

great experience and considerable ability—of long practice in public life, and one of them—I speak without the slightest disrespect of the other—peculiarly distinguished, not only by long experience but by his well known moderation and temper, by the spirit of mingled firmness and courtesy with which he has on all occasions discharged his duties here, and which is admirably calculated to conciliate friends and to disarm opposition. The noble marquis to whom I allude was prevented by illness from attending the summons of her Majesty, and on the following day, in answer to a further summons from her Majesty, the Earl of Aberdeen—the other nobleman to whom I referred—waited upon her Majesty and received her Majesty's commands—which he signified his readiness to obey—to undertake the formation of a new Administration.

According to the latest accounts, the following is the distribution of offices in the new ministry; but it is probable that there may be some alterations.—

First Lord of the Treasury—Earl of Aberdeen; a seat in the Cabinet without office—Marquis of Lansdowne; Foreign Office—Earl of Clarendon; Home—Mr. Goulbourn; Colonies—Sir James Graham; Admiralty—Mr. Sibley Herbert; Chancellor of the Exchequer—Mr. Gladstone; President of the Council—Duke of Newcastle; Board of Trade—Lord Granville; Post Office—Lord Clanricarde; Privy Seal—Lord Paunure; Duchy of Lancaster—Lord John Russell; Board of Control—Sir C. Wood; Lord Chancellor—Lord Cranworth; Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—Earl of Carlisle; Secretary at War—Mr. Osborne; Under Secretary of the Colonies—Sir W. Molesworth; Public Works—Lord Seymour. The list is very full of lords and very empty of merchants, or traders, or representatives of that commercial and industrial class who are the real architects of the wealth and power of England. Many of the men now about to form an administration were, up to 1846, decided Tories, and now to see them taking the lead of the Liberals is sufficient, surely, to make us ask for an early explanation of principles.

**POLITICAL MEETING AT LORD DERBY'S.**—On Monday about 160 members of the two Houses of Parliament met at the official residence of the First Lord of the Treasury, in Downing street. Lord Derby addressed the meeting at some length, declaring his resolution, at whatever cost of personal convenience, to continue his services to the cause and the party with which he was so closely connected, and urging upon all present the imperative necessity that existed for the closest and most intimate union. A general feeling of satisfaction was manifested at the conclusion of this address, and a strong expression of confidence in the character, conduct, and guidance of the noble earl. The meeting then broke up.

## FRANCE.

No sooner had his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of the French attained the summit of human power and felicity, than a few incidents occurred to remind him that he is mortal, and that in all human greatness some alloy of our original infirmities will work its way. The Senate, hitherto so obsequious, manifests a strange disinclination to vote away the last vestige of Parliamentary control over the expenditure and commercial regulation of the country. The Northern Powers unaccountably show none of that eagerness to hail the advent of a new Caesar which had been attributed to them. The Pope greatly hesitates to repair to Paris for the ceremony of the coronation. The matrimonial project, which had gone so far that a portrait of the Princess Wisa was shown the confidential circle of St. Cloud, and the ladies of her household were already designated, is suddenly demolished by the announcement that this accomplished Princess has resolved to bestow her hand on Prince Albert of Saxony.

Perhaps it was a consciousness of the extreme incapacity of several of his present Ministers, and of their entire want of consideration in the country, which induced Louis Napoleon to resort a few days ago to the singular and almost incredible expedient of opening negotiations with some of the most rigid members of the Republican party. The interview which took place was not, as was reported at the time, with M. Carnot, the renowned author of the circulars in favour of electoral ignorance, which he issued from the Department of Public Instruction in 1818, but with M. Bethmont, who also held a seat in M. de Lamartine's Provisional Government. To the astonishment of this gentleman, he was summoned to the Tuilleries, and honoured with an audience. Louis Napoleon did not disguise his want of able agents or the hostility of all the statesmen who had belonged to the monarchical Governments anterior to 1848. He expressed his readiness to treat on almost any term with the men who had served the Republic, observing that they must now be aware that no Government but his own was possible. M. Bethmont was authorized to communicate what had passed to his friends, including even, we believe, General Cavaignac. It is unnecessary to add that the result was a colloquial and indignant refusal, for there is still not a man of independent political opinions in France, who would not deem it a dishonour to assume the livery of the Imperial Court. The resistance of the Senate to the proposal for modifying the constitution is a still more significant symptom, for although the members of that body have been chosen for their supposed attachment to the present order of things, they are independent by position, they are irremovable, and they comprise a certain number of men who have figured in the Assemblies of the constitutional monarchy. At length a compromise was effected, leaving all substantial power in the Emperor's hands, but warning him at the same

time that the Senate will not always prove as mute and as flexible as he intended to make it.

## SPAIN.

**THE NEW SPANISH MINISTRY.**—The accounts from Madrid announce that the Bravo Murillo Cabinet is upset, and a new Ministry named. It is composed of General Roncali, President of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs; General Lara, Minister of War; General Mirasol, Minister of Marine; M. Valey, Minister of Justice; M. Aristazabel, Minister of Finance; and M. Llorente, Minister of the Interior. With the exception of one or two, the present Ministers are not persons of much influence, or much known in the political world. On looking over the list, we see no one with influence or position sufficient to promise much stability for the Cabinet. None of the new Ministers have acted for or against the Bravo Murillo Cabinet in any active way, and their names do not appear in the electoral manifesto of the Opposition. That manifesto stated that those who adopted it were not opposed to certain reforms in the Constitution, and the present Ministers are unpurged for or against such. The first and most obvious measure of the new Cabinet would be to withdraw the project of Constitution, as already published. Whether they will substitute another for it remains to be seen. One of the natural consequences, too, of the fall of Bravo Murillo, ought to be the recall of General Narvaez.

## RUSSIA.

**BERLIN, Dec. 18.**—At ten o'clock this morning all the troops of the garrison of Berlin and Charlottenburg took up their position, extending from the Place de l'Opera to the road to Charlottenburg. The King commanded in person. He arrived at the same time as the Emperor of Austria. The equipage of the Queen followed the King. The Emperor of Austria wore the uniform of the regiment of the Emperor Francis, of which he is the head. The King commanded the first battalion of the Regiment of the Emperor Alexander to defile before the Emperor. The fineness of the weather added greatly to the brilliancy of the review. At three o'clock there was a grand dinner at the castle in honour of the Emperor. On Monday, the Emperor will return to his dominions. Little is known, and still less said, as to the precise object of the Imperial journey to Berlin; but all are agreed in attributing a political significance to it, apart from the special character of M. de Bruck's mission, and yet in a manner resulting from it. It is highly probable that the young Monarch will take Warsaw on his way back.

**By the Arabia, the New Cunard Steamer.**

This splendid specimen of naval architecture, unexpectedly made her appearance between 4 and 5 o'clock on Thursday afternoon, 1 1/2 days out, having experienced boisterous weather, and being short of coal. We were not able to get on board of her, for which we suppose we may thank the "great unwashed," whose ill manners certainly justified their exclusion. A full description of this noble steamer has already appeared in the papers of the City. We presume she is the largest that has ever appeared in our waters.

The frequent calls of Steamers at this port for supplies or repairs, clearly point out its superior natural advantages for maintaining communication with the Old World. It would be well to add to these advantages all appliances likely to be needed by disabled vessels. A *Dry Dock* for instance, is an acknowledged desideratum, for lack of which many have been obliged to go to St. John, when fit to do so, and if not have been subject to enormous expense and delay here.

Dates by the *Arabia* are a week later than by the *America*, but nothing of importance had occurred. The new Ministry was completed, and had entered upon the duties of their respective offices. The Earl of Aberdeen, in a speech in the Lords on the 27th, avowed a conciliatory policy towards all parties. The Earl of Derby did not appear to think highly of the stability of a Ministry so constituted.

Parliament had adjourned until the 10th February.

In France all was quiet—Napoleon was parceling out the houses and property of former dynasties, among his kindred.

The Ladies of the Continent seem rather shy of his new Majesty—some have given him a flat refusal—and no wonder, if they have either modesty, principle, or religion in them. Russia, Austria and Prussia still delayed their acknowledgment of the Empire.

**NEW OFFICIALS APPOINTED.**—Judge Advocate, Villiers; Treasury Secretary, Heyter; Solicitor General, Bethel; Vice Chancellor, Sir W. Page Wood; Admiralty Lord, Admiral Berkeley; Controller Household, Drumlanrig; Lord Advocate of Scotland, Moncrieff; Treasury Lords—Harvey, Sadlier; Ordinance Clerk, Monsell.

New writs have been moved for election to the seats in Parliament, vacated by members accepting office.

On Wednesday the new Ministers took possession of their official quarters. Lord John Russell, at the Foreign office, held a diplomatic levee.

The Earl of Aberdeen gave his first cabinet dinner on Wednesday evening, Dec. 29.

The Canada Land Company have declared a dividend of 6 per cent on the half year.

**HER MAJESTY.**—We have reason to believe that an event may be expected in the early part of April next, which will add a new member to the Royal family.—*Times.*

There are so many rumours respecting the Emperor's matrimonial views, that it is hardly worth while to notice them. The latest is, that the Duchess Stephanie and Prince Murat are now on a mission to Dusseldorf, to solicit for Napoleon III. the hand of the Princess Stephanie, Frederica, Wilhelmina, Antoinette de Hohenzollern, a young lady in her sixteenth year, and nearly related to the Mount family.

The pope has written to the archbishop of Malines, primate of Belgium, requiring him to instruct his clergy not to engage in any political movements tending to affect the relations between Belgium and France.

The mother of Kossuth died at Brussels 24th ult.

The court of Rome has recently addressed to all the European powers a circular in which it invites them to interest themselves in the state of the Herzegovina and Bosnia, where the Christians are suffering from the persecutions of the Turks.

An extract from a letter dated Lisbon, Dec. 20th says—that Mr. Heald, (Lola Montez's husband,) went out in one of the vessels of the Royal Yacht Club, having in his company a beautiful young lady.—The Yacht foundered in sight of the British war steamer *Inflexible* which instantly manned a boat, with fourteen hands to rescue them. Not only were they unsuccessful, but all hands were drowned.

A tragical event has been made known at Lloyd's to the effect that, on 20th Oct., a mutiny broke out among a party of Chinese on board the British barque *Gertrude* from Amoy to Havana, and that seventeen of the Chinese had been shot by the Captain and crew. The barque put into Singapore, when, from the investigation which was held, it appeared that what the Captain took for mutiny was merely a row among the Chinese, but, having no interpreter on board, the Chinese were unable to make themselves understood.

**INDIA.**—Papers are to hand bringing details of the news of which a Telegraphic runaway has also been sent. Dates from Rangoon are to the 18th Nov., but bring no news. Everything was as formerly, standing still, and what the army was waiting for did not appear. The Governor-General's determination as to annexation had not been made known. Gen. Goodwin is said to have been written to in such terms as will compel his resignation. The Indian papers speak of his removal as the most auspicious event that has occurred during the war. It is clear that so long as he is in command no artillery operations worthy of the name will be attempted.

An expedition was on the eve of sailing for Pegu.

**Diocesan Church Society.**

Charlotte Town, Dec. 30, 1852.

**REV. SIR.**—The first General Meeting of the Diocesan Society of Prince Edward Island, as incorporated by Law, took place on the evening of Tuesday last, at the School-room in Charlotte Town, and although the weather was exceedingly unpropitious, many Ladies braved the inconvenience, and gave proof that they could make some sacrifice to testify their attachment to the Church in whose service the society is engaged. His Excellency Sir Alexander Bannerman took the Chair, and conducted the business proceedings in a manner to call forth the gratitude of all who took a deep interest in the Society. At this meeting, (prayer having been offered up), the Bye Laws of the Society, under its Incorporated form, were passed, and the new Committee chosen, into whose hands the important charge of managing its affairs is given—may they prove themselves equal to the trust! A very interesting Report, from which some idea of the Church prospects of our Island may be formed, was read by the Society's excellent Secretary, the Rev. D. Fitzgerald, and its Treasurer, the Honble. M. Hall, gave a statement of the account, by which it appeared that a balance of near £100 had become available for the first effort at endowing the Church in our Island.—I should mention, likewise, that a sum equal in amount to the above, is in the hands of the treasurer of the Ladies' Branch of the Society, for a like purpose.

Several Resolutions, suitable to the occasion, were passed, and some able and spirited addresses delivered by the movers and seconders. The speakers were the Chief Justice, the Honbles. Messrs. Hensley and Hall. Messrs. Chas. Palmer, J. Longworth, the Solicitor General, Capt. Orlebar, R. N. and the Clergy, who, with one exception, were all present. A lively desire to promote the effectiveness of our Church system seemed to pervade the meeting, and, as a more active system of collection is contemplated, there is good reason to hope that under Divine favour the Society will henceforth take its stand as a recognised national instrument for promoting the working efficiency of our Church.

After a vote of thanks to His Excellency, the proceedings of the evening closed with the Doxology and Apostolic benediction.

I am Rev. Sir, your obed't servant,

CHAS. LLOYD.

To the Editor of the *Church Times.*