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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Viscountess Beaconsfield, wife of Benjamin D'Israeli is dead, a most estimable woman, and well deserving the homage of such a husband.

Throughout England the storms which have raged over Europe for the past week still continues. Telegraphic advices of the 18th inst. states ;

It has been storming for the past six hours, and the rain fall has been the heaviest of the season. Large tracts of land in Leicestershire are inundated. In Derbyshire snow fell to a depth of 12 inches.

The telegraph lines in all directions are badly damaged. Telegraph communication with Liverpool, Leeds and Hull are interrupted.

At Grimsby the gale was a hurricane, and many casualties are reported.

The "Daily News" commenting on President Grant's message, trusts his recommendation for the abolition of slavery in Cuba will be successful with the Spanish Government.

The ship *Luconia*, from Philadelphia, for Rotterdam, went ashore in the storm near Bologne, and became a total wreck. All on board were saved except one.

The funeral of Lady Beaconsfield will take place on Thursday. It will be strictly private.

In France the Loire, and other streams have overflowed their banks spreading ruin and devastation around. At Nantes the quays, and all low lying portions of the city are all under water, business was suspended and affairs generally looked very gloomy.

The action of the *Left* in the Assembly, has been unanimously condemned. Gambetta, Louis Blanc, and the Reds, are adding to the complication of distress under which unhappy France is suffering, by furnishing occasion to the Germans to exact the securities for the war indemnity, to concen-

trate their forces now occupying that country, as well as refuse to evacuate it.

It is pretty evident that the humbug of a Republic is nearly played out, the question affecting the salvation of the country, simply resolves itself into a Bourbon King, or a Bonaparte Emperor. M. Thiers may cling desperately to office for a little while longer, but it can be only till MacMahon, who appears to be the *Monk* of the crisis, declares what he intends to do; as he is the only man with a soldier's reputation in France, it is to be hoped he will not sully it or stultify himself by adding another name to the number of unsuccessful rulers with which that miserable country has been cursed.

The criminal and inordinate ambition of the First Napoleon foisted a new dynasty on its throne, to the great detriment of its interest because, if it was simply a question as to the restoration of the ancient dynasty; and the retention of such parvenues as Thiers or Gambotta in power it would require no extraordinary upheaval of social order to ship the so-called provisional government to luxuriate in that tropical paradise of Cayenne; and the accession of a legitimate sovereign would be a guarantee to the Prussians that there would not be a likelihood of any disturbance of existing relations during the present generation. It is, however, a different question when the intrigues of rival dynasties affords a chance for the small knot of traitors representing the scum of society which formed the Commune to overthrow law and order in the attempt to establish socialism. Meantime the political crisis becomes more serious, and the chances for another upheaval of social order are greater.

Under date of the 19th inst, the telegraph announces that the river Seine continues to rise and at many places has overflowed its banks.

In Italy the severe weather has inflicted considerable damage and loss, especially in the valley of the Po. Social order appears, however, to be maintained throughout, although political movements are considerably influenced by the Papal partizans. The commence-

ment and close of the 19th century have been singularly fatal to the temporal power, and if, even, any political convulsion could bring about its restoration it would be only for a limited period. The Pope as head of the church of Western Europe would exercise large influence, and if the office was thrown open to people of other countries that might be wielded for the benefit of society and the progress of such countries, as Italy, Spain, Austria and other States, towards the enlightenment of the Science and Constitutional knowledge of the present day, and afford Germany as well as England relief from complications only understood by the statesmen and rulers who too often find clerical turbulence the greatest bar to progress.

Society in Spain must be in a very unsettled condition, the king has recovered from his dangerous illness, but announcements like the following occasionally appear :

Three Carlist bands were defeated and dispersed by the Government troops on the 16th.

It will be strange news to our readers to know that the great Prussian statesman Prince Bismark, has abdicated power. The following telegraphic despatch is dated Berlin, Dec. 17; General Von Roon will act provisionally as President of Prussian Council of Ministers, the Emperor having granted Bismark's request to be relieved. It is the generally received opinion that ill health is the cause of this movement although some will suspect a *coup d'etat*.

Across the line our neighbors are exercised at the prevalence of crime in New York. It is very little matter for surprise, especially, as the criminals bear a prominent part in placing the Judge who is to try them on the Bench. Such are some of the beauties of *universal suffrage*, and the natural result of democracies.

Nothing of interest has transpired except the announcement that President Grant means to send commissioners to Cuba, to enquire into the state of affairs in that Island.