

# The Politician.

## THE BRITISH PRESS.

From Willmer & Smith's European Times, Dec. 31  
THE LATE CABINET DIFFICULTIES.

The return of Lord Palmerston to the Home office has puzzled the quibblers as much as the cause of his leaving it perplexed them. We can call to mind no event of recent days which has caused so much curiosity without satisfying it. The fact of his resignation is undoubted; his resumption of office unquestionable; but as to the reasons which produced one or the other, a wide latitude has been given for speculation. The two morning journals which are in the confidence of the Cabinet attributed this secession to the new Reform Bill—to his inability to gulp down its provisions. But, while we read this, our thoughts instinctively revert to the noble Viscount's antecedents—to the part which he has been acting during the last twenty years in the march of progress; and the slightest glimpse is sufficient to satisfy us that Lord Palmerston, considering the company which he now keeps in Downing-street, cannot be the last in the race. We look, again, at the character which the noble member for Tiverton received at the hands of the literary artists who paint the portraits of ministers and ex-ministers,—at the execrable colours in which they depicted him when he bowed himself out of the Government; and at the too flattering features with which he is limned when he consents to go back again—Here the discrepancy, the untruthfulness, is equally striking. Ten days cannot, surely, make black white. If he was "too bad" for the Coalition then, he is certainly not too good for it now. All is dark and enigmatical.

If we look curiously at the reasons which are most likely to influence a man of Lord Palmerston's temperament and position, we shall find a much readier solution of the probable causes which led to his retirement from and his return to the present Cabinet, springing out of the present disorganised state of Europe, than from any innate hostility which he can have to a reform of the Reform Bill. The Foreign office, every tyro knows, is the field on which Lord Palmerston would most love to act. The stage is large enough for the wildest ambition—the most herculean energy. When he was there, he ruled rather than obeyed. Any interference with his department, any check upon his movements, he would not tolerate; he resented all control by his colleagues as a personal insult. When Lord John Russell, as the head of the Cabinet, suggested caution, he was treated with contumely. When the Queen insisted that his despatches should *vises* by herself, he promised compliance and broke his promise. Hence his ejection from the Russell administration, which he speedily tripped by the heels. When it was announced, semi-officially, this week, that Lord Palmerston had returned to the Cabinet, the funds on every bourse in Europe fell. Why? Simply, because it was generally believed that he went out on the Eastern question, and his return was hailed as the harbinger of a war policy. Look at the altered tone too, this week, of the morning papers which wear the ministerial livery; they breathe a much more heated atmosphere. Above all, bear in mind the serious changes which it was alleged were about to take place at the Horse Guards, owing to Prince Albert's interference—changes which it is now admitted are not to be carried out, at least for the present. What does all this indicate? The triumph of Lord Palmerston. He bided his time; it arrived; and he presteed to his colleagues and to the Crown the alternative of dispensing with his services or carrying out his views, and the last, as the least evil, has been preferred.

Lord Palmerston, in our judgement, is just the man to wait for such a crisis, in order to make himself master of the situation. He delights in *coup d'état*, and he naturally likes men who effect similar surprises. In all probability, his sympathy for the present Emperor of the French mainly arose from the skill with which he strangled the Republic, and the insidious way in which he did it. Lord Palmerston would feel no small pleasure, depend upon it, in thwarting Prince Albert's small designs at the Horse Guards, and in teaching him that a popular British statesman has quite as much power over foreign affairs, even while engaged at the Home Department, as the German Consort of the British Sovereign, who steps out of his way to intrigue in political movements.

We are pained, we must confess, to see the Prince's name so unceremoniously mixed up of late with alleged transactions in which he ought not to figure. His moral influence over the Crown is legitimate enough, without any active interference in the stormy arena of politics. In the latter he can certainly gain no laurels, but may readily forfeit those which he has honourably earned on neutral ground. The charges recently brought against him have received no authorised contradiction, and they have been preferred with sufficient circumstantiality to warrant a denial, if a denial could be given. The jealousy with which the people of this country have always viewed the interference of foreign princes in their domestic differences is a fact of which his Royal Highness cannot be historically ignorant; and the feeling is as potent at the present time as ever it was. A persistence in so suicidal a course will not only expose him to personal odium, but, what is worse, it will inevitably attach to the Sovereign. No possible plan could be devised for so effectually shaking the loyalty of the people to the throne as the Marplot part which Prince Albert is now openly accused of acting. Hitherto his public conduct has been characterised by a wise discretion. In inaugurating the Great Exhibition, in attending public dinners to further the progress of science and art, he has displayed unquestionable talent as well as good taste. His speeches on these occasions have exhibited a proper appreciation of his station and large mental grasp. It is almost inconceivable how such a man could lay himself open to the imputations which have been recently levelled at his fair fame; and one of them is of a nature sufficiently grave to require an explanation—namely, that while the resignation of Lord Palmerston was only made known in London last Friday se'night, the inhabitants of the Prussian capital were made acquainted with the fact the previous day.

If these things be true, they must be corrected: at least they must not be repeated. Public opinion in this country is a power which no one, however exalted in station, can safely defy. The British Parliament has aspirants enough for popularity, who will not be slow to take advantage of such doings, and make political capital out of them—provided always that the facts are not exaggerated. No Cabinet could screen the Prince if he was erred in the way described, and at the present moment a

good deal of the anxiety respecting Lord Palmerston's resignation turns upon the very point whether it was caused, even in the remotest degree, by any act or deed on the part of the Royal Consort.

From the same.

### FOREIGN NEWS.

The massacre at Sinope seems likely to produce more effect upon the councils of England and France than all the remonstrances of the press during many months past. Whether it is that Lord Palmerston has hit the lucky moment, when all doubts respecting the expediency of a vigorous course of action had vanished, or whether the manifest absurdity of carrying on pretended negotiations whilst the Russians hold the Principalities, became manifest even to Lord Aberdeen himself, it is now agreed at all hands that brute force must be used to bring the Czar to his senses. The greatest excitement prevailed at Constantinople when the news of the fatal disaster at Sinope reached the capital. Redschid Pacha immediately transmitted to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe and General Baraguay d'Hilliers a formal application "for the effective solicitude of the two allied governments." This request was grounded upon the impossibility of defending so vast an extent of coast as that bordering on the Black Sea, and that the English and French fleets were sent to the Bosphorus with the sincere intention of protecting the shores of the Ottoman empire. It appears certain that on the fifth December, when the note of Redschid Pacha was dated, there would have been time for the combined fleets to put to sea, with a great chance of intercepting the Russian squadron before it reached Sebastopol, after the battle of Sinope. Lord Stratford de Redcliffe was prepared to give Admiral Dundas the requisite orders, but General Baraguay d'Hilliers paused, and refused to take such a decided step before consulting the Emperor at Paris. The golden opportunity was thus lost, and we have now to begin again. We have no doubt, however, that positive orders have been now sent to the combined fleets to enter the Black Sea; but we still doubt whether their orders will be to act offensively, or whether they will not be confined to "keeping the police of the Black Sea," so as to prevent further "massacres." This trifling, however, cannot last long, and Sebastopol must sooner or later be bombarded or peace concluded. I is probably to kindle English indignation that letters from Constantinople of the 15th December allude to an attempt of the Russians to set fire to the allied fleets at the entrance of the Bosphorus. Such a daring attack is scarcely to be wondered at after our supineness throughout these wretched negotiations. The total loss of the Turks at Sinope was 3000 men. The English and French vessels brought down two hundred and nineteen wounded, and four hundred men and officers who had escaped unhurt on shore. Lord Dudley Stuart has gone to Constantinople, with a view to persuade the Sultan to accept the services of the Polish refugees. The other objects ascribed to his Lordship are too preposterous to relate. No doubt if the Poles were certain of being employed in the Turkish service, extensive desertions would take place from the Russian regiments. A rumour has gained ground within these few days that Admiral Sir Charles Napier was to be despatched with a fleet to the Baltic, but as all the coasts in that sea are now ice bound, some delay must necessarily take place before such a proceeding is adopted. In the meantime, Sweden is in a high state of excitement, it being reported that the Czar has commanded the Swedes to take the side of the Russians. At the other extremity of the Russian dominions, the Shah of Persia, thanks to Russian intrigues, has declared war against Turkey, and has informed the English Consuls that it is his intention to suspend diplomatic relations with Great Britain. The stupid story about Khiva is revived, but the details are more ridiculously absurd than before. The parties who repeat this news, four months old, evidently have no knowledge of what they write. We are told "that intelligence has been received from Constantinople that the last note of the Vienna Conference has been accepted by the Porte." What this means precisely we cannot fathom. If it is meant that the Porte has agreed to send a Plenipotentiary to some Congress, without previously stipulating for the evacuation of the Principalities, we say unhesitatingly, that we do not believe it.

If the Four Powers guarantee the evacuation of the Principalities, it is of course a different matter but as the case stands, we really do not see that a single step has been advanced towards an adjustment of the dispute, so long as the pretensions of Russia are not withdrawn, and so long as Wallachia and Moldavia are held in Russian bondage. One cause of the inaction of the Allied fleets may be that the Black Sea has been visited by tempestuous hurricanes. No fewer than 80 vessels, mostly laden with corn, have been lost, and the price of grain has advanced considerably. The hostile operations on the Danube are of course confined to partial accidental encounters, which can have but little or no effect upon the issue of the war. Military men who have been permitted to visit the works thrown up at Kistefat, speak in the highest terms of their admirable scientific construction. They are even compared to the lines of Torres Vedras, and are represented as sufficient to resist a force of 50,000 men. If, therefore, Russia attempt a *coup d'main* at this port during the winter, they will not only have the chance of being repulsed, but they may run the risk of having their line broken further to the eastward. The cold weather has set in with great severity, and fighting seems quite out of the question just at present. Austria is still paltering in a doubtful sense with regard to the last terms agreed upon at Vienna. Prussia seems more disposed to act in concert with the Western Powers. The feeling at Constantinople in the Divan is, that the treaties of Kainardji and Adrianople being now at an end by reason of the war the Porte will never consent to their renewal, nor permit Russia to have a handle to use for the purpose of exercising any Protectorate whatever over Turkish subjects.

If this be real sentiment in the Divan, it is plainly a *fait accompli* to send a plenipotentiary to any conference, wherever such conference may be held, as Russia, under existing circumstances, need indeed under any circumstances but total and complete defeat, would consent to waive the position she acquired by virtue of those treaties. When the Western Powers step forward and declare that the future Protectorate of the Christians in Turkey must be an affair of all the Powers of Europe, such an arrangement will be as obnoxious to the Czar as great a diminution of his power, and indifference, as the total abrogation of the treaties we have referred to. Under these circumstances, we cannot see even the dawn of a prospect of peace. We have held this language since May last, and fear that a general war is inevitable.

The *Sidon*, 22, paddle, Capt. George Goldsmith, sailed from Spithead, to join the British fleet at the entrance of the Black Sea.

# Editor's Department.

## MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 1854.

TERMS.—New subscribers Twelve Shillings and Six Pence, per annum, in all cases in advance. Old subscribers 12s. 6d. in advance, or 17s. 6d. at the end of the year. We prefer the advance price, and as it effects a large saving, we hope soon to see all our subscribers avail themselves of it.

### HIGHLAND SOCIETY.

#### ANNUAL MEETING.

WITHERALL'S HOTEL, NEWCASTLE,  
13th January, 1854.

The business of the past year being concluded the Meeting proceeded to the election of Office Bearer, for the ensuing year, when the following gentlemen were unanimously chosen:

President.—Richard Hutchison, Esq.  
Vice Presidents.—Roderick McLeod, John McDougall, William A. Black, Esqrs.  
Treasurer.—Thomas C. Allan, Esq.  
Chaplain.—Rev. W. Henderson.  
Secretary.—Mr. Alex. Morrison.

Directors.—Alexander McLaggan, Francis Ferguson, Alexander Fraser, Jr., Thomas Mathison, Peter Morrison, John Mackie, G. H. Russell, D. Johnston, James Young, Dr. J. B. Johnston, James Russell, Jr., John Ferguson, John Chalmers, Donald McKay, J. C. E. Carmichael, Alexander Loudoun, Peter Mitchell, Dr. Chalmers, James Caie, W. J. Fraser, George Kerr, William Loch, Miles McMillan, Samuel Thomson.

ALEX. MORRISON, Secretary.

#### REPORT

of the Highland Society, of New Brunswick,  
at Miramichi, for 1853.

THE Annual Meeting of our Society having again taken place, and the duty of reporting on the proceedings of the bye-gone year devolved upon us: after taking a retrospective view of its attainments we cannot but congratulate the Society on the healthy and prosperous condition in which it now stands, both as regards its finances and the number, influence, and talent of its Members. This Society, which a few years back was fast losing ground in the minds of many of its members, (owing principally no doubt, to the want of energy which then pervaded the Mercantile, as well as the social part of our Community, as well as to the fact, that a number of its early supporters had either paid the debt of nature, grown careless, or taken up their abode in some other land, where their countenance and support has not been afforded us) is now, we are happy to state assuming a much more encouraging aspect, as on our present list of Eighty Stationary Members, there is scarcely a delinquent, and many of those who have forgotten us for years back, have now paid up their arrears. Besides those marks of respect from former friends, we have largely shared in the addition of new ones, having during the past year elected fourteen new members. Most of those are young men, all of that stamp and standing that are likely to maintain a desire for the furtherance and promotion of our Society's welfare; and we doubt not had we more frequent convincing proofs of our laudable and patriotic intentions to record, there are yet many in our own community whose talents and knowledge would be of great service to our Society that would willingly join us.

From the report of the expending Committee, we learn that only ten pounds of the sum voted last year for expenditure has been applied for the desired end for which it was intended, five pounds of this sum was appropriated to the relief of a suffering fellow countryman, and the remaining five to the education of poor Children, in the Parish of Northesk, and Alnwick. This so far has been well applied, and your Committee having full confidence and implicit faith in the desire of the Chaplain for furthering the charitable intentions of the Society, doubt not had worthy objects presented themselves to his discerning eye, when he could have appropriated the whole sum, he would at once have alleviated their wants: and if he has been afforded the assistance of one and all of us which he should have had, we cannot but feel proud that Scotmen and their descendants in this County (so far as we are aware), are in such a prosperous condition that they require not our aid. Nevertheless, we would recommend that the members forming the present year's Committee, will use their endeavours, each in his own vicinity, to ascertain and report to the Committee to be appointed for that purpose, in what way they consider our available funds may constitutionally be applied to assist the needy, and reflect credit upon the Donor.

The Funds of the Society last year amounted to £269 2s. 1d. The receipts of the present year are £21 18s. 6d., exclusive of the interest on the sum funded, £14, which together with the bountiful gift of the late Hon Alexander Rankin received in May last, augments our capital to £356 2s. 10d. currency.

At the last Annual Meeting, it was resolved that the patronage of this Society be given to a Ball, and a Committee was then appointed to superintend the arrangement of it. But no such pleasing event in our Society's History having since taken place, that Committee report that no Ball could be obtained by them in Chatham, wherein to celebrate it; as this obstacle is not now in the way, we trust this season will not be permitted to pass without witnessing such a demonstration as will fully compete with any of the same nature ever held here.

Having during the past year lost our worthy and deserving Piper, who has been attached to the Society since its formation, we have to regret that his decease has not only deprived us of a true-hearted Scot, but also of an able performer on the favorite musical instrument of our forefathers, the tones of which should else now be ringing in our ears to remind us of

Old Scotia's Land Land of the Free,  
To whose departed worth belong,  
Those charms of lone sublimity,  
Which swell the Poet's glowing Song!

Respectfully submitted,  
ALEX. MORRISON, Secretary

### UNITED STATES.

A good deal of interest has been excited by the melancholy disaster which befel the American steamer San Francisco. We copy below the latest news received respecting her fate, as well as of the passengers that were fortunately rescued from her.

"New York, January 14th.—At 11 P. M., the tug *Titan* arrived up at the city from the *Lucy Thompson*, which remains below and brings up nearly all the passengers rescued from the *San Francisco*, by the bark *Kilby*. The *Lucy Thompson* spoke the *Kilby*, at 9 o'clock yesterday morning, 60 miles S. E. of Sandy Hook, and took off all the passengers rescued by that vessel, from the *San Francisco*, with the exception of Mr Falcon, the Brazilian Consul, Madame Beebe, M. and Mrs Abris, and ten soldiers, who decided to remain by the *Kilby*.

"The passengers after escaping the horrors of a fatal shipwreck, suffered much in the *Kilby* for want of provisions and water. Had it not been for a part of the cargo, consisting of corn, and abundant falls of rain, they must have perished. They speak in the highest terms of Captain Lord, of the *Kilby*, which vessel has doubtless been blown out to sea again.

"The *Kilby*, when fallen in with, was crippled, leaky, and short of provisions. The *Lucy Thompson*, supplied her with provisions and sails, and thirteen soldiers volunteered to remain on board and assist her into port, but it is feared she was driven into the Gulf Stream. A steamer has been despatched after her. A passenger from the *Kilby* states that after parting from the steamer on the night of the 23d, the *Kilby* cruised round two days in search of her, and then being so badly crippled herself was obliged to desist. Her cargo was broken in the hold to make room for the passengers.

"The total of the S. F. passengers on board the *K* was 108. Those brought here by the *Lucy Thompson*, arrived here about ten o'clock, in a most pitiable condition, being wet, cold, and almost naked. The larger part of them were taken immediately to the Astor House, where everything possible for their comfort was done by the proprietors and their boarders. The wife of Major Wyse remained on board the *Kilby*, being too exhausted to ven in the boats. A meeting of merchants was held in the Exchange yesterday, at which resolutions were passed, expressive of the sense of the meeting, at the generous and heroic conduct of the Captains of ships *Three Bells*, *Antartio*, and *Kilby*, and providing that a piece of plate be presented to each, as a testimonial of their magnanimous conduct.

"It was also resolved that a petition be presented to Congress, requesting that the losses incurred by the commanders and owners of these vessels be indemnified by government."

Boston, Jan. 17.—The bark *Kilby* in tow of steamer *New York City*, arrived this m'ning, bringing 22 survivors of the steamer *San Francisco*. Five passengers and seventeen United States soldiers were under the care of Sergeant McIntire.

The passengers were conveyed to the Tremont House, and the soldiers after being amply provided with food and clothing were taken in a steamer to Fort Independence.

### EUROPEAN NEWS.

THE steamer *Niagara*, after a protracted and very boisterous passage, arrived at Halifax at 9 o'clock on Monday morning. Her mail was received her on Wednesday afternoon, our Courier being detained at the Bend until the express from Halifax came up.

The papers thus received are to the 7th of the month, and we have made copious extracts from them, to which we refer our readers for the news, as well as to our telegraph despatches.

We are sorry to perceive that there appears but little prospect that negotiations will effect anything towards reconciling the hostile nations now in the field; and fears are entertained that ere the spring opens there will be a general war in Europe.

From Willmer and Smith's European Times we take the following extract respecting the trade of England.

"The resumption of business after the Christmas holidays had scarcely actively commenced, when the commerce of the country was brought suddenly to a temporary standstill by the severe snow storm, which spread over the country during the past week—causing the delaying of trains, and the consequent non-delivery of advices. For nearly two days all railway communication with the Metropolis was interrupted."