

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 1856.

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Weekly Chronicle.

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VOLUME XXI.

"COLONIAL CONVERSATION."

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THE ST. JOHN CHRONICLE.

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Violin, Violoncello, Cello, Bassoon, and Flute.

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No paper discontinued until the subscriber has paid his account.

For the convenience of our subscribers, we have added a new column of news from the Colonies.

All letters, General Correspondence, etc., should

be sent postpaid, and addressed to our office.

Chichester, Quebec, July 13, 1856.

The Chronicle is now and will be soon

of change of Frederick Holloway's Establishment,

29 St. John's, London.

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Architects: Mr. Allard, an authorized agent

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and a civil engineer, has been engaged to

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DEBATE ON THE PEACE.

Though the establishment of peace is an event in which all civilized nations may congratulate themselves, it must still be acknowledged that it leaves, perhaps inevitably, several questions of the most important importance unanswered. Most persons, probably, will admit that, while parliament should have reviewed and criticized the proceedings of the allied governments at the Paris conference, very great light would have been thrown upon the matter. But is the public much wiser upon the subject? Is his any secret which has been thrown over many a dark corner of the darkest and most dangerous portion of the subject? Does any one know what is to be done with Italy, with the French of Belgium, with the Circassian mountaineers, or with the Asiatic forces of Turkey?

The country may look with satisfaction upon the removal of those batches which the carrying on of a great war necessarily imposed; it may rejoice that it is able once more to direct its energies to the welfare of its people, to the development of its resources, and to the improvement of our domestic institutions; but it is very far from regarding with anything like self-contemplation the position in which we find ourselves among the great powers of the world. But in considering the operations of war, we must not lose sight of the fact, that all combinations of governments, for the accomplishment of any given purpose, are much less easy to manage than the forces of a single state. No important step can be taken, when many heads are to be consulted, with that precision and energy which are necessary for the prosecution of a community carrying on war exclusively with its own resources, and regulated entirely by its own will. Before anything could be undertaken against Russia, Great Britain and France, it would be necessary to form a common front, to adjust their respective movements to concerted Turkish efforts to fonder their war, in which such and such steps would affect Austria—concerning which the views and feelings of the Piedmontese government.

It must be, however, remembered, that the conduct of our military operations, and the conduct of our foreign policy, cannot be separated; that each demand could not be satisfied without the sacrifice of a multitude of difficulties, and no little danger. Instead of one cause of action, there were five causes, and out of each proceeded, occasionally, some singular and somewhat extraordinary example. Thus, at one time, the present government, in its opposition to the French, regarded the presence of Mars, while France regarded it as of no importance at all. We thought it practicable to throw into Asia Minor a sufficient force to neutralize the efforts of General Mornayev, but the same force was destined to be annihilated before it could be sent from the Crimea. Again, in our negotiations with Turkey, we had to contend principally against the tendency of the Divan to irredentism, proconservatism, and, partially. Sometimes this policy or that general was preferred by Sultan's ministers, sometimes a contrary policy or a rival minister was preferred. Our troops were required to put on the steam—to prepare, to remonstrate, to threaten; but by the time his energies had triumphed, the moment for action had passed away.

Such events, as the case, with Austria, to a certain extent, we had rendered ourselves dependent on her co-operation; but, for a length of time it was impossible to discover whether she intended to join Russia, or keep her faith with the West. She was, indeed, averse to the war, but the timidity of her ruler, the embasements of her situation, everything in short, tended to distract all confidence in her. It was known, moreover, that a vast system of intrigue, organized and kept in motion by various governments, existed in East Asia, and that, in the very moment we stood on uncertain and treacherous ground, the relations could not be made to comprehend their own interest; the larger and more important nations had conflicting views. For a considerable time our patriotic party possessed less than its due share of the favor of the Government, with which we found it preferable to hang back, and bear our great military resources. It is in no way surprising, therefore, that England should have exerted less influence than it ought on the settlement of the European question; but, for this very reason, the conviction naturally exists, that a more forcible war would have been placed her at the head of the alliance, and made her policy the policy of Europe.

The Aspinwall Courier of May has further advices of the movement of the Costa Ricans, some of whom had reached San Juan on the 10th of April. They there shipped their wounded for Punta Arenas, the main body of the army pushed their retreat into Costa Rica, the troops suffering severely from Cholera on the route. The final evacuation of Costa Rica was not completed until the 29th of April. The Courier learns from its informants, who were present, that the news had not reached us before, but we are constrained to believe that there is a more forcible war would have been placed her at the head of the alliance, and made her policy the policy of Europe.

There is another point closely connected with the question which has caused so much trouble in both Houses of Parliament: we mean the failure of our aristocracy to carry on the war, and the utter disorganization of our military system consequent upon their inability. Lord Palmerston is a great statesman, as all parties, including the Whigs, will承认, but he is not a soldier, and when we have said this we have said all we can. We have no great diplomats—*s'il ne faut pas* except Lord Stratford de Boscawen; we have no great admirals. Our army in the Crimea was literally without a leader, and its defeats without any one to command them. Everything was done during the struggle to sustain it, by dint of mere courage, without system or foresight, or military or naval combination. Our soldiers threw themselves against the Russians, and, by the exercise of mere valour, destroyed them. Everything else was confusion, indecision, vacillation, and incapacity. The incident of a long war would no doubt, have remedied this state of things. The inseparables had been gradually thrown aside, and men of real worth would have arisen, who would have been capable of commanding the cavalry of England. But this process was slow, and we are constrained to believe that there is a more forcible war would have been placed her at the head of the alliance, and made her policy the policy of Europe.

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