

News Department.

From Papers by R. M. Steamship Canada, Dec. 25

RESIGNATION OF VISCOUNT PALMERSTON

The *Times* of this morning gives some news, exclusively, that will, doubtless, surprise most people. The intelligence, in a condensed form is to the following effect:—

Viscount Palmerston has tendered his resignation of the office of Secretary of State for the Home Department, and has therefore ceased, within the last forty-eight hours, to form a part of Her Majesty's Government if that resignation has been accepted by the Crown. Upon the receipt of a communication from Lord Palmerston, announcing the resolution he had been led to form, the Prime Minister left town for Osborne-house yesterday for the purpose of laying the resignation of the Home Secretary before the Queen.

The *Times* proceeds to state that the ground on which Lord Palmerston rests his inability to remain in the present Cabinet is distinctly and exclusively his decided opposition to the Reform Bill which has been prepared under the direction of Lord John Russell, and assented to by the other members of the Government. — *Ch. & St. Gazette.*

We understand that Lieutenant-General Cathcart, at present Commander-in-Chief at the Cape, has been appointed to succeed Lieutenant-General Sir George Brown, as Adjutant-General of the Forces.

A NEW COMET.—On the morning of the 2nd inst. a comet was discovered by Mr. Klinkerfues, of the Göttingen Observatory, on the border of the Constellation Perseus, near the foot of Andromeda.

The public will be gratified to learn, as we are happy to announce on authority, that Her Majesty has, on the recommendation of the Earl of Aberdeen, been graciously pleased to confer a pension of £50 per annum on the widow of the Ettrick Shepherd.

FLOGGING AT SCHOOL.—A novel cause came before the Cheltenham county court last week. George Micklewright, a pupil at the Cheltenham Grammar School, brought, through his father, an action against Dr. Humphreys, the master of the school. From the evidence it appears that on two occasions Dr. Humphreys had ordered the boy to be flogged, the first time with twelve, the second time with eighteen 'lashes.' These lashes were administered with a riding whip by a drill-sergeant employed at the school. As might be expected, the boy's back was dreadfully cut. Mrs. Crawford said it looked like 'newly cut meat,' the Rev. J. L. Pennington said 'I was so horror-stricken at the sight, I could not look closely.' Goliathly, a boy flogged some months ago, is still under medical treatment. The offences of Micklewright were quarrelling with another boy and throwing a firework in the fire. The judge said Dr. Humphreys ought to have investigated the first case more closely; and certainly the flogging ought not to have been administered by a drill-sergeant. Damages, four guineas.

The son of the Emperor of Hayti has recently arrived in England from France, having travelled under the name of M. Dalvel. He is described as a most intelligent and gentlemanlike person, and has been sojourning for a short time at Torquay. His object in visiting this country is said to be to complete his education, for which purpose he will shortly proceed to Dawlish, and place himself under a clergyman of that place.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.—We are informed that the Bishop of London, assisted by Dr. Lushington and Sir James Patterson, sitting as assessors, will commence an enquiry into certain alleged abuses connected with the above cathedral on the 5th of January. — *Globe.*

THE BISHOP OF CAPE TOWN.—The Bishop of Capetown sailed on Tuesday for South Africa. He came home to all appearance a dying man: he returns recruited in strength, having procured a subdivision of his diocese, and with funds sufficient to enable him to carry forward the work so excellently begun.

THE COMMAND IN CANADA.—It is now said that Major-General Wetherall will relieve Major-General Nolan in the command of the troops in Canada, and will be succeeded as Deputy-Adjutant-General at head quarters by Colonel Torrens, whose place as Assistant-Quarter-Master-General will be filled by Lieutenant-Colonel Conynghame.

The Rev. H. Caswall, the fourth member of the deputation from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, arrived from America in Liverpool by the Royal Mail steamer *Canada*, on Sunday, after a voyage of eleven days and a few hours.

Dr. Armstrong, Bishop of Graham's Town, is expected to leave England early in the spring.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has conferred the degree of Master of Arts on the Rev. H. Tuckwell, late Principal of the Theological College, St. John's, Newfoundland.

DEATH OF THE MARCHIONESS WELLESLEY.—The Marchioness Wellesley, widow of the elder brother of the late Duke of Wellington, expired on Saturday at her apartments, at Hampton Court Palace, after a short illness. The deceased Marianne, Marchioness Wellesley, was a daughter of Mr. Richard Caton, and when the late Marquis Wellesley married she was a widow of Mr. Robert Patterson. She was the Marquis's second wife, to whom she was united on the 29th of October, 1825.

SINGULAR DEATH.—A sailor in the royal navy died a few days ago in Haslar Hospital, after much painful suffering, arising it was supposed from dropsy; but two hours before his death a living snake, nine inches in length came out of his mouth. It is supposed that the deceased must have swallowed the reptile when it was young, drinking water, when the *Hastings* was out in India, as the ship laid for some time at Trincomalee, and close to a small island called Snake Island. The crew used very often to find snakes on board.

FRANCE.

The *Pays* says:—The circumstances in the midst of which the retirement of Lord Palmerston takes place, give it a bearing and a character of much importance. In such a moment, when the Eastern question touches its most decisive period, when the mediating Powers are uniting in a supreme effort of conciliation, public opinion can with difficulty accept the idea that a man so considerable as Lord Palmerston should abandon his share of influence and responsibility in the direction of public affairs, and in foreign policy, for a simple difference of opinion on a question of Parliamentary Reform. Whatever may be the motive of it, will it modify the conduct of the British Cabinet? Can the situation of Eastern affairs be modified or compromised? We have never dissimulated the sincere and devoted admiration which we entertain for the character and the great political qualities of the former chief of the Foreign Office. The sympathies of Lord Palmerston for France and for the Government which directs her despatches, were on his part lightly avowed. In our conviction the presence of Lord Palmerston in the English Cabinet has facilitated between England and France an alliance which is at present the most powerful guarantee of the peace of the world, and of the independence of States. With his old experience, Lord Palmerston, from the first, understood that when the two great Western Powers should sincerely unite, Europe would have nothing to fear from the violence of private ambition, or the enterprise of the revolutionary spirit, and that they would always form an efficacious counterpoise to any force which should place social order or the European equilibrium in peril. In this point of view Lord Palmerston may claim an eminent share in the results which cemented the union of France and England, and have made them the most energetic obstacle to pretensions which menaced Europe in the Ottoman empire. Assuredly no one regrets more than we do the resolution of Lord Palmerston. His experience might still have been of great utility in the delicate condition in which Europe is placed. But that this event can seriously affect the relations established between the great European States, and lead to a modification in the unanimity of their views, in what appeared to us neither logical nor probable, and is evidently disproved by the rights, interests, and conduct of all the mediating powers.

INSTRUCTIONS OF THE POWERS TO THE AMBASSADORS AT CONSTANTINOPLE.—The *Debat* gives the following despatch as that by which the ambassadors of the Four Powers have been instructed to act in execution of the protocol of Dec. 5:—

Monsieur,—The governments of their Majesties, the Emperor of Austria, the Emperor of the French, the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the King of Prussia, have seen with great regret the outbreak of war between Russia and Turkey; and with the object of abridging hostilities as much as possible, and of effecting a rapprochement between the belligerent parties, so important for the interests of Europe, they have thought it necessary to give a collective form to their efforts. The various documents which have emanated from the Sublime Porte and the character of moderation with which they are marked, authorize us to hope that you will find Reschid Paşa disposed to admit that the propositions of the four courts are as much conformed to the interests as they are to the dignity of the Ottoman Empire.—

We place candidly before the Sublime Porte a question to which it will respond in the same spirit. The Governments of the Four Powers would be glad should the Sublime Porte declare in the first place that Austria, France, Great Britain, and Prussia have not too much presumed on its conciliatory intentions in believing it to be still animated with the desire to terminate on favourable conditions the difference which has arisen between it and Russia, and still ready to come to an understanding for this purpose with the other Powers. That, recognising the assurance which Russia has on several occasions given, that it demands no new concessions nor rights infringing upon the sovereignty of the Sultan, the Divan is ready to renew its offers and to discuss the form in which peace shall be re-established, subject to the condition of not being called to accede to any of the demands which have been already refused, and to conclude an arrangement for the evacuation of the principalities. This discussion would naturally take place between an Ottoman and Russian negotiator, each furnished with plenipotentiary powers; but in order to facilitate the agreement of the two parties, the plenipotentiaries designated would not treat apart, but in presence of representatives of Austria, France, Great Britain, and Prussia. We cannot understand the reasons which doubtless would not permit the Sublime Porte to negotiate with Russia in a part of its territory, occupied by the arms of this power. Russia, on its side, would have objections to negotiate in any town of Turkey. It would be proper then to leave the two parties to make choice of a neutral territory, and we abstain therefore from designating any particular place. The object which the four courts propose would not be completely obtained if the opening of the preliminary negotiations of peace were not at the same time the basis for the cessation of hostilities; but we believe that the Sublime Porte will have no good reason to oppose the conclusion of an armistice the conditions of which might be afterwards debated, if it obtained from us assurance that the terms in which it should be disposed to treat would be equally accepted by us. It is in any case a demand which it might address to us—and on the hypothesis that the terms proposed by the Ottoman Government should not be such as we should at first consent to, we would advise the sending of a Turkish plenipotentiary, and the appointment of a town where the plenipotentiaries of Russia and Turkey might meet the representatives of the four courts. I ask you, Monsieur, to repair with your colleague to Reschid Paşa, to read this despatch to him, and to fortify it with the authority of your advice.

PIEDMONT.

TURIN, DEC. 16.—The ceremony of consecrating a church for the celebration of the evangelical ritual, according to the Waldenses' ritual, which took place here yesterday, seems to afford an additional proof of friendship between the people of England and Piedmont, who already have so many interests in common. As there has long been a connexion between the Waldenses and the English Government, to which they have been indebted for some mediation on their behalf and a small pecuniary assistance, the open acknowledgment of their religion now, in a country where they have endured so much persecution, must be regarded as positive evidence of the desire of the Government of Piedmont to adopt our principles of freedom of matters of religion as well as in politics, and anxious of its wish to meet the views of England in every practical manner. The Waldenses who have been established in the valleys of the Alps near Piedmont since the eighth century, date the origin of their faith as early as the Apostles, and indignantly deny the accusation of being schismatics or reformers, because, they say, they are descended from those who resisted the corruptions of the Church of Rome in the first ages of Christianity. In the valleys their number amounts at present to about 20,000, but until lately there were very few in other parts of the kingdom. The building is in the old Lombard style with some extraneous ornaments, but internally the effect is extremely simple, offering a striking contrast to the Roman Catholic churches.

TURIN, DEC. 19.—The opening of the Legislative Session took place to day. The King delivered a speech which was warmly applauded, and in which His Majesty congratulated the Piedmontese on its intelligence, and recommended the Parliament to encourage that spirit of union by the aid of which the Government might find force sufficient to maintain the dignity of the country, and preserve the noble principle of national independence from any interference. His Majesty concluded as follows: 'Have confidence in me, and by our union we will crown the great