

NEWS BY THE ENGLISH MAIL.

THE PROXIMATE PRESIDENT.

The affairs of the United States have occupied public attention this week almost to the exclusion of every other topic. Of course the arrival of Mr. Crampton, after having been dismissed from his ambassadorial office, was an event in itself of deep and abiding interest as respects the present and the future of the two countries, and while the press was engaged discussing the eventualities, the news came, that the Cincinnati Convention had rejected all the Democratic candidates for the Presidency, including Mr. Franklin Pierce, the President, *ad interim*, in favour of Mr. James Buchanan, of Pennsylvania, who has recently returned to his native country, after filling the office of American Ambassador at the British Court. This result seems to have produced a great stir throughout the entire Republic, and we read accordingly of the joy which it has caused amongst the party to which Mr. Buchanan belongs,—of the bonfires, and cannon roaring, and illuminations which were indulged in to celebrate this proximate victory, and of the new vigour which this event will infuse into American politics.

The late gifted Mrs. Maury, of this town, who knew Mr. Buchanan well in all the social relations of life, thus describes him in her work, "The Statesmen of America," during the time that he was Secretary of State in President Polk's administration:—"Cautious and deliberating, thoroughly appreciating the extent of his power and the responsibility of his position, this noble-minded man twice tendered his resignation when his opinions conscientiously differed from those of the administration. He is unquestionably the first man in the existing government, and there is no doubt that had he quitted office, the relations between England and the United States would have worn a much more hostile aspect, for though Mr. Buchanan regarded the 54 deg. 40 min. parallel as the undisputed right of America, his humane and sagacious policy yielded this right rather than rush upon a war fraught with doubtful good and certain evil. For this moderation he will be applauded by every lover of his country, both in England and America. It may be gratifying to Mr. Buchanan to learn, that since the publication of the correspondence between the minister and himself, many persons on this side of the Atlantic have adopted his opinions, and consider that the Americans showed the greater claims." To those who desire to know something of the personnel of a man who seems destined to play the first part in the affairs of the Great Republic during one of the most critical stages through which it has ever passed, it may be interesting to be told, that Mr. Buchanan is unmarried, but has, nevertheless, "the most delicate and exalted appreciation of the female character; and free from those narrow prejudices which reduce a woman to a plaything, he does not disdain to honour her worth and to encourage her attempts at usefulness." We learn, moreover, from Mrs. Maury, that "the fair and delicate, though fresh complexion of Mr. Buchanan, his eye of light blue, and full-blooded system, attest unequivocally his Anglo-Saxon descent." With regard to his religious opinions, we are informed on the same authority, that "he is a constant attendant on public worship. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church, but he is too enlightened for bigotry, and to his discriminating and liberal policy it is owing, that a Roman Catholic prelate, of exalted reputation for wisdom and piety, was consulted on the aspect of affairs between the United States and Mexico." Mrs. Maury does not state the age of Mr. Buchanan, but according to the American journals he is now in his 65th year,—an age of experience and wisdom, when the physical powers are strong enough to second a clear and healthy intellect, as in the case of the gentleman who, in all probability, will succeed Mr. Pierce at the White House.

The fearful agitation which now rages throughout the Northern States of the Union, at the outrage of which Senator Sumner was the victim, bringing out as it does in full relief the dark picture of rancour and deadly strife between the South and the North, to say nothing of the civil war of

which Kansas is the scene, would induce any man but one of strong nerves to decline the giddy elevation which lies before Mr. Buchanan. But at the same time the Old World politicians are very apt to be misled by the tone of the American press respecting their own internal differences. We hear much about these differences being such as must speedily shake the Union to pieces—produce a separation between the North and the South, accompanied by all the horrors of civil war; without at all underrating the importance of the crisis through which the United States are now passing, we may be permitted to say, that the last thing of which an American dreams is the dislocation of his country. He may talk about it in bluster, but the realisation is the last idea which enters his mind. In fact, he associates the Republic with enormous territorial possessions, and the greatness of the Union, in its physical extent, is wedded in his belief with its democratic institutions. Come what may, there will be no separation. Some compromise will be effected, before matters proceed to that extremity.

One of the most agreeable features of the Cincinnati Convention is, that instead of selecting as candidates for the office of President obscure or unknown men, whose names have scarcely penetrated beyond their own locality, the prominent candidates in the present instance are amongst the foremost men of the Union. The jealousy which has hitherto prevailed amongst the friends of the leading candidates has too often led of late years to the nomination of obscurities, without the prestige or the ability to do justice to the office; but in the person of Mr. Buchanan, Washington's successor will not be unworthily represented. His ability has been proved, and his position is acknowledged.

THE IMPERIAL CHRISTENING BALL.

The ball given on the 16th inst. by the city of Paris to the Emperor and the Empress, in honour of the baptism of the Prince Imperial, was of the most rare magnificence. Their Majesties arrived at about half-past ten from the Tuileries, which they had reached about an hour before from St. Cloud. The imperial cortege consisted of eight close carriages, that conveying their Majesties being escorted by a party of the Cent Gardes in full uniform. A vast crowd filled the streets from the palace to the Hotel de Ville; and in the vicinity of this latter building the mass of human beings was so dense that all movement was nearly impossible. The reason of the afflux towards that spot was, that the splendid illumination of the municipal palace and the simulated erection opposite threw out a light as bright as day, and enabled the spectators to distinguish perfectly the occupants of the several carriages. The Emperor and Empress were received at the bottom of the grand staircase by Baron Hausmann, prefect of the Seine; and M. Delangle, president of the municipal commission, accompanied by the members of that body. The imperial party then ascended to the Cour Louis XIV., the Emperor giving his arm to the Grand Duchess of Baden, and the Empress leaning on Prince Oscar of Sweden. Her Majesty was dressed in white gauze, with pailletes d'argent over white satin, and ornamented with white camellias; a smaller diadem of brilliants than that worn on the day of the imperial baptism graced her Majesty's head, and a magnificent necklace of diamonds and emeralds sparkled on her neck. The Emperor wore the uniform of general officer, with white inexpressibles and silk stockings. The imperial party, on arriving at the first landing of the beautiful horse-shoe staircase paused for a few moments to admire the gushing fountain and the female figures pouring forth water from their urns. They turned round also to gaze on the admirable proportions and exquisite ornamentation of the hall, as it lay spread out before them with golden trellis-work intertwined with vine leaves, the marble pillars and massive of natural flowers all brought out so perfectly to view by the multitude of tulip-shaped lamps, which shed over every detail a light "soft as the moonbeams." Their majesties then proceeded at once to the principal ball-room, the Grand Galerie des

Fetes, and took their places on chairs of state exactly opposite the Salle de Carlottides. The ball then commenced, the Emperor dancing with the Baroness Hausmann and the Empress with the prefect, in order to mark fully their sense of the splendid entertainments given at the Hotel de Ville. His Majesty also, in the course of the evening, waltzed with the Princess Mathilde. It was remark that on this occasion the space in front of the Imperial seats was kept clear to a vast extent, in order to render the heat as little oppressive to the Empress as possible. Their Majesties afterwards went through the rooms, and on arriving at the prefect's apartment partook of refreshment. Both seemed in high spirits, and conversed in an animated manner with a number of the high personages present. There were three ball-rooms opened on this grand occasion—that already mentioned, a second in the Salle du Trone, and a third in the large saloon over the Prefect's apartments. Buffets were disposed in every convenient part of the building, and on each a profusion of *dragees* were placed to show that the fete was a baptismal one. The masses of natural flowers arranged throughout the building were in such profusion as to excite astonishment; and during the night the beautiful cascades of the Salle St. Jean were as much an object of admiration at the wondrous arrangements of the Cour Louis XIV. One o'clock struck before the imperial party thought of retiring; and when, on their way to the carriage entrance, they arrived at the uppermost landing of the staircase, they seemed again so struck with its manifold beauties that the Empress seated herself to enjoy the scene, and the other ladies following her example, an extempore *salon* was thus in a moment organised, the ladies being all seated, but the Emperor, Prince Oscar, and the other gentlemen standing. After about a quarter of an hour's delay, the Empress rose, and the Emperor led the Grand Duchess down the staircase, the Empress following with Prince Oscar. Before leaving, their Majesties expressed to Baron and Madame Hausmann their admiration of all the arrangements, and their high satisfaction at the splendour of the fete. Loud cheers arose from the guests as their Majesties proceeded to their carriage, and similar acclamations arose as they drove off. The front of the Hotel de Ville was lit up at the moment of departure with Bengal lights, and the effect on the illuminated buildings was charming. Meanwhile dancing continued in the three ball-rooms above with undiminished spirit, and many of the guests remained until nearly four in the morning.

Mr. Crampton arrived in Liverpool, on a Sunday, and immediately proceeded to London. The London Times, in speaking of his arrival says:

"Mr. Crampton was certainly not the man to send as minister to the United States. But the truth is, the United States is not a favorite Embassy, and it is not very easy always to get the man you want for it. You may offer it to the 'proper man,' but the proper man won't take it. He does not like to banish himself from European society, taste, and refinement, and to fix himself amongst a new and rather rude and uncouth people, who cannot abstain from cudgelling each other in their own Senate-house, and whose ways and habits are very different from ours. Diplomats are not adventurers; their character is rather the reverse of the adventurer's character. They are the children of civilisation and established order—the disciples of system, manners, and *etiquette*. They prefer Paris, Vienna, or Berlin, as an Embassy, on the same principle that they prefer the society of Europe to the society of the backwoods. The diplomatist is a delicate article; he does not like rough handling; he likes the smooth security of decorous ceremonial and oily words, intercepting all disturbance, and acting as an infallible breakwater against the violent surge of human passion and petulance. Moreover, diplomatists, like soldiers, sailors, clergymen lawyers and, we believe, most other professions, like promotion, and the United States' Embassy, as being a comparatively new creation, lies out of the regular line of embassy promotion."

A CITY SUBMERGED.—Capt. Jordan, of the brig Hobart from St. Domingo, which has arrived at New York, reports on the night of May 21st. in consequence of the torrents of rain, which had fallen almost without intermission for three days preceding, the stream called Orange, overflowed and submerged a part of the city and carried away from 20 to 35 houses with persons in them. Several were drowned, while others escaped in boats. Many of the inhabitants are without any asylum or clothes. It is impossible to estimate the damage not only in the city and vicinity, but likewise in the interior, all the banana trees were rooted up and washed into the river with animals, &c. The roads to the capital and elsewhere were almost impassable, as the flood appears to have been great throughout the Island. A great deal of coffee was washed away out of the stores in presence of the spectators, in different parts of the city.

A PROPHECY.—The Washington correspondent of the New York Journal of commerce says:

"The political aspect of the times has reminded me of an old prophecy which appeared in a Magazine towards the close of the last century, in relation to the 'good old thirteen,' then just united under a Constitution. Of course it was, as it indicates, from a source hostile to the 'spirit of 76.' When figures 1 and 3 are changed to 3 and 1 The wicked rebels will their force have run: For at that number, is doomed by fate, They'll split in twain and separate."

It was a prophetic vision, that could see in these dark days, that the Thirteen States would become Thirty-one. The seer who saw so much, may have seen more."

HASZARD'S GAZETTE.

Wednesday, July 9, 1856.

The weather has been for these some days past extremely fine; the rain that had lately fallen has given an impetus to vegetation which promised well for the Crops, one of which, the grass, looks remarkably well in the vicinity of Charlottetown. We sincerely trust, that the harvest will be such as to compensate the farmer for the change from war-prices to those of peace. If, however, he failed to lay up during the last two years, he has acted unwisely, and if he has been led into extra expenses in the hopes of a continuation of hostilities, he must only thank his own want of judgment. We had hoped, that this terrific scourge—this all-devouring plague, would have disappeared before the increasing knowledge of the day, that railroads, electricity, universal exhibitions or world's fairs would have taught the nations of Europe, that there is a rivalry in which they can safely indulge a contest, which will prove as exciting in the end, and not only exempt from the evils attendant upon war, but on the contrary, bringing many blessings in its train. And we cannot but think, that this will still be the result. If Napoleon III. be really sincere in his expressed determination to direct the energies of the nation over which he presides, to the development of its domestic, commercial and artistic resources, and if he be seconded by the people, a great change will necessarily take place in the surrounding nations; for France has exercised, and will continue to exercise a silently acknowledged sway over all Europe, not in fashion alone, where she is supreme, but in modes of thinking as well as in dressing, and the very circumstances of her language being all but universal, is a convincing proof that such is the case. Go where you will, if you speak the French language fluently, you can be at no loss for an interpreter; it serves the same purpose as did the Latin language a few centuries since. That a great change has taken place in the character of the people, is, we believe, evident, and Louis Napoleon is like a wise man, taking advantage of it, and going with the tide as the best means of conducting himself and his family into a quiet and secure haven. If, therefore, the French Nation is convinced, that there are other kinds of glory besides that arising from the use of arms, and the display of legions in the battle-field, the universality of her language will convey her sentiments into the remotest regions, even Siberia itself, in spite of spies and police, and the arts of peace may be more sedulously cultivated than those of war. There is a law of improvement, a craving for civil and religious liberty which is beginning to work in Europe, and which in due time will produce the happiest effects. Should the agitation display itself in the shape of hostilities, these cannot last long. The fall of Sebastopol has