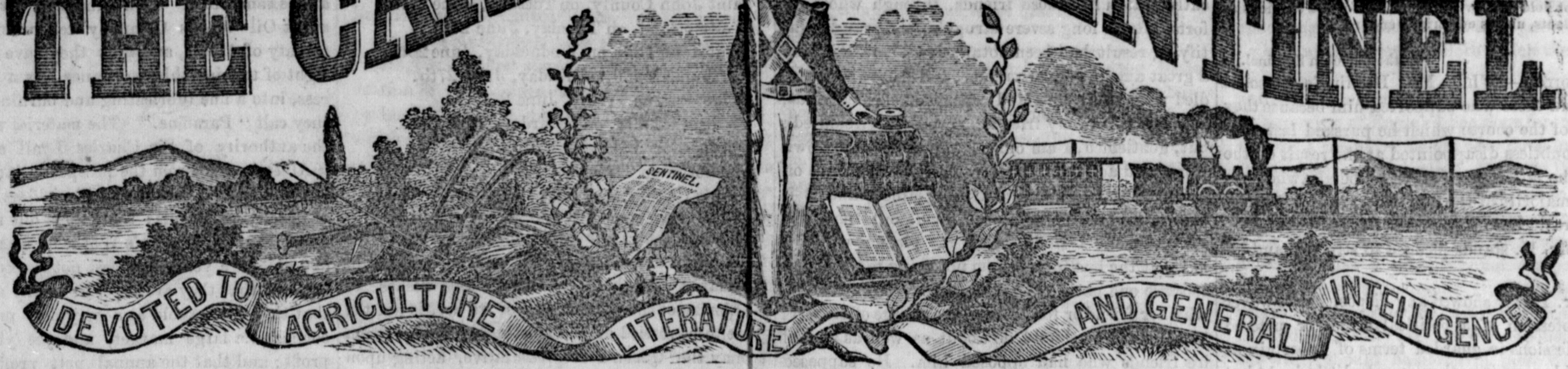


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"OUR QUEEN AND CONSTITUTION."

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General News.

The following article from the London Times of the 30th ult., on the aspect of affairs on the Continent of Europe, is interesting:

Spring returns, and with it all the arts of peace, no longer hindered or perverted by war. We are, indeed, summing up what we suffered and lost, but it is because we now know the worst. At the bottom of this satisfaction is a feeling founded in fact, and not to be shaken by all the sophistry of fiction, that our part in the war was inevitable and righteous, and though we may not have won the glory we desired, we have yet done our work, and put on a securer basis the liberties, not only of one decrepit State, but of all Europe, and indeed of the whole world. The story of these two years has been anxious and terrible; but it is the work of a century. For a century the work has accumulated, but we have wiped it off in two years; how it matters not; at least bravely and nobly, if not skillfully.

Unquestionably there are national evils in the continent of Europe which are gradually coming to a pass,—dangerous not merely to the nations themselves or their neighbours, but to all Europe. The condition of Greece and that of Italy are no more purely Grecian and Italian questions. Naples and the States of the church are volcanoes only dormant so long as a tremendous pressure is applied from without, that pressure itself being, to say the least, anomalous and hurtful to the true interest of all Europe. The internal evils that have called for that pressure cannot heal under it, but are rather aggravated than otherwise. The secular population of Rome will never love a sacerdotal rule better because it is forced on them by the bayonets of France, nor will the Legations get over their dislike to Cardinals because they are associated with Germans and Croats. No doubt even Austrians are better than anarchy, and sentinels than assassins; but whatever lies under the surface is neither removed nor cured by the mask of a foreign despotism. It only festers below.—There is not a State in Italy, under whatever of its complicated and varied conditions, which does not tremble on the eve of convulsion. That convulsion will hardly fail to draw in ourselves and the other leading States of Europe. We are, by a prescription which is not yet broken, by promises not yet forgotten, and by an example which we cannot hide if we would, the friends and patrons of Italian liberty. We have the glory and shame of that position. We cannot elude the responsibility.—In one way or another every other great State is also interested, more or less directly, in the condition of Italy; some by religion, others by political affinity; two by actual intervention, founded not only on religion, but on historical relations. This hold on the interest of all Europe is only a tradition of the times when Rome was the mistress of the world, and when her Senators scrutinized our position as we now do hers. The affinity is changed but not destroyed. Rome still claims as her own millions of our countrymen, and boasts more subjects in this metropolis than in her own. Within a very few years she has shaken the allegiance of a third part of these realms. Even the internal peace of this country is involved in a correct solution of the Italian problem, and a division of ecclesiastical and secular authority. A pretension which cannot maintain itself without foreign arms, is not a safe cement to enter into our own social state, even though our alliance with that foreign aid be stronger than our sympathies with the object of its support.

It was, then, a very natural corollary of the Treaty, that the Plenipotentiaries should come to some kind of understanding as to the treatment of

these secondary States, in which all Europe is interested, and which, unfortunately, invite or provoke interference. From Turkey the transition was almost necessary to Greece, now occupied by the Western Powers, and thence to Italy, also under the foreign occupation. The Plenipotentiaries, indeed, all acted their parts on this subject with dramatic fidelity. The Russian cordially agreed in hoping that the condition both of Greece and Italy would soon be so far improved as to dispense with foreign aid; otherwise, he had no instructions, and could not commit his master. The Austrian was glad to hear that the Western Powers wished to leave Greece alone as soon as possible, and as for the Legations and other encroachments in Italy, was content to leave the subject in the hands of France, and even of Sardinia. France saw a great difference between a small and distant intervention invested by the Sovereign himself and invasion by a powerful neighbour in the face of a protest. The Sardinian spoke with great courage and freedom, but without the burden of an extensive responsibility. In the face of a coldness which approached to irony, the British Plenipotentiary persevered in asking for some expression of opinion as to the condition of the Italian States, and on the whole subject of armed intervention. He had, indeed, to put his ideas into the most general form for the French Plenipotentiary could assent to nothing which threatened to restrict a state in the assertion of its own dignity, and the Austrian would not commit himself for *de facto* Governments and anticipated some unpleasantness from the discussion of these topics. Lord Clarendon had to shape his proposal so as to run the gauntlet of these objections, and the result, considering the difficulties, is no small success. "The Plenipotentiaries did not hesitate to express, in the name of their Governments, the wish that States between which any serious misunderstandings may arise should, before appealing to arms, have recourse, as far as circumstances might allow, to the good offices of a Friendly Power." Though this be only a principle of common humanity, such as must naturally occur to every ordinary statesman, yet its express recognition by a European Congress gives it new weight, and constitutes the ground of an appeal by every State that disregards it. It makes all Europe one court of appeal. It gives every weak State a claim to the friendly offices of all its stronger neighbors. Indeed, it is the nearest approach to that system of universal arbitration which some thought attainable in its rigorous term. The day may come when its value will be more acknowledged and its form more confined; and the sooner it comes the better for the happiness of Europe and the true interests of every State, however powerful and ambitious.

Lord Granville, according to the leading journal, and not the Duke of Cambridge, is to proceed to Moscow to attend, as the representative of the British nation, the coronation of the young Czar.—A near relative of this nobleman's, long the British ambassador at St. Petersburg, was an intimate friend of the late Czar, so that Lord Granville, who is young, clever, wealthy, and ambitious, is perhaps the best man who could be selected for the purpose. His seat, too, in the Cabinet, as President in Council, entails no duties, except those which are nominal, so that he can be spared for an indefinite time.

The Poles are quite joyous that the Czar has quitted St. Petersburg for their ancient capital of Warsaw, and they are full of hope that his presence will be followed by a general amnesty, and the reorganization of educational and other institutions for perpetuating the language and literature of their subjugated country. Preparations on a grand

scale were being made for his reception, and the Polish nobility, in the hope of standing well in his eyes, are exhausting their wealth and resources to give him an imposing welcome. We hope that the expectations of these brave spirits may not suffer disappointment. It is only fair to say that the present occupant of the Russian throne, with less genius than his father, has many virtues which that stern ruler treated as womanly, and he may possibly be induced, from the kindness of his nature, to do what his predecessor would never listen to—justice to the Poles.

The Allied troops are rapidly leaving the Crimea, but the British contingent will not proceed home in such numbers as might have been expected.—For instance, six regiments will proceed at once to Canada, nine will rendezvous at Malta, five will go to Gibraltar, and three to Corfu,—so that we shall not see all our heroes in the first blush of their victories. This intelligence will not be over pleasing to their numerous friends and acquaintances at home. General Codrington had left for the Turkish capital, and is probably now on his way to England.

The ungenial spring weather in France has already advanced the price of wheat nearly a third. In various parts of the country there had been very serious inundations, which had done more or less injury to the crops, and the dealers in cereals, impelled in all countries by a desire to make the most of circumstances, had turned the disaster to a profitable purpose. The injury appears to have been to the central and southern departments; but the probability is that it has been exaggerated.—The weather, at the last accounts, had improved, and there appears nothing to warrant the alarm which has been felt. During the present summer the quantity of breadstuffs sent to Europe from the western world will be such as to largely influence prices.

We are accustomed to speak of bankrupt Austria in terms of unmitigated contempt,—a sentiment which is always extended to an individual or a nation hopelessly involved in debt, and daily increasing the load of liabilities. But the financial position of Austria has considerably improved of late, thanks to Baron Bruck, the new minister of Finance. He has been propitiating the Bank by a grant of land, the property of the State, and the Bank, to show its gratitude, has been withdrawing from circulation the depreciated state paper. Add to this, that new enterprise has sprung up in Austria Proper, and that, with the cessation of the war, the army will be reduced so as to bring the expenditure within the income, and it will be seen that the improvement is very marked. The course of despotism is, that it relies on physical force instead of the affections of the people, and this system is very much like burning the candle at both ends.

The observations of Lord Palmerston in the debate concerning Italy have been reprinted in the official journal of Rome, and the debates in the Sardinian Chambers on the same subject have caused a stir throughout the Italian peninsula, and are said to have given deep offence to Austria—a feeling which we can readily understand under the circumstances. The Italian question seems likely at no distant day to set the Continent by the ears, unless the crowned heads of Western and Central Europe have sagacity enough to anticipate the coming storm by the adoption of remedies suited to the case.

The London Morning Post, (Ministerial) recommends the acceptance of the offer of Denmark for capitalizing the Sound Dues. At present the Baltic merchants pay about £70,000 a year as Sound Dues; by the proposed arrangement the country will have to pay down £1,200,000, or as the Mor-

ning Post has it, "instead of an indefinitely increasing impost we should have to pay a fixed charge of £35,000 a year, thereabouts, in the shape of interest for the capital that would be required to free us from the tax in all time coming." The Ministerial journal adds: "The nation which next to England, pays the largest proportion of the Sound Dues, is Russia, and we understand that the Cabinet of St. Petersburg has already signified its assent to the scheme proposed by Denmark, of compounding by a single payment for all future claims in this shape. Sweden and Norway are willing to come to an agreement upon similar terms; but until the final decision of England is taken, we cannot expect any definite settlement to be made. The only nation that has positively refused to entertain the equitable proposal of Denmark is America."

THE PRINCESS ROYAL.—The Prince of Prussia has reached England during the week, and is now staying with the Royal family at Osborne. This gentleman is to be the husband of "England's daughter;" and it is fortunate for him that the struggle in which we have been engaged with Russia is over; for the part which his uncle, the King of Prussia, played throughout the contest, made the very name of the country which he bears abhorred in England. These foreign unions have never been relished with us, but they have been endured from what is regarded a State necessity.—We hope the day is not distant when the system will be abolished; for assuredly any advantage likely to result from these Germanic marriages are certain, as in times past, to be a gain on the wrong side.

THE WEATHER AND VINES IN FRANCE.—The effects of the late frosts in Burgundy are now better known than they were at first. On the high grounds the loss is estimated at about one-twentieth of the crop, though lower down the loss is greater. The vines which have suffered most are those which have been lately planted. The *Gazette de Lyon* states that all the low grounds of the Jura have suffered considerably, and that the vineyards of Azures, Montigny, Mesnay, and Arbois, have lost one third of their crop. From Marseilles, and the south in general, no complaint has been made; and as at Bordeaux, Agen, and Toulouse, a similar silence is observed, it may be inferred that no mischief worth speaking of has been done in these localities. All the accounts agree in stating that the temperature has become considerably lower during the past week; and that in Switzerland and Savoy snow is again to be seen rather low on the sides of the mountains.

THE EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH.—With great and sincere regret we state that the disease which afflicts the Empress of the French is severe and serious. It is a terrible malady in the limbs, and we lament to say that this illness is of a nature that may demand years to undermine it.—*London Morning Herald*.

A COSSACK INVASION.—The Russians are rushing to Paris in crowds. It is said that already thirty thousand passports have been issued at St. Petersburg for France alone.

The total value of the exports from Liverpool during the past quarter amounted to £12,477,214, being nearly one-half the value of the United Kingdom, which amounted to £25,140,000.

The latest advices from Victoria continue to tell of a great production of gold, and large arrivals in Melbourne. Some rich quartz reefs had been discovered at the M'Ivor field. In New South Wales fresh discoveries of gold have occurred at Ophir Creek; and there is a prevalent belief that the Ophir country is one large rich gold-field.