruler that the existing laws of England are strong enough, without any new enactment, to punish conspirators and regicides, and that the law will be promptly put in force against all offenders who may seek to disturb the peace of neighbouring states, he will conciliate the compact body of patriotic members of Parliament to whom we have referred, and his conduct will contrast favourably with the policy which his predecessor was so ill-advised as to pursue. We shall not be surprised to see Lord Derby adopt this course, as it is the most straightforward, the most sensible, and the most spirited which he could do under the circumstances.

Whether Lord Derby will be able to work with the present House of Commons must depend upon himself. The House is not yet twelve months old, and if he were to dissolve in the present temper of the nation he would hardly better his position. If he could be induced to promise a good Reform Bill, to admit the Jews to Parliament, to carry the best features of the late Government's measure relative to India, to support Law Reform, and other measures of practical utility, his tenure of office, even in the present House of Commons, might extend over a considerable time. At present he is a necessity, and it is only by an enlightened and liberal policy of this kind that he can at all hope to compete with the powerful array of talent in the Lower House by which he is opposed. Happily for his chances of success, the prestige of his two rivals, Lord Palmerston and Lord John Russell, has been considerably damaged of late. The latter has not recovered from the shock which his popularity sustained by the visit to Vienna; and the former is hardly likely to outlive the odium of introducing the Conspiracy Bill to please the Emperor of the French. If the chances of the game are against Lord Derby, he has also advantages which he never possessed before, and to turn these to account will test his capacity for practical statesmanship.

We hope the time is not distant when new and better ideas will prevail respecting Ministerial responsibility. What necessity can there be, for instance, that with every change of Government we should see a change in the *personnel* of the Lord Chancellorship, of the Lord-Lieutenanancy of Ireland, of the Governor-Generalship of India! There are now some half-dozen ex-Chancellors, all of whom will receive heavy retiring pensions, an expense which the nation ought to be spared. It seems preposterous to be adding one to this list with every dissolution of the Government. The other two offices might also be independent of the Cabinet. The present Viceroy across the channel is so popular that it is a pity to disturb him, and the Queen's representative in Hindostan ought to be independent of the intrigues of rival politicians in Downing-street.

THE FRENCH BILL OF INDICTMENT.

The papers this week contain the *acte d' accusation*, in other words, the French Bill of Indictment against Orsini, Pierri, Rudio, Gomez, and the other conspirators charged with the attempt to murder the Emperor and Empress of the French in the Rue Lepelletier, Paris, on the 14th of January last. This document, which is very lengthy, covers four columns and a half of the ordinary newspaper sheet, the print small and close, and is the most complete history which has yet appeared of that direful tragedy, the events arising out of which have destroyed one of the strongest English Governments that have existed in our day. Many of the facts have already appeared, but no narrative has yet been published half so clear, so minute, so circumstantial, and so connected as this record of an act which has startled Europe and the world, and the end of which, even as regards ourselves, we have not seen.

The first feeling which impresses the reader who peruses this extraordinary document is, the extreme dissimilarity of English and French procedure in criminal affairs. Had the crime been perpetrated in England, the prosecuting counsel would have picked up the tangled web of the evidence, and weaved it into a connected and co-hesive whole, for the information of the jury. He would have done this with such appliances as he could command, resting his oral statement on the evidence collected by the Crown, and supported by sworn witnesses produced on the trial. All unfair pressure upon the accused would be carefully avoided, all statements made by them discarded, except such as they voluntarily offered in their defence and after proper caution, and even their explanations would be sifted and analysed with extreme jealousy, for our law proceeds on the assumption that every man is supposed to be innocent of the crime with which he is not called upon to convict himself. But by the French process this is entirely changed, for in the judgment of our neighbours every criminal is assumed to be guilty until he establishes his own innocence. The English system is reversed, and the prisoners are interrogated, not once, but frequently, by the Judge of Instruction, as to their doings at given times and under marked circumstances, and they are not unfrequently confronted with each other, so that the assertions made by one in the absence of the other are corrected or recalled, when the prisoners are brought together *vis a vis*. The *acte d' accusation* relative to the conspirators abounds in instances of this kind. Examined separately each prisoner framed a story, the least likely to criminate himself, and to show his non-complicity with the murders and atrocities which attended the explosion of the hand grenades at the entrance to the opera; but he was at length shamed into truth by his own contradictions and the realities which were placed before his own eyes. Even Orsini was not superior to falsehood in his own extenuation, but he was at last morally forced into a confession of all the material facts urged against him. The document, after detailing with great minuteness the part which Orsini played in the drama, says very characteristically—"Notwithstanding these circumstances, which accuse him so clearly, Orsini for a long time persisted in denying his guilt. It is important here to mention how he has been compelled by evidence to make unavoidable confessions, which however, are yet incomplete. Gomez is the first of the accused who manifested an intention to tell the truth, but his confessions were only made successively." In another part of the document we are told that in the course of one of the examinations "Orsini affected generosity towards his fellow prisoners, who, he said, might speak against him, but against whom he would say nothing. Reflection, however, made him change his mind when he last appeared before the Judge of Instruction."

The French authorities have traced every act of the prisoners with wonderful accuracy from their first appearance in Paris, and long anterior, down to the fatal scene in the Rue Lepelletier. The document in question as a biographical sketch of each prisoner's career. We are sorry to see that our countryman Allsop's complicity in the affair is established beyond a doubt, and Bernard, the Frenchman, who is now in custody in London, was also a leading spirit. There is one circumstance which seems to have puzzled the French police—where the large sums of money came from found upon Orsini? He had on his person and in his possession in French and English notes and coins upwards of £300. Who furnished these "munitions of war?"

MONETARY AND COMMERCIAL.

Liverpool, Friday Evening, Feb. 26.

The defeat and subsequent resignation of Ministers has created a profound sensation in the country, and especially in monetary and commercial circles. This feeling has now somewhat subsided; and the ministerial explanations of their policy on Monday evening may further tranquilize the public mind. The demand for money has somewhat improved since Monday, and, although no reduction in the Bank rate took place yesterday, there is a general expectation that the directors will have very shortly to lower their minimum to 2½ per cent. On the discount market first class bills are negociated from 2¼ to 2½ per cent., with exceptional transactions as low as 2 per cent.

The commercial news from the East is of more than ordinary importance. At Bombay there has been no material alteration in the rate of exchange, but the reviving confidence of all classes in the final extinction of the disturbers of British rule has been indicated by a rise of three or four per cent. in Government securities. From China the remarkable intelligence has been received that specie is being sent back to this country. By the present mail there is a remittance of £90,000—a fall of at least six per cent. having occurred in the rate of exchange at Shanghai, where advices had come to hand from England to the 26th of November, including all the chief events of the recent panic, which had doubtless caused bills on London to be regarded with great suspicion. The capture of Canton appears to have been most effectually consummated, and it is announced that a new Chinese governor had been appointed under British authority. Exports of silk and tea had continued upon a scale larger than had been anticipated, those of the former to date having been raised to 51,300 bales, and of the latter 35,500,000 lbs. The quotations of exchange were 5s. 11d. to 6s. at Shanghai, and 4s. 10d. at Hong Kong.—*Times.*

THE PRIEST'S TRIAL.

The trial of the Rev. Mr. Conway terminated on Saturday evening in the discharge of the jury without their agreeing upon a verdict. This result was confidently predicted as soon as the names of the jurors were made known. It has excited no surprise, although we are bound to say that we have reason to believe it has raised feelings of disgust, we might almost say of dismay, among respectable Roman Catholics, or, as they are now nicknamed by the priest-ridden section of their co-religionists—the Sardinians. We have seldom observed a criminal prosecution more judiciously or moderately conducted than this case has been. The Law Officers of the Crown did their duty manfully, and yet temperately, and they proved their case beyond the shadow of the possibility of a doubt. They proved it, too, manifestly to the full conviction of the Chief Justice, whose luminous charge, while it fairly and impartially referred the issues to the determination of the jury, displayed the evidence so clearly as to narrow the question to one of simple credibility of evidence. Upon one of the charges his lordship showed that the issue was still further narrowed by the absence of anything in the nature of conflicting testimony. The outrage committed upon Mr. Burke, of Ower, was proved by that gentleman, his son and daughter, and a servant; and it was not contradicted, nor was any shade cast upon the good faith of those respectable persons. "The sole question for you here," said the Chief Justice to the jury, "is whether the case is made out so as to bring it within the Act of Parliament." His Lordship then most lucidly showed that the evidence of the Burke family did show not only that the offence was committed in violation of the Act, but that the traverser had confessed to having committed it by his subsequent acts and words. If, then, the Burkes did not, in the opinion of the jury, swear falsely, it was their bounden duty, under their own oaths, to convict Conway. They could not, however, agree to adopt that course, and they disagreed, under the very intelligible circumstances exhibited in the following conversation:—

"Chief Justice—I do not think I would be justified in discharging you until I ascertain by your statement, under solemn obligation, to answer every question required of you, that there is no prospect, on any further consideration, of your coming to an agreement on any of the five charges.

"Mr. Cartan—We have gone over the charges *seriatim*, and we are not disposed to agree on any of them.

Chief Justice—Disposed! That is a very different thing.

"Mr. Cartan—We cannot agree.

"Chief Justice—Have you had any discussion on them!

"Foreman—We had rather a warm discussion on them (laughter.)

"Chief Justice—Well, if I were to confine you it would be of necessity until Monday, which I must feel would be a very serious inconvenience to some of you, and therefore, I really do not see, if you tell me on the whole that there is really and truly no possibility of your agreeing by further consideration——

"Foreman—There is no prospect, so far as I can see.

"Mr. Cartan—We differ in opinion on every count alike.

Mr. Blackiston—I think it right to state, my lord, that the minority of the jury will not state the reasons for which they will not agree.

"Chief Justice—Then it would be vain to send you back for further discussion, because discussion you can have none according to that statement. It is very hard that those who will not discuss should be the means of punishing severely those who are ready and willing to discuss the case. All I can do is to discharge the jury, expressing my regret that there should be found on any panel any one juror, much less more than one, who will not enter into a fair discussion of the case with his brother jurors."

A word or two more explaining the composition of the jury will complete the explanation of the case and of the confidence with which its result was predicted. There were six Protestants and six Roman Catholics upon the jury. All the former and two of the latter pronounced for a verdict of guilty upon all the counts. One Roman Catholic concurred with them in respect of some of the counts. Three Roman Catholics were *disposed* (to use the phrase of Mr. Cartan) to acquit the traverser, but not to assign any reasons for their *disposition*.

We need not comment upon this painful occurrence, the shame of which rests upon those Roman Catholics who, fully appreciating the disgrace and damage it inflicts upon them, yet lack the courage to express manfully opinions which they whisper in private. They may depend upon it their imbecility and cowardice will have their reward.—*Dublin Evening Mail.*

A Royal Printer.—The husband of the daughter of England being obliged, as all the Prussian princes have been, to work at a mechanical trade, has been long a capital hand at case, having selected to be a compositor.

The Baptist denomination propose to establish, in the name of General Havelock, and in connection with their college in Regent's Park, two scholarships for Indian science. A bust or portrait of the General will adorn the college hall or examination room.

Wistar's Wild Cherry Balsam, a scientific combination of the active principle in the Wild Cherry Bark and Tar, is doing wonders in the way of alleviating all lung diseases. It seems to cure those obstinate cases that nothing else will reach.

The Protector

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