

THE CONCEPTION-BAY MAN.

and the commands of England with the speed of lightning through every portion of the empire.

PRUSSIA.
The Neufchatel question appears to be assuming a more serious aspect. The Prussian Government is said to have communicated a note to the French Cabinet, and no doubt to the other parties to the Protocol of 1852, intimating that as diplomatic negotiations have been of no avail in bringing the Federal Government of Switzerland to a sense of its injustice, and as no amicable arrangement was any longer to be hoped for, the King had resolved on trying other measures in defence of his rights as Prince of Neufchatel. His Majesty is no doubt apprehensive of disclosures which may be produced during the trial of the prisoners.—Diplomatic communications have opened to secure a passage to the Swiss frontier for Prussian troops. The *New Prussian Gazette* states that the royal army will advance into Switzerland, seize a few important points, and hold them as a material guarantee until justice is done to the king's claims.

It is now understood that the marriage of Prince Frederick William, which was fixed for the 18th of October next (the prince's birthday), has been postponed, and will now take place on the 21st November, the day on which the Princess Royal will complete her seventeenth year. Arrangements have been made for the celebration by that time of the alterations which are being made in the Palace Unter den Linden, formerly inhabited by the late king, and now being fitted up for the residence of the young couple.

AUSTRIA.
According to intelligence which has reached Paris, the Emperor of Austria has not yet decided upon visiting Milan. His Majesty is said to be much disappointed with his reception in Italy and complains of false representations having been made to him as to public feeling in Venice and Lombardy.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Times*, writing on the 11th inst., says:—"Reliable information has to-day been given me that the Emperor will, on his arrival at Milan, give the Lombards positive proof that attention has been paid to their petition for a remission of a part of the taxes. The official Austrian papers are totally silent on the subject, but it is known to me that before he quitted Vienna, the Emperor gave strict orders that in future no inquiries should be made into the conduct of the Hungarian employes during the years 1848 and 1849. This measure is a great boon to the government officials in Hungary, who had to fear the animosity of such of their fellow-citizens as were opposed to them in politics during the revolution. In a word, the Emperor has, by a few strokes of his pen, ruined the trade of a host of amateur informers."

PERSIA.
A letter from Constantinople, in the *Pays*, contains the following intelligence:—"Letters which have arrived at the various embassies give us some details relative to the taking of Herat. It was on the 29th of October that the town fell into the hands of the Persians. Some days before a considerable breach had been made at the foot of one of the numerous towers which flank the walls of the town; but in order to reach that spot it was necessary to carry a work in front of the place, which had been raised by English officers. The attacking columns, composed of picked troops, rushed to the assault with great intrepidity, and the Afghans, though resisting the first shock, were soon obliged to give way. Then, Esa Khau, who commanded the besieged, seeing that further resistance was quite impossible, submitted to Moorad Meerza, commander-in-chief of the Persian army. Esa to'lan was to be sent to Teheran. The capture of Herat will not facilitate an arrangement of the difference which has arisen between England and Persia. Redschid Pacha is trying to settle the affair, and Ferukh Khan had on Sunday last an interview with Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, which did not last less than three hours."

SWITZERLAND.
The journals and advices from Berlin state that the Prussian note relating to the Neufchatel affair was forwarded on the 10th inst. to the Cabinets of Paris, London, Vienna, and St. Petersburg, as well as to the Germanic Diet. In this note Prussia manifests her intention to have recourse to energetic and independent action. It is said that Prussia has decided on an armed intervention if the royalist prisoners at the Neufchatel should be convicted. It is asserted that the military preparations are already made.

IRELAND.
During the late tremendous gale a large boat was capsized on the lower Shannon, and thirteen persons who were on board, including the crew and some farmers returning home from market at Limerick were all drowned.

The accounts from Tipperary, Waterford, and Cork respecting the late storms, represent extensive casualties. The rivers overflowed their banks, causing considerable damage to property, while many fine old trees were uprooted, and houses stripped of their roofs.

FUNERAL OF FATHER MATHEW.—The funeral of the Rev. Father Mathew, the apostle of temperance, took place in Cork, on the 12th, and was, perhaps, the most remarkable one ever witnessed in that City. The cortege was more than three miles long, and took an hour and a half to pass any particular point. It was attended by the Corporation and City officers, in mourning, by several dignitaries and clergymen of the Established Church, as well as by a vast number of the Roman Catholic clergy, with their bishop at their head, and by all the Roman Catholic and a great many of the Protestant gentry of the surrounding country. It was estimated that not fewer than 50,000 people were assembled in and around the cemetery on the occasion, and the deepest sympathy was expressed by the greater number of those present, many of them shedding tears. The Roman Catholic Bishop and seventy priests officiated at the obsequies in the Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity.

(From the *Greenock Advertiser*.)
The last news from the East bears the curious expression that Persia "accepts the war declared by England." What that may represent we have no means of judging, but other despatches by way of Paris, hold out a hope that Lord Redcliffe will be able to settle the matter at Constantinople with a Persian envoy who has come from Teheran with full powers.

The French official journal makes this week an unpleasant reference to the quarrel between the King of Prussia and the Swiss Confederation on the subject of Neufchatel. It will be remembered that a short time ago an attempt at insurrection was made in that canton, an object being to detach it from Switzerland and hand over its sovereignty to the Prussian monarch. The attempt was entirely futile, and the leaders were apprehended and now await their trial. The Swiss authorities have no great desire to punish the men, but they think it due to their independence and respect for the laws that their offence should be discussed in a criminal court. The King of Prussia asks or demands their liberation, however, not to found upon the compliance of the republic with his requirements any further claim to the sovereignty of Neufchatel. The stout mountaineers refuse to proceed in this order, but are willing, if the King gives the assurance he has promised, not to punish the prisoners further. At this stage the Emperor of the French offers his friendly assistance to unloose the knot which the dignity of the two powers has tied, and we learn the resultless issue of his endeavour in the angry note of the *Moniteur*. At some periods of the history of Europe it would have been ridiculous to suppose that any serious complication could arise out of a matter like this; but at present there seems everywhere danger of a small spark causing a great conflagration. The French Emperor shows a great desire to be on good terms with both Russia and Prussia, and exhibits considerable feeling towards Austria, whose Emperor, on the other hand, will look suspiciously on any aggrandisement of his German neighbour. Again, the King of Naples depends more for his safety upon the money-bought service of Swiss soldiers than on the loyal regards of his native Italians, and he consequently would unpleasantly situated if the Federal States were to require the return home of all Swiss soldiers, in order to defend their native land from hostile aggression. France asks the release of the prisoners; the Swiss authorities refuse compliance, and the *Moniteur* is desired to say that "Switzerland must not be astonished, if, in the course of events she should no longer find the good will which she might have obtained at the cost of a very slight sacrifice." We cannot expect an Emperor to show why any sacrifice, slight or not, should be made by those who are vindicating the independence of their soil against the emissaries of an offending neighbour.

ENGLAND.
Such extensive damage to steam ships by storms—as have been experienced during the last three weeks has never been known before. Scarcely a steamer has been able to withstand the recent storms. Many have been unable so much as to face them, and have put back. Even Cunard's and Croysey's gigantic Atlantic steamers have been worsted in their encounters with the December gales, and have turned back disabled and discomfited. The fury of the gales have been felt all over the Mediterranean, over a great portion of the Atlantic, and in the seas surrounding the British Isles. Some conception of the force of the sea may be formed from the fact that as the Australian Mail steamer *European* was coming from the Clyde to Southampton Water, a sea washed over her and with such force, that it lifted up a spar screw, weighing nine tons, that was on board, and which in falling went through the deck. This was the damage that caused her detention.

Six hundred and five metropolitan legal firms have agreed to observe the Saturday half-holiday.

A very handsome monument is about to be erected at Badminton, the ancient seat of the Somerset family in Gloucestershire, to the memory of the late lamented Lord Raglan. The memorial will be erected at the expense of the Dowager Lady Raglan, widow of the deceased.

HER MAJESTY'S VISIT TO THE RESOLUTE.

The Queen on Tuesday visited the Arctic ship *Resolute*. The *Resolute*, dressed in her colours, was lashed alongside of the Royal embarkation place at Trinity Wharf, Cowes. The English and American flags were flying at the peak, and as soon as the Queen set her foot on the deck the Royal standard was hoisted on the main. The Rear Admiral fired a salute the boats crews "tossed" their oars, and the ship's company, standing on the rail, received her Majesty with three rounds of cheers.

Captain Hartstein received the Royal party at the gangway, and the officers, in full uniform were grouped on either side. All the officers were presented to the Queen by Captain Hartstein, who then addressed her Majesty in the following words:—"Allow me to welcome your Majesty on board the *Resolute*, and in obedience to the will of my countrymen and of the President of the United States, to restore her to you, not only as an evidence of a friendly feeling to your sovereignty, but as a token of love, admiration and respect to your Majesty personally."

The Queen seemed touched by the manly simplicity of this frank and sailor like address and replied with a gracious smile, "I thank you Sir."

The royal party then went over the ship and examined her with manifest interest. Captain Hartstein traced her course on a map and indicated the most important discoveries of the American Arctic expeditions. In the conversation Prince Albert observed that Lady Franklin was very anxious for another expedition, to which Captain Hartstein replied that he was not surprised that she should be so, for he thought it very possible that Franklin or some of his comrades might still be alive among the Esquimaux.

After completing the inspection of the ship the royal party retired amid the enthusiastic exclamations of the spectators.

It was originally intended to request her Majesty to take luncheon on board, but the idea was subsequently abandoned through a diffidence as to whether the proceeding would be *quasi scilicet les regles*. But after the withdrawal of the royal party there was an elegant *dejeuner* in the wardroom.

Captain Hartstein was invited by the Queen to dine and to spend the night at Osborn, and all the officers were invited to visit the grounds at Osborne, a privilege of which they availed themselves at three o'clock.

The Queen on her visit was accompanied by Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, and the Princess Alice.

(From the *Liverpool Mercury*.)
The *Moniteur* of Monday publishes a report from M. Rouher, the Minister of Public Works, on the railways of France, recommending that the railway companies shall be allowed to issue new scrip to the value of 214,000,000 (£8,560,000) in the course of the year 1857. This is intended, perhaps, as a substitute or antidote for the Russian railway scheme.

Mr. Disraeli arrived in Paris on Friday, and was expected to have an interview with Emperor. The Paris correspondent of the *Daily News* remarks that this fact, coupled with Comte de Persigny's recent visit to Lord Derby, must be considered as of great importance. Perhaps so. Had these visits any reference to the Russian question? Did the French Government, before finally persisting in a view which might possibly drive Lord Palmerston to a resignation, wish to ascertain to which side the leaders of the Conservative party in the British Parliament leaned? If the *Press* may be relied upon as the expositor of the opinions of Mr. Disraeli, the Tory leaders take the Russian side of the question. On Saturday last the *Press* contended that, in assenting to the differences respecting Belgrade and the Isle of Serpents being referred to a second conference, the Administration of Lord Palmerston had received a diplomatic check, because it had put forward pretensions which it was unable to maintain and had taken a less rational and conciliatory view than the French Government. But the check is apparent rather than real; and it seems that, if the English Cabinet has agreed to the disputed points being referred to the conference, the French Government is now not unwilling that the English view of the question shall be maintained by the conference. The conference, however, is to be composed of the second plenipotentiaries whose meeting to settle certain minor details was provided for by the Paris Congress, and it has no power of re-opening the treaty of peace or of altering its text or scope. This conference may be summoned at any moment, and the *Morning Post* can see no reason why our Government should object to sit being called together.

Intelligence, said to be official, has reached Paris by telegraph of an insurrection having broken out in Sicily. A large body of men assembled at a village about six or seven miles from Palermo, and threatened to march on the city. Barou Bentivenga, who had been arrested, is said to be the leader of the movement. Troops had been sent against the insurgents, but no engagement had taken place at the date of the last despatch, which is of Monday from Naples, and two days previous from Palermo.

Swiss troops were about leaving Naples for Sicily. Naples was tranquil. The king arrived in his capital on the 28th ult., when a cabinet council was convened on the affairs of Sicily. It was stated some time since that the withdrawal of the French and English Ministers from Naples had produced much more excitement in Sicily than in the continental dominions.

On the afternoon of the 25th the Emperor and Empress of Austria made their solemn entry into Venice, and the official despatch tells us that the reception given by the people to the Imperial visitors was most enthusiastic.

At a meeting held in Dublin on the 16th, the High Sheriff in the chair, it was unanimously resolved to petition Parliament to reduce the income-tax to £d. in the pound after April next.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH CABLE.—Kuper and Co. of London, are to make one-half of the Atlantic cable; and Mr. Newall, of Gateshead, the other. It may assist the reader to a fair conception of the immensity of the task (says the *Gateshead Observer*) if we state that our ingenious neighbour will have to twist strands of wire, 25,000 miles in length—or long enough to go round the whole earth, and leave sufficient length of wire for Archimides to swing it round his head with, if he had but that standing-point which he coveted for his experiments.

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HARBOUR GRACE, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14.

Altho our views upon the present unfortunate state of public affairs remain unaltered, we do not deem it expedient at present further to urge their adoption upon the public mind, particularly when we find that our efforts are not seconded by those who acknowledge their general correctness yet abstain from any thing like actual interference, and thus leave subjects of vital importance to the community solely in the hands of persons whose public character we have felt called upon openly to denounce.

Influences local and domestic have been called into requisition by our public men, and private feeling has operated to shield them from the effects of that virtuous indignation which it should ever be the privilege of the faithful Editor to abundantly call forth; had we suffered similar feelings to counteract public principle, we too would have been silent, and it may be that our private interests would have been advanced, but we preferred the independent course, and, failed not to urge upon our fellow citizens that strict line of duty which we believed the most remedial effect, we may have failed in this particular, but we have the satisfaction of knowing that we have not sown altogether to the wind men who never before took much interest in public matters, now begin to enquire the amount of benefit, which they derive from the Government, what becomes of the enormous amount of revenue which the trade of this country creates and where lies the advantage of sending representatives to the assembly, if they have to be packed and bought up like so many Guinea Slaves.

We would rather be the veriest seaf in Russia, than hold the degrading position of nominal representative of the People, whilst we received the pay and became the tool of the minister of the day; but in these spiritless times such considerations pass for nothing, and the representative principle is lost in obsequious parasitism which throughout the length and breadth of the land influences are being sedulously exercised widely different from those upon which the honest politician would rely, and thus our representatives are enabled to return to their ignominious calling, unscathed by aught save the half stifled murmurs of an injured community, and the unexpressed lash of at least one indignant Newfoundland.

We deeply regret that the fulminating reporter no longer echoes among the rugged cliffs and snow clad mountains of our native land, whilst we accept the explanation offered, we humbly think that no sacrifice of time or emolument should have prevented that able writer from persevering in that noble cause to which for a time he so zealously devoted himself, there are whispers also abroad that the correct views of others are waxing faint and vacillating, as the test of true patriotism approaches so let it be, the potent spell of the Wizard of the iron-chest silences for a time the advocates of freedom! The blind prejudices of party may for the nonce prostrate Liberty in the dust and place hunting seraphs swell the triumph of despotism; but the spirit of freedom is abroad and will be amply vindicated when Newfoundlanders are made to appreciate the rights of humanity.

Hereditary bondsmen know ye not, who would be free themselves must strike the blow."

Since writing the above we have received notice of a public meeting to be convened for the purpose of petitioning for a Light House on Baccaloo.

We are glad to acknowledge that we had underrated the public spirit which still exists in this place, and which we trust will upon future occasions be as promptly and efficiently called forth.

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