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IMPERIAL SPEECHES.

The recent English papers present us with two royal documents—a speech from Her Majesty Queen Victoria on the opening of Parliament, and a similar address on a similar occasion from the Emperor of the French. The former, which was read by the Lord Chancellor, is as usual, the most common place of speeches. It reiterates with satisfaction to the recent meetings of the French and English fleets and to the termination of the American war, rejoicing over the destruction of slavery in language more vigorous than is customary to be found in addresses from the Throne. "The abolition of slavery" it says "is an event calling forth the sympathies and congratulations of this country, which has always been foremost in showing its abhorrence of an institution repugnant to every feeling of justice and humanity." The diminution of the slave trade on the West coast of Africa is also alluded to in terms of congratulation. The renewal of diplomatic relations with Brazil through the mediation of the King of Portugal and the concluding of treaties of commerce with China and with Japan, are events highly commensurate with the peace of the world. The same insurrection, and even the reform bill are passed over very quietly. An unusual interest was evinced in the opening of Parliament, in consequence of Her Majesty having announced her intention, after several years of seclusion, of being present. The event has created quite a lively feeling of satisfaction throughout the metropolis; for it was doubted until the last minute whether Her Majesty would really attend. The public mind had been so frequently disappointed over the Queen's re-entering public life that it had almost given up the hope of royalty again assuming its social and political responsibilities. However the ice has now been broken; and tailors, milliners, clothiers, parfumeurs, and head-dressers are in ecstasies.

The speech of Louis Napoleon, although devoid of anything that savors of mystery or mischief, is nevertheless an interesting document. The Emperor was accompanied by the Empress, the Prince Imperial, Prince Napoleon, and other members of the royal family. Exalted personages must be rather wanting in ordinary gifts or acquirements; for we find great stress laid upon the fact that His Imperial Majesty read his speech in a clear and impressive manner. The first part of the speech relates to England and France. The re-union of the fleets in the same ports, the Emperor says, "shows that the relations formed on fields of battle have not been weakened—that time has only cemented the good understanding of the two countries." The Mexican question is of course the principal foreign topic in the speech. "In Mexico," says the Emperor, "the Government founded by the will of the people is becoming consolidated. The malcontents, vanquished and dispersed, have no longer any chief. The national troops have shown valor, and the country has found guarantees of order and security which have developed its resources and raised its commerce with France alone from 21 millions to 77 millions. Thus, as I expressed last year the hope, our expedition approaches to its termination. I am arranging with the Emperor Maximilian to fix the time for the recall of our troops, in order that their return may be effected without compromising the French interests which we want to defend in that distant country. The uneasiness produced in the United States by the presence of our army on Mexican soil will be appeased by the frankness of our declarations. The American people will comprehend that our expedition, in which we invited them to take a part, was not opposed to their interests. Two nations equally jealous of their inde-

pendence ought to avoid any step which would implicate their dignity and their honor." The Emperor bestows a panegyric on his wife's rule while he was absent in Algeria, and alludes to the general and growing progress of the country. The municipal institutions come in for a large share of his praise. "The Maire" he says, "is being in the commune the representative of the central power, the Constitution has conferred upon him the right of selecting those officers from all the citizens; but the election of intelligent and devoted men has enabled me in nearly all cases to choose the Maire from among the members of the municipal councils." We are told that the public receipts are increasing while the expenditure is diminishing, and the advocates of retrenchment are assured that a reduction is being made in the army.

Thirteen thousand new classes for adults have been opened in the communes of the empire. It is on French political theories, however, the Emperor finds himself most at home. The closing part of his speech, which reaches a kind of Napoleonic eloquence is too good to be summarised; we therefore give it in its entirety. Speaking of the French Constitution the Emperor says: "It keeps at an equal distance from two extreme situations. With one Chamber holding within itself the fate of Ministers, the Executive is without authority and without spirit. Again, it is without control if the elective Chamber is not independent and in possession of legitimate prerogatives. Our constitutional forms, which have a certain analogy with those of the United States, are not defective simply because they differ from those of England. Each people should have institutions which are conformable to its genius and to its traditions. It is true that every Government has its defects; but, in glancing over the past, I am rejoiced, at the end of fourteen years, to find France respected abroad and tranquil at home, without political captives in her prisons, without exiles beyond her frontiers. The nation has during eighty years successfully discussed theories of Government. Is it not now more useful to seek practical means for improving the moral and material condition of the people? Let us, then, employ ourselves in spreading abroad sound economical doctrines, the love of good and religious principles. Let us seek to resolve by the freedom of transaction the difficult problems of the just distribution of productive forces, and let us endeavor to improve the conditions of labour in our fields and in our workshops. When all Frenchmen now invested with political rights shall have been enlightened by education they will discern the truth without difficulty, and will not allow themselves to be seduced by deceptive theories; when all those who live by their daily toil shall be convinced of the increasing benefits which are procured by assiduous labor, they will be the firm supporters of a society which insures their well-being and their dignity—finally, when all shall have received from their childhood these principles of faith and morality which elevate man in his own eyes, they will know that above all human intelligence, above the efforts of science and of reason, there exists a Supreme Will which regulates the destinies of individuals, as it does those of nations."

NAVAL.—We gather the following interesting naval items from our valuable exchange the *Panama Star and Herald*:—Admiral Denman arrived at Valparaiso in H. M. S. *Sutlej*, 44 days from Vancouver Island, on the 27th January; and on the previous day H. M. S. *Tribune*, 46 days also from Vancouver Island, arrived under the command of Lord Gilford. The *Leander* and *Cameleon* were at Valparaiso on the 16th January; the latter was to sail for England on the 7th ult. The *Columbine*, Capt. Ward, had arrived at Callao from Valparaiso to take the place of H. M. S. *Shearwater*, which had sailed for Valparaiso. The steam sloop *Devastation*, Captain Julliffe, last from the Mexican coast, arrived at Taboga on the 11th February, en route to England. She was to sail again in a few days. Captain Bedingfield has been appointed to command Her Britannic Majesty's steam sloop *Wasp*, now en route to the Pacific, vice Captain Bowden, who has been superseded at his own request. Her Britannic Majesty's steam frigate *Togata*, 39 guns, has sailed from England for the Pacific. On her arrival out she will take the place of the *Leander* as Commodore ship on the South Pacific Station. Her Britannic Majesty's steam corvette *Malacca*, 17 guns, Captain Oldfield, sailed from Portsmouth for the Pacific on the 12th of January. The Spanish squadron to reinforce the fleet in the Pacific was expected at Tenerife in the end of December. It consists of the frigates *Almansa*, *Gerona*, and *Concepcion*; ironclads *Tanquin* and *Navas de Tolosa*; transports *San Quintin* and *San Francisco de Bergas*. The latter with the 1st, 2nd, and 3d Battalions of Marines on board. The U. S. gunboat *Nyack* had arrived at Callao.

ROYAL ACADEMY.—The Presidency of the Royal Academy was declined by Sir Edwin Landseer, and Mr. Francis Grant has been elected to fill the office.

EUROPEAN NEWS SUMMARY.

[LATEST NEWSPAPER DATES TO FEB. 9TH.]

Parliament was opened by the Royal Commission on the 1st inst. The Royal speech was delivered on the 6th.

The Hudson Bay Company have fixed £400,000 as the price they require for the sale of their estate.

Mr. Benjamin, ex-Secretary of the Confederate States, is studying English law, in the chambers of Mr. O. E. Pollock, in the Temple, with the view to being called to the English bar.

The Stockholm papers announce the death of Miss Frederica Bremer, the celebrated Swedish novelist.

A terrible boiler explosion occurred at Sunderland, by which one man was killed and five others seriously injured.

A fire broke out near the city of London, by which 30 persons were killed.

The Board of Trade has received a long list of ships lost during the late succession of gales. They number between 300 and 400.

A submarine telegraph cable was successfully laid between Leghorn and the island of Corsica.

The Right Hon. John Evelyn Denison was on February 1st for the third time elected Speaker of the House of Commons.

The official return of the cattle plague for the past week shows an increase of 800 cases over those of the previous week. The number attacked was 14,745.

The celebrated Professor Welcker (he and the late Dr. Rotteck were the editors of the far-famed "Conversations Lexicon," published by Brockhaus, of Leipzig) has offered a reward at Vienna of 1,000 florins for the best essay on the means, without having recourse to revolutionary measures, of getting rid of Governments which systematically violate the constitutional rights of the people.

The Atlas Iron and Steel Works Company (John Brown & Co.) of Sheffield, have received an order from the Government to make 300 tons of armor plate, of the extraordinary thickness of nine inches, for the armored ship *Hercules*. The plates are understood to be intended to defend the battery of the vessel.

The *Egypten* announces that the lease of the gaming tables of Baden held by M. Benazet, has been prolonged by the Grand Duke, on the proposition of his Ministers, to Dec. 31, 1870.

There is a proposal to establish a club to be called "De la Sainte Mouselline," in Paris, with the object of putting a stop to the mania of the Paris ladies for wearing extravagant toilettes. One of the principal regulations of the club is that compelling its members to dress with elegant simplicity.

The excavations now making at Pompeii have brought to light several vestiges of the ancient Christians. In the Palace of the Edile Pansa, in the Via Fortuna, an unfinished sculptured cross has been found on one of the walls, as well as abusive inscriptions and caricatures ridiculing a crucified god.

The fire insurance companies of New York sustained losses in the year 1865 amounting in all to \$43,139,000, an unusually heavy amount. They had to pay on 354 fires. This is stated to include only fires in which the loss reached as much as \$20,000.

The American Government is repairing the lighthouses along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the Southern States. By next summer all will probably be in order. Nearly \$4,000,000 are required to replace the property destroyed by the war.

At a deputation which waited upon Lord Russell, in order to impress upon the head of the Government the views entertained by a recent public meeting at St. Martin's Hall, on the subject of Reform—the important declaration was elicited, not only that a Reform Bill would be brought forward by the Government, but also that "the Government will stand or fall" with the measure.

The Earl of Clarendon has announced that he has received a communication from the Austrian Government to the effect that it will not be necessary for English travellers visiting the Austrian dominions to have their passports countersigned by the Austrian Minister in London.

Lord Russell, on behalf of the Queen, has offered to Viscount Palmerston a peerage in her own right, with remainder to her son, the Right Hon. W. Cooper. It has however been declined with many grateful expressions. Lady Palmerston is content with the distinction of being Lord Palmerston's widow.

We believe that the final touch has been given to the reductions in the army for the next financial year. On the whole they are less than expected, and far less than rumor has put about within the last few days. The cavalry, we believe, will escape reduction altogether, and even the depot battalions are not very likely to be touched for the present.

A complete list of the officers and crew of the ill-fated steamer, the *London*, which foundered in the Bay of Biscay on the 12th instant, when 220 lives were lost, has been published. The *London* is said to have been the finest vessel of her class that ever left the port of London.

Lord Galway sustained a severe accident in hunting, and though no danger is apprehended, he was much shaken and hurt. It appears that the hounds were in full cry after their third fox, in Welbeck park. His lordship was galloping down the green carriage drive, where a number of trees had been transplanted and are supported by wires. In cheering his hounds, unfortunately, Lord Galway failed to observe and avoid one of these wires. It caught him first across the lower part of the face, and then across the throat and chest, throwing him backward off his horse, and bringing him insensible to the ground.

A portion of the new roofing over the

station at London road, Manchester, to accommodate the joint traffic of the London and North Western and Sheffield and Great Northern Companies, fell in with a tremendous crash. The portion which fell in is a section of about thirty yards long, by seventy yards in width, extending across the entire station. A great number of men were working there, some of them on the roof and some of them under it, at the time of the occurrence and many of them were injured, two of them fatally. The cause of the giving way of the roof was the insufficient strength of the girder which ran along the centre of the station, and upon which the weight of the two portions into which the roof is divided longitudinally rested.

Later news from Europe has been received by the *Moravian* from Liverpool on the 8th, via Londonderry on the 9th. Queen Victoria opened Parliament on the 6th. The speech expresses satisfaction at the successful close of the American war, and at the

the crowd at the castle gates during the drawing-room was peaceful.

The Commission for the trial of the Fenians was adjourned on the 2d until the 19th instant.

Another batch of 500 soldiers passed through Liverpool on the 2d for Dublin.

A deputation from Galway had waited on the Lord Lieutenant to petition for a military force at Galway, to guard against a possible hostile force landing at that port. Lord Weddehouse expressed his disbelief in any such landing, but promised to represent the matter to his Government.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

DATES TO JAN. 9th.

Prince Kung is again at the head of affairs. Complicated questions are arising between the Chinese and French Governments on the subject of propaganda. The report that the news from Japan states that the ministers mission to Osaka, has proved successful, and the treaties have been ratified by the Mikado. The ports were opened to trade on the 1st January, and the tariff revised.

Latest advices are from Shanghai, Jan. 9th. The rebels were rising in the north. The Nyenfei insurgents had defeated the Imperialists. Considerable agitation prevailed in Japan against the feudal system.

An alarming mutiny occurred among the Coolies on board the ship *Fride*, of the Ganges. The captain was murdered.

INDIA.

A terrible accident has occurred on the great Indian Peninsular Railway, occasioned by a goods train rushing through a station and being precipitated over an embankment of seventy feet. Six lives were lost.

Lord Edward Seymour was attacked by a bear while out shooting on the 13th December, in North Conara. One leg was afterwards amputated. He did not survive the operation, but died on the 20th instant.

Shocks of earthquake have been felt near Calcutta, and in the Punjab. The Nagpur Exhibition has been opened by Mr. Temple, the Commissioner, with great éclat. The Indian Budget is expected to be published on the 1st of March. The weather is cool, and public health good.

Sir C. Wood has intimated to the ecclesiastical authorities that he intends in the first session of the new Parliament to introduce a bill for the erection of a Bishopric of Lahore.

OPENING OF THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

The *Times* of Feb. 7th gives the following account of this ceremony.

The Prince and Princess of Wales—the Prince in the full uniform of a general officer and the Princess tastefully attired in a dress of white tulle, trimmed with black lace, wearing a tiara of diamonds and a long flowing veil of white gauze—entered side by side. At two o'clock precisely, Black Rod made a signal to the Lord Chancellor, at which the whole assemblage rose. In less than six minutes the door to the right of the throne was flung open, and preceded by a long train of halberdiers, buffettiers, and other officials, entered the Majesty of England. Her Majesty was attired in half mourning and walked with slow step to the throne, followed by the great officers of State, the Marquis of Lansdowne, bearing the Crown upon a cushion; the Duke of Argyll, holding the Sword of State; the Marquis of Winchester, supporting the Cap of Maintenance, and several other nobles performing their appointed functions. Her Majesty stopped for an instant at the foot of the steps to shake hands with the Princess of Wales, who, in common with the whole assemblage, had risen on her entrance. The Queen wore a black, some said a deep purple, velvet robe, which, whether it were purple or black looked intensely black in the dim light of the chamber, trimmed with white miniver, and a white lace cap à la Marie Stuart, to the portraits of which unfortunate lady she bore in this attire a remarkable similitude. Around her neck she wore a collar of brilliants, and over her breast the blue ribbon of the Order of the Garter. Other ornaments she had none, and looked in this simple and highly becoming costume "every inch a Queen," and far more picturesque and regal than if she had worn the royal robes that had become so distasteful to her. During the interval that elapsed between the summons of the Commons, and the reply, the Queen sat silent and motionless, with her eyes fixed upon the floor. She seemed to take no heed of the brilliant assemblage around her, but to be wholly absorbed in melancholy meditation. Even when the Commons rushed helter skelter, like a mob of schoolboys to the bar, with pushings and strivings unseemly to witness among gentlemen, but which seem to be considered an essential part of the day's performance, her Majesty took no notice of the interruption, and never once lifted her gaze from the ground.

IRELAND.

The anxiety of the Irish Government for the re-capture of Stephens, appears to be on the increase. The streets of Dublin have been placarded with fresh notices, offering in addition to the £1,000 already offered for his recapture, another £1,000 for such private information as may lead to his apprehension, and £300 and a free pardon will be given to those who assisted his escape, or having harbored him will now reveal his hiding place. Several military men have been sworn into the Commission of Peace, that they may be able to act promptly in case of disturbance. About 100 sub-constables with a few detectives are searching the mountains and caves around Boyle. It is confidently reported he is about there. The search has been prosecuted in Cork, Limerick and other towns.

The Privy Council have extended to Ireland the order affecting the removal of cattle. The order differs little from that issued for England. The official returns of the cattle plague show that the mysterious disease is still as virulent as ever.

The Dublin police, on the 1st inst., seized in a building, formerly used as a stable in Longford Lane, 200 pikes, and about 300 twelve-foot pike handles. Small seizures of arms are also reported in private houses.

An influential meeting was held in Dublin on the 1st inst. The Marquis of Downshire presided. A resolution was adopted declaring that the Fenian conspiracy had proceeded a feeling of well-founded alarm, and it was the duty of the Government to use the most effective measures to crush it, and to afford full protection to the loyal and well-disposed. Another resolution calls on the Government to increase the military force in Ireland. Both resolutions were passed unanimously.

On the evening of the 31st ult., during the progress of the Lord Lieutenant's drawing room, several troops of cavalry were placed in various parts of the city.—The military paraded the streets, and the pickets were doubled at the barracks. The Fenians, however, did not assemble as was expected, and

at the distance to the Big Bend Mines LESS BY WAY OF VICTORIA of Portland.

ing Statistics, respecting the probable Expense of Travelling from VICTORIA to the Big Bend, have been compiled by the well known British Columbian Agent and Stage Proprietor:

Stage over the Wagon Road, and Dining Meals and Beds through.

Dist. Time. Rates. Meals.

175...24 hrs...\$4...\$6

133...24 hrs...40... 5

120...15 hrs...10... 4

35...18 hrs...9

number of hours travelling, 81, \$78.

Foot from Yale to Lake Kamloops, and Beds at Wayside Houses.

Dist. Time. Rate. Meals.

175...24 hrs...\$4...\$6

133...5 days...20

120...1 day...10... 4

35...2 days...9

9 days \$63.

Furnishing own Food on Steamers on Foot from Yale to Lake Kamloops, buying their own Provisions on the way if they wish them.

175...24 hrs...\$4...\$6

133...5 days...20

120...1 day...10... 1.50

35...2 days...9

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ancouver Island, 1866. felb authority of the Victoria Chamber

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specimens in the various parts

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Byttou.

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