

country party, by giving more representatives to the counties. And lastly it is said that the Cabinet has discussed the point of a possible Reform bill, and intends to set them aside in favor of measures of administrative and social improvement. The public may choose for themselves as to the most probable of all these courses. Palmerston is in the country fortifying himself for the coming campaign with his old remedy, Port. Lord John Russell is more probably engaged upon such a project, as it is well known that the noble Lord intends to reassert his claims upon the liberal party and the country at large. The fight for office in reality will not be between Palmerston and Derby, or Disraeli, but between Palmerston and Russell. These ancient opponents, always rivals, always friends, are the men most interested in the present state of the political world.

The movements of the discarded men, the gentlemen doomed to agitate outside the House, are becoming very interesting. It is now quite certain that this looked-for agitation will be organised, and therefore powerful. It is not likely that Cobden, Bright, Gibson, Chay, Layard, Walmley, Mill, and such men will remain quiet.—These men will be heard in or out of the House, and their opinions loudly expressed will still have weight with the people, and what is perhaps more important still, they will be entirely free from the influence of official pressure or the fascinating powers of a Whipper-in. Every general Election gives us new men, and we have always to regret the absence of some man of note whose compulsory retirement is a loss to the nation, but no change has ever been so great as this one. Never have we had to deplore the loss of so many men deserving well at our hands, and whose names will be handed down by history as those of the age's celebrities. There is comfort to be had, however, in the very extent of the affliction, for the struggle will be the shorter. If Lord Palmerston meets Parliament with a determination to give the people a full measure of Reform, these men may remain outside the doors and the public will not murmur, but should he oppose all liberal measures as he has done hitherto, then the people will forcibly sympathise with the excluded men, and the result may easily be prognosticated. Mr. Hayter has set aside all doubt as to Mr. Evelyn Demison's election to the high office of Speaker of the House of Commons. Mr. Demison is the government candidate, and, as if fearing opposition, the government whipper-in invites members to reply to his circular in which he makes the announcement, and inform him if the government may depend upon their presence and support. Rumors are afloat as to another candidate to be brought forward by the opposition. These have no foundation, and we believe it is not the intention of the Conservatives or the Independents to offer any serious opposition to the election of Mr. Demison.

The ninth child which has blessed the union of her Majesty and Prince Albert is well, the Queen is convalescent, and no more bulletins will be issued. This news will be received with joy by all loyal Englishmen and Englishwomen. The particulars of her Majesty's confinement have appeared, and possess some interest. Chloroform was administered for about three hours before the birth, and the symptoms from the first and throughout were most satisfactory. Some amusement has been created by the fact that, in spite of the equerries, grooms in waiting, and plentiful resources as regards horses and carriages which people are

accustomed to associate with Royalty, a hack cab hired from the nearest stand conveyed Dr. Crook from Herford-street to the palace, and was afterwards despatched to Dr. Snow. By the way, Dr. Crook has obtained a speedy reward for his services, as a reward on other similar occasions, for Friday's *Gazette* notified his creation as a baronet. The doctors have recommended her Majesty to take a trip to Osborne as soon as she is strong enough to travel, and this it is expected she will be able to do at the end of the first week in May. The opening of Parliament by the Queen in person is now of course given up.

The Princess Mary, Duchess of Gloucester, whose 81st birthday is on the 26th inst., is seriously ill. The Duchess is the last surviving child of George III., and has long been confined to the house. The other members of the Royal Family are constant in their enquiries and visits, and the little prattlers from the Royal nursery at Buckingham Palace are often sent to see and amuse their aged grand-aunt.—Prince Albert is to open the Art Treasures Exhibition at Manchester on the 5th of May, and great preparations are being made to receive him there. Every body concurs in thinking that the exhibition will be something unique,—a collection of artistic treasures which have never before been gathered together, and may perhaps never be again. Their money value is estimated at between £4,000,000 and £5,000,000; but the fact is that most of them are priceless, and cannot be represented by money's worth. In order that the exhibition may pay, it is necessary that 2,500,000 shining visits should be paid to it. Both Her Majesty and the Prince pay a lively interest in the success of the undertaking. Prince Albert will stay two or three days in Manchester, during which time he will open the palace and examine its contents, inaugurate a statue of the Queen in Peel-park, Salford, visit the library and museum established in that park, together with an exhibition of paintings by local artists, and be present at an evening concert in the Free Trade Hall. An amusing story is told in connection with this last affair. The Prince expressed a desire to see the interior of the hall; it was resolved to have a concert there, in order that it should be seen to the best advantage; but then it was found that the hall had been let to Professor Anderson for a month. The Wizard of the North, finding out how urgent the matter was determined to drive a hard bargain, and eventually got £310 for the use of the hall for a rehearsal and concert, being at the rate of £170 a night, instead of the ordinary charge for hiring it, which is £20.

Much has been said of an approaching visit to England by the Grand Duke Constantine of Russia. This is now contradicted on what seems competent authority.—The relations between the two courts are not such as to warrant an interchange of courtesies. On leaving France his Imperial Highness will proceed to Belgium, and thence to Holland, returning to Russia via Hanover and Prussia. It seems probable, however, that another Russian celebrity, General Todleben, now in Paris, will visit London, and in that case the Royal Engineers have determined to entertain him to a grand banquet. The General has presented Louis Napoleon with a copy of his diary kept during the siege of Sebastopol, day by day. It is written in Russian and French. There are two distinct reports as to the statements of Todleben on a point of considerable interest. One report represents him as stating, in answer to the Emperor of the French, that Sebastopol might

have been taken without any difficulty had the Allied armies marched straight on the place after the Armistice. Another report is that the General, when in Germany, distinctly negatived this assumption, maintaining that the place could not be taken, each a logically proved by the ships' broadsides, as well as by the Staff, who, in an attack on the earth forts, undertaken without the assistance of siege batteries, and without a knowledge of the ground, must have been repulsed, and would have been one of the most unjustifiable acts of military folly ever committed.

THE BATTLE OF THE MOSKOW OR BOROJNO, SEPT. 1812.—At length the sun sank on this terrible scene which is without a parallel in the annals of humanity. The cannonade gradually subsided, and the opposed Forces thoroughly exhausted, permitted themselves to indulge in some repose. Our Generals withdrew their Divisions far enough to be out of reach of the enemy's fire, and posted at the foot of the heights which had fallen into our hand, being perfectly convinced that the Russians would not attempt to recapture them. Napoleon victorious, entered his tent in the midst of his Lieutenants, some of whom were full of discontent at what he had left undone, whilst the others declared that he had been wise to remain satisfied with the result which he had obtained, that the Russians were, in fact, destroyed, and the gates of Moscow were open to the French Army. But none of that unmanly ostentation of joy and admiration which had burst forth at Austerlitz, a Jena, and at Friedland, were heard that evening in the Emperor's tent. That night the French and Russian Armies slept side by side on the battle field, and as day-break awoke to a horrid scene, which sufficiently manifested the terrible sacrifice of human life which had taken place on the previous day. Ninety thousand men, a number of human beings equivalent to the population of a great city, covered the battle field dead or wounded. Four divisions to a score thousand horses stretched on the ground or wandering about, uttering the most frightful cries, from three to four hundred gun carriages, and an infinite amount of every species of ruin, completed a spectacle which smote the heart, especially in the neighbourhood of the ravines, whither a species of instinct had led the wounded to seek shelter from fresh wounds. And there they lay in heaps without distinction of nation. Happily—it, indeed the spirit of patriotism permits us to make use of an expression which is in this case almost inhuman—happily, our share in this mournful spectacle was less than that of the enemy, for whilst we had about nine or ten thousand killed, and about twenty or twenty-one thousand wounded, altogether thirty thousand men *phew hors de combat*, the loss of the Russians amounted, according to their own admission, to no less than sixty thousand. In this battle, we had taken five, where, in former battles, by skillful manoeuvres, we had taken prisoners. Amongst our losses, and the numbers would appear incredible were they not attested by authentic documents, were forty-seven Generals and thirty-seven Colonels, killed or wounded, and the Russians had lost about as many. A convincing proof of the energy displayed by the leaders on either side, and of the close quarters at which the troops had fought.—After this frightful duel our Army numbered, taking into account the Italian Division Pino, and the Division Delaborde of the young guard, which arrived after the battle, about one hundred thousand men; whilst the Russians, on their side, could not have placed in line as many as fifty thousand. But they were in their own country, and we were eight hundred leagues from ours! They were engaged in a war to which they had been forced, and we were engaged in a war into which we had been plunged by a spirit of ambition. And at every step we made in advance, when the goddess of Fortune left no room for reflection, we blamed in our inmost hearts the Chief whose dazzling fortunes we were following.—Thiers.