

and great diplomatic talents, and is the first appointment by Great Britain, we believe, of the new Foreign Secretary, Lord Granville.

The great event of the month in England, has been the opening of the fifth session of Parliament by the Queen in person. The scene was a most interesting one from several causes—the New House for the Commons of England was occupied for the first time, the House in which in all likelihood, for many hundred years to come, that august body will hold its meetings. It was universally admitted that the scene was grand and imposing beyond description. Every corner of this magnificent room was crowded with Members, Peers, Ambassadors, strangers, all eager to hear the explanation of the Prime Minister with regard to the dismissal of Lord Palmerston. A display of intellectual gladiatorship between these two great men was expected, and almost breathless interest was painted on every countenance when Lord John Russell rose to speak. The speech possessed the two great characteristics of care and power, though it proved little against Lord Palmerston, beyond a breach of official etiquette, and when he sat down it was expected that a most crushing and spirited reply awaited him from his brilliant rival, but it was not so; for the first time in his life, Lord Palmerston seemed confused, as if he felt that his cause was not a sound one, the feeling was strongly in his favor, and yet when he sat down every one felt that Lord J. Russell could have done nothing else than pursue the course he did. The Foreign Secretary had approved of the *coup d'état* of Louis Napoleon, and the English Government anxious to keep Great Britain altogether free from any interference with French politics, called upon Lord Palmerston to explain the extraordinary step he had taken, the explanation not being satisfactory he was called on to resign. The public suspected this before, and it was all they learned of the matter from the Prime Minister.

Louis Napoleon still acts the despot over the people of France, his latest act of robbery being the confiscation of the whole of the Orleans property. Liberty lies gagged and bleeding. The French Press is the feeble reflex of the will of a tyrant. Both the Earl of Derby and Lord J. Russell spoke in severe terms of the course taken by the English Press, in at once heaping unlimited abuse upon the President of France, and making the most exaggerated statements of the weakness of our means of defence. The whole naval power of France, large and small, building, at home and abroad, amounts to 328 sail. Great Britain has nearly 600, of which 258 are within call, 77 of which are line of battle ships, 95 carrying from 50 to 20 guns. In addition to this she possesses 86 large steamers, carrying from 100 to 4 guns, besides an immense fleet of Mail Steamers, the fastest in the world, and each equal in size and strength to a line of battle ship. Even in her present condition, the Navy of England is twice as powerful as that of France.

The news from the Cape of Good Hope is still unsatisfactory. General Cathcart, who formerly commanded the forces in Canada, relieves Sir Harry Smith. A quantity of improved fire arms has been sent out for the use of the regiments.

The principal event of local interest in England is the Engineers "strike," which if persisted in may lead to very serious consequences. Lord John Russell has introduced his Reform Bill extending the franchise, but the country at large seems to give themselves little or no concern about the matter.

In European affairs elsewhere, we have nothing of importance to notice in our present monthly record.