

## EUROPEAN MAIL NEWS.

The German mail steamer *New York*, from Southampton 5th, and the Inman steamer *City of Antwerp*, from Liverpool 6th instant, arrived at New York Monday. Confirmatory intelligence has been received in Liverpool of a terrible collision between two Turkish steamers, and the loss of 220 lives. The news comes from Constantinople by way of Havre, and is dated from the latter port December 31. The following are the main facts, so far as at present can be learned of this catastrophe: About midnight, on the 17th of December, forty-one miles from Smyrna, at a place called Caraboumon, two steamers belonging to the Azizie Company—viz., the *Gallioop* and *Charkeich*—came into collision. The force of the contact was dreadful, and the *Gallioop* foundered almost immediately, only thirty passengers out of 250 being saved. The *Charkeich* was so greatly damaged by the collision that she had to be run ashore at Chesme, ten miles from Smyrna, to prevent her from sinking. The *Gallioop* had a very valuable cargo, and a large quantity of specie on board, when she foundered.

At Leeds, on the 4th inst., three men who had been convicted of garotte robberies, received twenty-five lashes each, with the cat-o'-nine tails, in the central hall of the borough jail. A new triangle, much stronger than the one hitherto in use, was employed, and the prisoners were secured to it so firmly that the struggles of two of them scarcely caused the least vibration in the solid timbers. The first man flogged was John Edwards, aged thirty-six, who took the first two or three strokes of the cat very coolly, but the fourth elicited a scream of "Oh!" and dreadful groans and howling proceeded from him until he had received seventeen of the whole twenty-five lashes. At the end of twelve strokes a second jailor handled the cat. For the last half dozen lashes he was perfectly quiet, and when free walked firmly back to his cell. Joseph Robinson was the next delinquent brought to the whipping-post. He was full of fear from the first. Not only did he groan deeply, but he exclaimed despairingly "Stop off," "Murder," "Pull me off," and "I'll never do it again." He showed throughout more feeling than either of his fellow garotters. When he was loosened he fell into the arms of the attendants, and crawled back to his cell. The next prisoner was Solomon Robinson, aged nineteen, who went to the ordeal with evident determination to put on an appearance of bravado. Though the youngest of the victims, he was infinitely the most self-possessed. He never uttered a sound from the first stroke to the last.

The *Constitutionnel* says that a foreign diplomatist having recently asked the Emperor whether it was true that the Prince of Carignan was the candidate proposed by him for the Throne of Spain, his Majesty replied:

"I know the Spanish character too well to ever commit the fault of recommending one candidate more than another. Whatever chance of success he might have it would be sufficient that he was supported by France for Spain to reject him. For these reasons I have directed that positive orders should be given to my representative at Madrid to abstain from all advice, and even from all insinuation of a nature to engage in any way whatever the responsibility of France, and to merely confine himself to the assurance that no one wishes more sincerely than I do that Spain may pass successfully through her present crisis."

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* notes that no less than one hundred and thirty-nine new journals were started in Paris in the course of the past year—that is, since the law of previous authorization was abolished. Of these, one hundred and four were literary and art journals; fourteen treated of political matters, six of them appearing daily; twelve on art applied to industry and science; one on magnetism; one on the rural police; one on *cafés-concerts*; one on aerial navigation; one on railroad stations; and one on house porters. Soon after the appearance of the *Lanterne*, thirty-three papers of the same form and character were started. They bore, some of them, the most out-of-the-way names, such as the *Camelion*, *Balayeur d'Aneries*, *Chavour*, *Lumignon*, *Concierge*, and *Panaïses dans le Beurre*. The *Moniteur*, having become an inde-

pendent journal, speaks very boldly in its first free number of the existing regime. "The Second Empire," it says, "claimed to take from the *Moniteur* its character of a calm chronicler, and make of it a more active political organ; to stamp upon it more distinctly and more completely its own impress; in a word to extend even to the smallest details, even to its literary articles, the same official character. But the old traditions of the paper resisted; an institution which counts nearly a century of existence does not easily allow itself to be transformed in a day, when it has proved that it knows how to march by itself, with progress. The Minister of State, irritated by this resistance, decided on undoing what the First Consul had done, and on having a journal for himself, in which everything should be official, and in which not a line should be inserted but what the Government was responsible for. The will of the Minister of State dispenses with the mission which we held from the First Consul, and we now revert to that which we filled from 1789 to 1800. We shall endeavour to be what we then were, the most exact, and the most impartial centre of information."

The King of Portugal opened the Cortes on the 3rd. His Majesty in his speech alluded to the disaster which occurred at Mozambique, and said that the Government had taken energetic measures to retrieve it. The state of the finances was grave, but by good order in the administration and diminution of the expenditure, and self-sacrifice, his majesty hoped the difficulty might be overcome.

Snow fell in such abundance in St. Petersburg and its suburbs, in the latter part of December, that in several streets it rose to twelve feet in height. Accounts from the provinces state that whole villages are buried under the drift.

## PRETTY COOL.

The *Globe*, referring to the Report of the Minister of Public Works, having special reference to the proposed drainage of drowned lands in Kent and Essex, says:—

"In this matter of swamp lands, then, the Minister of Public Works has a great opportunity of distinguishing himself by inaugurating a system of reproductive undertakings, which would add amazingly to the health and wealth of the country—and, instead of costing the public purse anything, would actually yield a revenue while affording present employment to hundreds. We hope it will not be allowed to go to sleep, and still more, will not be so managed as to benefit individuals at the public expense."

Now, seeing that it was Mr. Carling who first took the matter in hand, sent down Mr. Molesworth and Mr. Gilmour to make the investigation, prepared the report and submitted it to Parliament, and took a vote in aid of the contemplated improvement, it does not appear that he has been "sleeping" much. On the contrary, he seems to have been quite wide awake. He has been the first Minister of Public Works to devote himself to these practical improvements, whether of reclaiming drowned lands, or of improving inland navigation, so as to open up new territory. Nearly a million acres of splendid land now lie useless, awaiting the application of science and labour to reclaim them. This Mr. Carling hopes to do, and in having laid the foundation for the work, he shows not only that he is not asleep, but quite as much awake, if not a little more so, than those who would offensively patronize him, now that he has shown that good measures are possible even outside the range of the daily contracting *Globe* party.—*Free Press*.

—The *Brownsville Ranchero* of Jan. 1, in summing up the history of the last year in Texas, says cattle raising was unprofitable; the cultivation of the soil was partially a failure from scarcity of labour, excessive rains, and the grasshoppers; the commercial classes made small profits; the people enjoyed better health than usual, and were not visited by epidemics; and murder and crime ran rampant through the State. Not a very favourable report, surely.

—Anna Dickenson, in reply to the hateful remark that people call her a "man hater," demurely says that "it depends upon the man."

**DEATH OF MR. JAMES CHALMERS, C. E., FORMERLY OF MONTREAL.**—This gentleman, the well known inventor of "The Chalmers Target," and the projector of several other highly important schemes of an engineering kind, died in London, on the morning of Saturday, at the age of fifty-four. He was a native of Perthshire, and possessed a vigorous and highly inventive mind, with a decided bias towards mechanical contrivances of a very bold and vigorous kind. His system of war-ship defences tried at Shoebury in 1863 is now making the tour of maritime Europe as decidedly the best yet devised. It has been with some slight modifications adopted in our navy; and the late Government, in view of further testing its merits, had ordered another specimen target on the Chalmers type to be constructed, doubtless with the intention of its more extensive use should it pass through a second ordeal of artillery trials as successfully as the first. Mr. Chalmers resided a good many years in America, in various parts, and was full of information on all matters connected with the countries or localities in which he had sojourned for periods. His remarks were always weighed with good sense and a penetrating intelligence, arising from the independent use of his singularly close powers of observation. If in early life he had possessed the facilities of a good literary and scientific education, there could have been little doubt of his rising to great eminence in his chosen calling of engineer. Notwithstanding the disadvantages under which he laboured in this respect, he contributed a number of excellent papers to the scientific journals of the country, and wrote several pamphlets on the engineering matters in which he was interested, all in a lucid and vigorous style of exposition. To solve his "Indian Problem" in chess, which has baffled some of the keenest adepts in that scientific game, to acquire for his own use the art of mechanical drawing, so as to be on a par with people who have devoted their lives to that study; or to master for his occasional use a colloquial knowledge of the French language, were matters of easy accomplishment to this remarkable man. He was a person of equable and genial temper, a kind and faithful friend, and in his domestic life a loving husband and father. He has left a widow—who is a native of Glasgow—and two daughters and two sons to mourn his death.—*North*

—A writer from the *Daily News* gives some details of theatrical management in England. He estimates the expenses of a large West End Theatre at from £420 to £480 sterling a week. As a rule, the receipts are below the expenses; the loss is made up by some lucky hit, when they are largely in excess. Christmas is the best theatrical season in the year; summer is the worst, except when it is wet. Above £500 a year is spent on colours and canvas. The gas bill comes to £30 a week; but at Christmas the moon generally costs the manager £20 a week on its own account. One of the difficulties of a manager is getting actresses to play the parts of women—they all want to be fairy princesses and so on. Ballet girls get about 25s a week, and the writer vouches for their morality. The tariff of dramatic authorship varies very much. Three or five act plays, when not paid for by percentage on profits, usually cost from £200 to £300, or from £3 to £5 every night they are acted. The price of a good burlesque varies from £50 to £120. Farces are seldom worth more than £10.

—The Kingston (N.Y.) *Argus* says that a post office official, while on a tour of inspection among the post offices in that county, recently came to a settlement, and on inquiring for the postmaster at his house, was informed by his wife that he was at work in the field. He was shortly found, and upon inquiring for the post office, the farmer took from his hat several letters. This office is located at Turnwood, in that county, and was the only portable office the official saw in his travels. The same paper says that at one of the county offices the postmaster, not being able to sell the requisite number of postage stamps to increase his salary by the use of ordinary means, resorted to strategy to accomplish that result. He bought a number of new books and paid for them in postage stamps, thus selling enough of them to raise his salary to the extraordinary sum of \$25.

—Another accident happened on Christmas Day, on one of the Welsh lines, presenting nearly all the elements which caused the disastrous catastrophe at Abergele. Thirteen coal-laden trucks appear to have been on a siding without sufficient break power, where there was an incline of one in forty, and the consequence was that the waggons began moving and continued with increased velocity a journey of seven or eight miles. Perceiving that something was wrong, one of the officers at a station the carriages were approaching had the presence of mind to direct the runaways into a goods shed, through which they dashed, destroying considerable property, but, no doubt, saving many lives. Had the progress of the waggons not been thus interrupted, they would probably have run on until they had come into collision with a train due from Cardiff. A shocking accident occurred at the Shrewsbury railway station. A passenger was standing on the edge of the platform watching a passing train, when his foot slipped, and he fell on the rails. Eight carriages passed over him, and he died in a few minutes. The name of the unfortunate man is not mentioned.

—The official stamp of the Goldsmith's Company, London, by which English jewellery buyers are supposed to be protected against imposition, has been degraded during the past few years under a new law allowing it to be placed on articles of 9, 12, and 15-carat gold. The stamp was formerly confined to 18 carat, and should be so still. Gold of nine carats is, in reality, copper alloyed with gold. Even 12 carat is only half gold, and half alloy. The "hall mark," as it is called, has become entirely worthless, therefore, as a security against fraud. Gold chain makers have a way of cheating which could hardly be avoided even under a good system. They send a chain to receive the mark on every link. These are then separated, and each is placed on a chain of inferior quality.

**CROWN LANDS.**—At the sale in Stratford of Crown Lands in Elma, there were 28 lots of pine lands sold, consisting of 2,650 acres. They fetched from \$3 to \$7.50 per acre, realizing altogether \$13,347.15. 800 acres of marsh lands were disposed of, at from \$1 to \$3 per acre, the sum realized being \$1,501.40. Eight swamp lots, of 750 acres, sold from \$2 to \$4 per acre, realizing \$1,951.50. Altogether 44 lots were disposed of for \$16,800.05. The pine lands were put up at \$3 per acre, the marsh lands at \$1, and the swamp lands at \$2. The attendance of purchasers was pretty good, and the sale on the whole satisfactory to the department, the lands bringing an average of \$3 per acre.

—East India papers publish the confession of a Hindoo, named Ramadheen, not quite 21 years of age, who for the last twenty months has followed the calling of poisoner. He does not pretend to scruples or remorse of any kind. He calls his victims "shikar" (game), and alleges no other excuse for his practices than that it was very dull at home in his village. The persons he poisoned in the year and a half are about twenty-seven; but he is very careless in figures, and talks of a family whom he may murder with a lordly negligence as to the number of its members. Most of his victims were either Brahmins or fakirs, and his favourite hunting-grounds were what he calls "holy places."

—The municipal elections in Spain have been favourable to the Republican party. They lost Madrid, but they have obtained large majorities in the Councils of twenty cities, including Barcelona, Seville, Malaga, Toledo, Valladolid, Valencia, Saragossa, and Cordova; small majorities in twelve other capitals; and had minorities in only nine. Their victory, however, was secured mainly by small numbers of voters, and it is doubtful whether those who stayed away agree with their opinions. The result of the national election is therefore still doubtful.

—Gen. Grant is 47, and Mr. Colfax 46; Andrew Johnson is 61; Mr. Seward 68; Gen. Schofield but 38; Mr. Welles, 67; Mr. McCulloch, 58; Mr. Randall, and Mr. Browning, 59; Mr. Wade, the President of the Senate, is 69; Senator Sumner is 58 and Senator Trumbull 56. The members of the House of Representatives are nearly all young men. James Brooks, and E. B. Washburne are among the oldest, and are respectively 59 and 53 years of age.