

News Department.

From Papers by Steamer America, Feb. 16.

OUR RELATIONS WITH AMERICA.

On Friday night Mr. Cobden called upon the Government to explain the non-productive of the correspondence respecting our relations with the United States. It has been published in America, and as a pamphlet in London. But Mr. Cobden could not avail himself of it in that shape, for he could only bring forward a motion founded on documents before Parliament:—

"He briefly described the two questions at issue; referring the serious quarrel likely to arise on the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty to the unfortunate propensity of diplomatists to involve their sentences in phraseology that becomes unintelligible. On the enlistment question it is admitted that we are in the wrong, he was afraid that the correspondence had assumed an unbecoming, embittered, and personal character. There was a talk of arbitration on the Clayton-Bulwer treaty; and some such mode, some reference to 'seconds,' would be an honourable mode of settling the enlistment question. Both would be better in the hands of the people and the House of Commons, than in those of the press and the Government. A war between England and the United States, whichever side succeeded, would be the most horrible, the most inhuman calamity, even to the victor, that could possibly happen. If we succeeded we should destroy our own offspring; if they succeeded, it would be a paradise."

Lord Palmerston dealt at once with the two questions. He described the Clayton-Bulwer treaty as having arisen out of the jealousies of both nations with regard to the proposed Darien ship canal, and other matters, each supposing the other had an exclusive object. The treaty was to remove the causes of jealousy: it was prospective, and not retrospective. He was now quite prepared to lay the correspondence on the table, although it is not technically closed. With regard to enlistment, when Government found that in carrying it on it would be difficult to avoid what might be the cause of offence to the American Government, it was discontinued. Shortly afterwards, the American Government complained of the enlistment proceedings; and the reply was, that the British Government, in regarding that measure might be taken, had stopped proceedings—a proof of the sincerity of the regret felt at anything that might have been done in violation of the American laws. "The hon. gentleman has said that the relations of Governments should be regulated by those rules which apply to the conduct of gentlemen towards each other, now I would ask, what could be more satisfactory as between gentleman and gentleman, than that one should say to the other, 'I thought I foresaw that what my servants were doing might give you reason for complaint, I have stopped their proceedings but nevertheless, if they have, contrary to my instructions, done anything with which you have reason to find fault, I beg your pardon, I am very sorry for it, and express my regret?' (Cheers.) When the communication to which I have referred was made to the American Minister in London, he expressed himself satisfied with the explanation, and said that he felt confident that his Government would entertain a similar feeling in regard to it. For some time nothing more was heard; but subsequently the correspondence was renewed; and just before Parliament met, Lord Clarendon received an exceedingly voluminous despatch, which could not be answered until materials arrived from Washington; so that if the correspondence were now produced it would conclude without the British reply. When that is made, the Government will be most anxious to lay the papers on the table. Any conflict between the two nations would be most calamitous and lamentable; and in the present case, if both sides act with fairness and conciliation, there cannot be a real and unavoidable cause of war—a war which would be a reproach to both nations.

Sir De Lacy Evans said that after Mr. Cobden's speech, the House must have heard Lord Palmerston's with great satisfaction. It would be better that international affairs should be left to secrecy and the Foreign Office, than that they should be discussed as Mr. Cobden discussed them.

The experiment of the Wensleydale life-peerage has cost Ministers the loss of their first pitched battle. The discussion was technical, and to the ordinary reader dry, turning much on precedents and the authority of text-writers; the upshot of it, fairly weighed, is, that both precedent and authority are in favor of the patent, but that the precedents are very old, and the authorities, though respectable, not overwhelming. In point of principle the question is not clear; but here again there appears to be no sufficient reason for assuming that a descendible quality is an inseparable attribute of a peerage. Illegal plainly it is not; but as plainly it is a great innovation, and if, as is commonly supposed, a hereditary Upper House is part and parcel of our constitution, unconstitutional—in this sense, that it tends to infringe on the hereditary character of the Upper House. You must look however in Lord Derby's speech—you generally may when he carries a majority with him—for the motive that really swayed the majority. It was a very natural one; jealousy of the independence and of the time-honoured privileges of their order—time-honoured and time-worn; a dread of being "swamped;" fear of Ministerial influence

repugnance to the introduction of a class whom Lord Derby skillfully represents as inferior as "complete specimens of their kind, wanting some in the beams of the sun of Ministerial favour to ripen them into perfect growth; a nervous apprehension of "the small end of the wedge." The answer that the Crown has already the power to swamp, and peers have already a motive for subservience in the hope of promotion, do not detract, though they weaken, these objections; and the broad counter-argument (drawn partly from the absurdity and inconvenience of the practical prohibition against ennobling any man who is not either childless or rolling in wealth) that the innovation would be a useful innovation, the encroachment on the constitution a real change for the better, is too broad perhaps to be fairly stated in the House of Peers. A curious feature in the debate was the inversion of parts, men sprung from the people defending the sacredness of hereditary nobility against the possessors of historic names—Lyndhurst, St. Leonards, Brougham, Campbell, against Granville, Argyll, and Gray.

And what will the Government do? Cancel the patent, and grant a hereditary one, which would be an unconditional surrender? Or bring in a bill? Or send Lord Wensleydale, with his writ, to his tutored admission at the bar? There is a rumour (duly contradicted) that the Chancellor has resigned, following the example of the Duke of Wellington—which means that his colleagues are disposed to give in. And there is a counter rumour that they will fight it out. At present they show no signs of yielding, and the Committee of Privileges, which means the House itself sitting early in the day and receiving evidence of fact and law commenced its proceedings yesterday.

The Archbishop of Canterbury headed a deputation to Lord Palmerston on Saturday on the subject of the Sunday observance question. The Earl of Shaftesbury, the President of the Wesleyan Conference, and the Moderator of the English Presbyterian Synod, were amongst the leading members of the deputation, which also embraced representatives of the greater part of the Protestant religious societies of the metropolis. The Archbishop, after a few words of introduction, read an address deprecating any interference with the Sunday by opening public institutions. Lord Palmerston promised to "bring the subject before his colleagues that afternoon."

PARIS, Feb. 11.—Assurances of the pacific intentions of Russia, and of the fixed determination of the Emperor Alexander to devote himself and his reign to the arts of peace and the improvement of the internal administration of his empire, are rife amongst us, and, it must be said, are also generally believed. Of the peaceful tendencies of Louis Napoleon, and his desire to avoid all impediments to the successful issue of the negotiations, there can be little doubt, though I do not vouch for the truth of the story which says that, conducting a foreign Minister to the door of his cabinet the other day, after relieving his tears expressed of an unfavourable result, the Emperor dismissed his visitor with the encouraging words—"Soyez tranquille, la France ne discute point le traité de paix en Procureur." The journalist who reports this legend omits to say whether he derived his information on this tête-à-tête from the Emperor or the diplomatist.—*Corresp. London Guardian, Feb. 13.*

RUSSIA.

The correspondence from the Crimea informs us, at last, of the arrival of the intelligence of peace. Few contemplate the prospect of a cessation of hostilities with satisfaction. "There has been," says the Times reporter, "much malediction and strong language going on this morning among all ranks from generals high in command to junior ensigns." The next consideration was how long it would take the army to get away? The Quartermaster-General's people say it would take a year to get men, material, and stores of all kinds away, and to clear the English army and its appurtenances entirely out of the Crimea and Turkey. Some further accounts of the destruction of the docks is given; accelerated, we are told, by the rumours of peace. But the general news is of little interest.

A letter from the French camp, dated Jan. 29, says—"On Tuesday last the Piedmontese had an affair of outpost with the Russians, and made 200 prisoners."

The whole Russian force now in the Crimea is estimated at 100,000 to 120,000 men, including militia.

Advices from Warsaw state, that in consequence of the decease of Prince Paskiewitch a nine days' mourning has been ordered for the whole country by the Emperor; all places of public amusement will remain closed, and the Guard and the army put on craps; the regiments that bear the Marshal's name will, however, keep on their mourning for six weeks. The funeral was attended with all the honours of royalty. A correspondent of the Times says—

"The death of Prince Paskiewitch is stated to remove the last obstacle that stood in the way of introducing great changes into the administration of the kingdom of Poland; one chief feature of this plan, on which the present Emperor is said to lay great stress, is, that his favorite brother, Nicholas, should assume the post of Viceroy, from the duties and responsibilities of which, however, the Grand-Duke is said to draw back with diffidence and apprehension."

The Count of Chambord is reported to have addressed a circular to the leaders of Orleansists and Legitimists, announcing to them that the fusion between the two branches of the Bourbon family is accomplished, and calling on all the Royalists in France to forget their old feuds and enmities, after the example of the chiefs of both houses.

General Prince Gortschakoff is appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Armies of the West and Centre, and Imperial Lieutenant of the kingdom of Poland, with all the rights and prerogatives of that office.

The Sultan recently honoured the British Embassy at Constantinople with his presence, on the occasion of a ball given by Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHURCH TIMES.

DEAR SIR,

The annual meeting of the Dartmouth branch of the D. C. Society was held on Thursday, 21st inst., in the Parish School-house. The Chair was taken by the President at 7½ p. m. After calling on the choir to sing the 100th Psalm, the chairman opened the meeting with the usual Prayers, and then addressed those present on the object which they had met together to advocate and sustain. Resolutions were moved and seconded by Messrs. J. R. Smith, Draper, W. C. Silver, Kuhn, Turner, and S. P. Fairbanks. The ladies as usual composed the majority of the audience, and, here as elsewhere, set an example which the other sex seem slowly disposed to follow. The Choir cheerfully complied with the request of their Rector, to lend their aid, and greatly contributed to the interest of the meeting for which they received unanimous thanks. A Committee was elected for the ensuing year, who met on the following Monday to divide the village into districts, and to appoint Collectors.

Before concluding I wish to inform the readers of the Church Times that the ladies intend holding a Bazaar the first week in June, to pay off a debt contracted in finishing the Parish School-house. As this is a good cause, they hope to receive encouragement from the members of the Church in Halifax.

Dartmouth, Feb'y. 28th, 1856.

FOR THE CHURCH TIMES.

Heaver Harbor Parsonage,
21st Feb'y, 1856.

MR. EDITOR,—Under the term "Memoranda" in the Church Times of 16th instant, I observed an inquiry solicited in reference to the missing Vessel which left Sheet Harbor on the 7th ult. for Halifax. If any favorable circumstance were to appear to throw light on the present mysterious void, it would indeed be a great consolation to the families and a large circle of friends that have been, by this unhappy event, thrown into deep distress. But, I fear, even the faintest hopes are at an end from what has recently transpired; that the unfortunate vessel was wrecked, and the crew, three in number, met a watery grave on the first night after leaving the harbor. It is thought the sad accident occurred somewhere about Jeddore ledge, as it is reported here that a binacle and compass, answering to the description of those that the schooner had, have been since found and recognised. In the person of Edward Rutledge, one of the sufferers, the members of the Church here, only few in number, but gradually increasing, have been suddenly deprived of a most indefatigable member,—over ready to give a helping hand in assisting the onward progress of the sacred edifice which has lately been erected here,—never backward in attending on the Clergy and studying their comfort, whenever thrown in his way. We must instance the following: When the Bishop, last summer, was on the eve of leaving Sheet Harbour, the Missionary at that station no sooner hinted that he was desirous of placing his lordship and chaplain under some safe, experienced hand, as the sea was rough, than he, whose absence we now deplore, volunteered to man his Whaler with a hardy crew to take the party to the next harbour. By this visitation, ten out of the small community have met a watery grave within the narrow limit of twelve months, last past. While, then, we submissively bow to the inscrutable wisdom of an unerring Providence,—while we sympathise with the distressed ones thrown upon our Christian compassion—let the watchword be to the living, "Be ye, also, ready;" for, "there is but a step between you and death."

Yours,
J. B.

Two parties were hunting moose on Monday last in the vicinity of the New Guysborough road, and it so happened that one man of one of the parties got behind a tree, and heard a crackling in the bushes when it was nearly evening, and thought it was a moose, and fired at the supposed animal, and shot a young man named Goff, one of the other party, advancing in a different direction, who died from the effect of wounds he received in twenty-four hours after, leaving a wife and a young family to deplore his loss. This is a melancholy accident, and a warning to others who go out to shoot moose at this season of the year.—*Sun.*

NEW YORK, Feb. 20.—The Cunard Steamship *Persea* sailed at 12 o'clock to-day, on her first trip from the United States to Liverpool. She carries 150 passengers, and about \$700,000 in specie. As the *Persea* was going out she grounded on Geddes' Channel, but got off without damage, and proceeded to sea.

We are happy to learn that Mr. Campbell, one of the survivors of the late melancholy casualty at Big Pond on the St. Peter's road—the particulars of which we published in our paper last Saturday—is likely to recover from the injuries he then received. We also understand that the girl, saved as a daughter of Mr. Campbell's, and not one of the other girls, that were in his house when the catastrophe occurred, as previously reported; both of whom were unfortunately killed by the sad occurrence.—*Cape Breton News.*