

Miscellaneous.

EUROPEAN POLITICS.—The *Independent* recently published a very able paper on this subject, drawn up by a European publicist who seems to have a deep insight of the movements of the leading cabinets of Europe. Austria is upon the whole the friend of Russia, but still more desirous to weaken the contending parties by mental strife, to strengthen her own feeble position, and finally to accustom in the Principalities." Louis Napoleon fully understands Austria, but for the purpose of trying to bind her, or at least leave her without excuse before the world, he apparently makes concessions to her, and listens to her proposals with patience. He has another and deeper object in view—that of trying to remove from the mind of Germany the supposed Napoleon and French love of conquest and glory. Hence, also, he seems to be more for peace than England herself. One portion of this article we believe, notwithstanding all that has been said and insinuated to the contrary, to be correct. He regards England as the principal in the quarrel with Russia, giving France the initiative for motives of policy but well able to make peace or carry on war without her. After an explanatory introduction the writer thus proceeds:—"True it has been said that England is under the guidance of that 'most organically faithless person,' Louis Napoleon. But this is an error, shared only by those who are organically blind and Russian. Nothing would be easier for England than the conclusion of a peace with Russia, by which both would share in the Oriental booty. Russia herself, who made like offers to England before the war, would now accept them from her with pleasure. And England could do this without fear of being prevented by Louis Napoleon and Francis Joseph, whom at any time she can overthrow by a revolution. But she will not do so, for she is engaged in this war not from diplomatic ambition and national vanity, but from motives of principal and historical necessity. She can accordingly bear to seem second in the war, while she is not so in reality. In truth, it is but apparently, and in order to please the French vanity, that Louis Napoleon has the pre-eminence given him in the public proceedings, while in the secret and more important decisions his voice has no prescribing power. All those will believe this without hesitation who are aware that in this contest England represents the internal force of events, whilst to France is committed only their external carrying out—the romantic performance of history. Louis Napoleon himself is conscious of this unchangeable fact, and he acts faithfully and Napoleonically, only in fancying that he can get rid of it by means of cunning.—The position in the Alliance which he maintains towards England, and which he is endeavouring with the aid of Sardinia to assume towards Austria is just the same which Austria, upon the basis of the treaty of December 2, 1834, adopted towards Russia, and with the help of Germany, is striving to put forward towards the Western Powers. Both follow the same plan, favouring only their selfish interests, intent only upon cunning and treachery, hoping thus to attain their end. Both may deceive themselves. In fact, just as certainly as Francis Joseph deludes himself in believing that he can outwit Louis Napoleon, does the latter err in fancying that he is able to outwit 'perfidious Albion.'—The negotiations for peace have proved this at evidence when Palmerston declared not to enter into them, but 'pour appearance, and reconnaissance,' reminding Louis Napoleon of the secondary position France has to accept.

Turning to England and Russia—the really contending Powers, and the only States in Europe where interest and principles of action are identical, so that we can seldom err in regard to their policy—we find their position in no wise altered by the late attempts at peace. The present interest and task of both countries is still war, and Austria has recognized this by intentionally not proposing those points which will be the very first to take into consideration at the close of the war. These points which, as we have seen, are the question of the war indemnification and of the Danubian Principalities may be also settled between England, Austria and Russia alone, if France should behave treacherously. Palmerston's replacing the musical dilettant Westmoreland at Vienna, by Hamilton Seymour, former ambassador to St. Petersburg, and the more thoroughly initiated in his plans, can be brought in connection with such an eventuality. The activity of the latter at the Vienna Court will certainly not be without influence upon the movements of Austria. However this may be, we may take it for granted that England will not conclude a peace without the payment of the war expenses, or an equivalent, since John Bull's purse demands

satisfaction as loudly as the French love of glory. Now, Russia could easily promise this payment, agreeing thus to spend her money, instead of equipping new armies; but on account of this she must reclaim the Principalities and the *status quo ante bellum*—two things unfeasible. Besides, the uncivilized Russian notions of honour would not even admit of such concessions. To correct these there is but one method, namely, a war of extermination and it will undoubtedly be undertaken, unless the young Czar Alexander II, who is said to lack his father's arrogance should think better of the subject. The internal condition of Russia is well calculated to do so, as all our news agree in representing it to be oppressed and half desperate. Trade and manufactures destroyed, agriculture robbed of its hands, banks insolvent, little money and no credit, the administration disordered in consequence of the officials' corruption, scanty supplies for the army, increasing prices, lukewarm patriotism, insurrections of the serf—this is the aspect now presented by the internal condition of Russia, particularly in the South. When the war shall be transferred in the Spring to Courland and Finland it will not be long before the North, already poorer, is overtaken by the same fate. Then the White Czar will be seen instead of in St. Petersburg, ruling in Moscow, the central point of pure Russianism, becoming thus enabled to discriminate between the mania for conquest of a dynasty and the peaceful existence of a nation; between the honour of one family and the ruin of a whole nation. Then we may also perceive England not to be contented more by the mere destruction of Cronstadt, that cannot be disputed with her, since the one decisive argument is hers—the force of actual power. England the mistress of the European waters and money markets, may with this consciousness quietly contemplate the manoeuvres of continental diplomatists.

OUR RELATIONS WITH ENGLAND.—Washington, Feb. 26.—The intense excitement caused by the telegraphic dispatches of the News by the steamers Atlantic and Asia, on Sunday last, is allayed by the assurance that there is nothing in the Government despatches, since received, calculated to diminish the hope that our difficulties with England may be peacefully arranged, although our relations with that country are not materially changed since the advice by the Canada.

Mr. Buchanan probably left England on the 20th for a tour on the continent.

Mr. Dallas will soon receive his written instructions, his intercourse with the State Department heretofore being of a verbal character.

The Government despatches show that many of the speculations and assertions of the British press and statesmen are untrue. Nor is there ground for the rumors of an angry altercation having taken place between Lord Clarendon and Mr. Buchanan.

It may be confidently asserted that no formal proposition has been made by Great Britain to arbitrate the pending difference. Under present circumstances it is believed our Government would not accept that mode of adjustment.

The response of the Executive to the Senate's resolution calling for the documents relative to the British enlistments will probably be sent in tomorrow, and will show that gross inaccuracies have been made by the press and public men relative to the true state of that question.

New York, Feb. 26.—The *Herald* has the following despatch from Washington, under date of Feb. 25:

The Cabinet had quite a protracted session today. The subject before them was, I understand, our relations with England. It is understood this evening that Mr. Crampton will be dismissed. In that case intercourse between England and the United States will be suspended, as England will, as soon as she learns that her Minister has been dismissed, also refuse to receive our Minister. Thus there will be no diplomatic intercourse for some time at least, between the countries, or until there is an amicable settlement of our difficulties.

New York, Feb. 23.—The "Post" of this evening has the following despatch:

"Washington, Feb. 27.—Mr. Marcy's final despatch to Mr. Buchanan of Dec. 28th, is contained in the documents sent to the Senate this morning. It demands explicitly of the British Government the recall of Mr. Crampton, the British minister resident at Washington. Mr. Marcy writes:—'His connection with that affair (the enlistment) has rendered him an unacceptable representative of her Britannic Majesty near this Government, and you are directed by the President to ask Her Majesty's Government to recall him.' Mr. Marcy also asks the recall of Consuls Barclay at New York, Rowecroft at Cincinnati, and Mathew at Philadelphia. In reference to the former he says: 'The impro-

per conduct of Mr Barclay, in the case of the bark Maury, has justly given offence to the commercial community with which he resides, and with which he has official connection.'

THE ENLISTMENT CORRESPONDENCE.—In the United States Senate at Washington, on Thursday, Feb. 28, a message was received from the President communicating the official documents on the British Enlistment cases; 6000 extra copies were ordered to be printed.

The documents comprise about five hundred foolscap pages. The first letter on the subject from Mr. Marcy to Mr. Buchanan bears date June 9, 1855, and says the President will be much pleased to learn that the British government had not directed the enlistments, but on the contrary had condemned the conduct of her officers thus engaged; called them to account, and was taking immediate measures to put a stop to the proceedings.

Mr. Buchanan communicated these views of the President to Lord Clarendon on the 3rd of July.—A letter from Mr. Marcy to Mr. Buchanan, of July 15, says that something more than a disavowal is looked for from the British Government; that the latter must not only retrace her steps, but that the President expects Great Britain to take effective measures to discharge from its military service such individuals as were enlisted within the United States, or who left this country under contracts made here to enter as soldiers of the British army.

A letter from Mr. Buchanan to Mr. Marcy of July 16, reports Lord Clarendon as saying that any infringement of the laws of the United States was entirely contrary to the positive instructions of the British Government, and that as that government had determined that all proceedings for further enlistments should terminate, Lord Clarendon thought our government had no just causes of complaint, and that enlistments were to cease. Lord Clarendon assured Mr. Buchanan that instructions to that effect had already been sent to this country before he (Clarendon) had received Mr. Buchanan's note.

A letter from Lord Clarendon to Mr. Buchanan dated Sept. 27, complains of the United States violating their neutrality, saying that arms and military stores in large quantities were sent from there to Russia, and that plots had been openly avowed, and comprised entered into, to cause an insurrection in her majesty's dominions.

Mr. Marcy sends Mr. Buchanan, Oct. 1, a report of the trial of Hertz, saying: "The disclosures made thereby leave no doubt of the facts of the case."

Mr. Buchanan to Mr. Marcy, Oct. 3d, says:—"The enlistment case presents a serious aspect," and remarks that the plots referred to by Lord Clarendon, mean the movements of the Irish Emigration Society of Boston, the members of which must be astonished at the importance their scheme has elicited from the British Government and the press.

Mr. Buchanan, in a note, to which no date is given, assures Mr. Marcy that he did not entertain the most remote idea that the enlistment question had not been satisfactorily adjusted, until he learned the complicity of Mr. Crampton in the affair.

Mr. Marcy to Mr. Buchanan, Oct. 13, says the President demands redress.

Lord Clarendon to Mr. Crampton, Nov. 16, says:—"Her Majesty did not doubt the frank expression of the regret for any violation of the United States law which, contrary to instructions, might have taken place, and her determination to remove all causes for further complaint, by putting an end to all proceedings for enlistment, ought satisfactorily and honorably to terminate the difference (between the two governments. The information possessed by her Majesty is imperfect, and direct charges should be made. No offence to the United States was offered or contemplated. The relations of friendship should be maintained uninterrupted.

Mr. Marcy, Dec. 28, sends Mr. Buchanan a very long letter, recapitulating the occurrences respecting enlistment, saying of Mr. Crampton "his connection with this affair has rendered him an unacceptable representative of Her Majesty's Government near this government. You are directed by the President to ask Her Britannic Majesty to recall him." The instructions were similar with regard to Messrs. Rowecroft, Barclay and Mathews, Consuls at Cincinnati, New York and Philadelphia.

Mr. Buchanan, to Mr. Marcy, Feb. 1, 1856 says he had an interview with Lord Clarendon, and informed his lordship that he had come for the purpose of reading to him Mr. Marcy's dispatches of Dec. 28, in reply to the dispatches of his lordship to Mr. Crampton of the 16th of November, as he desired to correct an error, or rather an omission,

in his (Clarendon's) report of a remark made by Mr. Buchanan.

Mr. Buchanan then proceeded to explain to Lord Clarendon his ignorance of Mr. Crampton's complicity in the recruiting business until the month of September last, and impressed upon him the importance of bearing that fact in mind, in connection with all he had done and said in the premises.

Accounts from the Crimea to the 21st ult. represent Lieut. Denham Massy, 19th Regiment, the young hero of the Redan, as sitting up, and likely to be able soon to move about on crutches. This young officer is said to be about resigning his commission in the British service, and to enter that of the Emperor of the French as a private in a regiment of Zouaves, a rank which we venture to prophesy will not be long held by the young hero, if he gets an opportunity of active service. His relative, Capt. Godfrey Massy, of the same regiment, is also about to quit the service.—*Limerick Chronicle*.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN PORTLAND.—Between 9 and 10 o'clock on Thursday night, a fire broke out in a house owned and occupied by Mr. Andrew Ramsay, on Camden Street, in the adjoining Parish of Portland, which spread with great rapidity. The Portland Engines and several of the City Engines were early at the scene of disaster, but the scarcity of water prevented them from rendering that assistance which they otherwise would have done.—Unfortunately the tide was low at the time, which added to the difficulty and danger, as under more favourable circumstances the fire might have been confined within more narrow limits. Finally one of the City Engines, No. 2, was conveyed over in the ferry steamer, and supplied the Portland Engine with water from the harbour.

By this conflagration we learn that nineteen houses have been destroyed, and that over eighty families are rendered houseless. The value of the buildings burned is estimated at something over £3,500, about £1,800 of which was covered by insurance. Among the houses burned was the ancient residence known as the Old Simonds House, which was the oldest in the Province, having been erected in the year 1764, and was consequently 92 years old.

At one time it was feared that the immense piles of deals belonging to Messrs. Robert Rankin & Co., and stored on their wharves, would be lost, but by great exertions they (as well as the ship *Eleanor*) were saved, although in imminent danger.—*New Brunswick*.

PRINTING JUST 400 YEARS AGO.—The first book ever printed with a date appeared in 1455, just four centuries ago this very year. Nine years afterwards the Koran began to be publicly read at Constantinople, and at the same time the Bible was sent forth on the wings of the press.

We cut the above from one of the daily papers, and believe its statements correct. The Library of the American Bible Society contains a Bible printed at Venice in 1476—twenty-one years only from the first issue of the press. This book is in good preservation, with clear type, and illumined letters at the beginning of the chapters. It is in the Latin tongue, with many abbreviated words. How great the labour and expense in publishing that book, compared with what is now required in bringing out, by steam press and in coppered letter, even the largest pulpit Bible.—*Bible Society Record*.

A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION.—Two preachers were recently in the same pulpit in Georgia. While one was preaching, he happened to say, When Abraham built the ark. The one behind him strove to correct his blunder by saying out loud, 'Abraham wasn't there!' But the speaker pushed on, heedless of the interruption, and only took occasion shortly to repeat, still more decidedly, 'I say when Abraham built the ark.' And I say,' cried out the other 'Abraham wasn't there!' The preacher was too hard to be beaten down in this way, and addressing the people, exclaimed, with great indignation, 'I say Abraham was thereabouts!'

"Humble as I am," said a bullying spouter to a mass meeting of the unterrified, "I still remember that I am a fraction of this magnificent republic." "You are indeed," said a bystander, and a very vulgar one at that."

"Sally Mander safe!" said Mrs Partington, as her eyes fell upon an advertisement. "Do you tell me, Isaac, who this Sally Mander is, and what she's been doing that they've got her safe?" "I don't know what she's been doing," said Ike, but I guess she's sister to Jerry." Jerry who, Isaac? "Why, Jerry Mander," said Ike, as he sat watching a fly drag itself along the ceiling, with a very ingenuously run through its body.