

The Politician.

THE BRITISH PRESS.

From the Illustrated London News.
FRANCE AND ENGLAND.

Who in the councils of the Emperor of the French is the traitor to the interests and cause of England, and to the Anglo-French alliance? Where shall we look for the man who endeavours to sow disunion between the Imperial master and the Government of this country? Who is the person, with Russian sympathies, and of Slavonic origin and name—who, prior and subsequent to the signature of the hasty and ill-considered Treaty of Paris, has invariably used his influence and his abilities on behalf of Russian interests? Who is the Minister of France who endeavoured to destroy the liberty of the press in Belgium, and to a certain extent succeeded? Who is the man who hates free discussion in England, and tried through the columns of the *Moniteur*, to bully the press which he was unable either to bribe or coerce? There is but one man in the councils of the Emperor Napoleon to whom this description will apply, and that is M. Walewski, the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The attack upon this country, consequent upon the change of Ministry in Turkey, which, under the avowed auspices of the French Foreign-office, has been permitted to appear in the *Constitutionnel*, is only one proof amongst a hundred, of the animus of M. Walewski, and of the feelings which he permits himself to entertain and to express with regard to an alliance which is the safety of France and the hope of Europe. Such an article in an English newspaper would signify nothing but the personal views of the writer; but, in a French newspaper, where no opinion can be expressed upon a political question without the sanction of the Government, an article in a public journal assumes the significance of a diplomatic document. All who wish the alliance of France and England to be cordial and permanent, must disapprove of the conduct of a Minister who, either wilfully or ignorantly, weakens or imperils that alliance by his policy either towards England or towards Russia. It was no secret, even before the *Constitutionnel*, under the orders of M. Walewski, undertook to enlighten the world upon the subject, that there has been a misunderstanding between the British and French Governments on the question of the nonfilment by Russia of the stipulation of the Treaty of Paris. The bad faith of Russia is as patent now as her ruthless ambition was when her armies crossed the Pruth, and when her cowardly fleet destroyed the Turkish squadron at Sinope. Russia has quibbled and prevaricated, and attempted, in defiance of the Treaty of Paris, to retain possession of Bolgard and of the Island of Serpents—stations that would give her the mastery of the Danube and of the Black Sea. France, under the influence of M. Walewski, who, it appears, is to receive from the Czar, as a reward of his zealous services, the confiscated Polish estates of his family, has insisted that these matters were of small moment.—England, on the contrary, has insisted that they were of the highest importance; and that, rather than concede them to Russia, and so stultify itself in the eyes of the world, and prove that it had expended in vain its hard-earned treasure and the precious blood of one of the noblest armies that ever fought in the cause of justice and independence, it would again buckle on its armour and fight out the good fight which he had left unfinished. We cannot but believe that the Emperor of the French is, or will be, of the same opinion. It is the opinion, not only of the Government and people of England, but of Turkey—the party most interested—and of Austria, which has a vital interest in the freedom of the Danube. It is the opinion, we venture to assert, of all the States and kingdoms of civilised Europe which are not under the influence of Russia. If the people of England could imagine for a moment that Napoleon III. was not thoroughly convinced of the policy and necessity of holding Russia to the strictest fulfilment of the engagements she contracted by the late treaty, the Anglo-French alliance would be most indubitably weakened. If that alliance is to continue, as we most fervently hope it will, there must be no truckling to Russia in this matter.—France must support, by her words and by her deeds, the same wise and courageous policy which led to the war, and which carried it to the glories of the Alma, and of Inkerman, to the final capture of Sebastopol. The British and French nations have learned to love each other from perils undergone and glory acquired in common. They are united by the strongest links of mutual self-interest, by social intercourse, by contiguity, and by a daily-increasing commerce. Yet it would be idle to deny that, within the last few weeks, the English people have begun to look with more or less distrust upon the policy of the

French Emperor and of the persons who form his court and cabinet. To restore the confidence of the English people there needs the dismissal of M. Walewski. As long as he continues to direct the Foreign Affairs of France, there is reason to fear that Russia will be emboldened to break faith, England and France estranged, and Europe kept on the verge of war and revolution.

From Lloyd's London Newspaper.

OUR COMMON SENSE.

"The French government." Where is it, but under the hat of Louis Napoleon? In the lines of the man's face are written the present laws of France. His nod is an edict. Be it so, if France will so endure it. It is not for us to quarrel with the collar that a nation fits upon its own neck; nevertheless, we cannot forego the faculty of our eyes, and refuse to see the iron badge of bondage; no less a badge because thinly lacquered. But Louis Napoleon appeals to our national common sense to make us unobservant, silent.—Unhappily for the case, this common sense will have the doings of the world we live in for common food. This common sense (the dull, English faculty) will read the shifting chronicles of the French money-market, and cannot but see in them so many spiders' webs woven by the craft and avarice of gamster politicians, with hearts not a jot higher than their pockets; of gamsters, who in the name of statesmanship play with loaded dice, and to the beggary and destruction of the many, make the infamous fortune of the one. Our common sense sees the robbery, and—as there is yet no gag in England—cannot but cry "Stop thief!"

Our common sense will make us listen to the eloquent voice of Louis Blanc when, in the name of outraged humanity, he appeals to the human heart for sympathy, for justice to the captive and oppressed. Justice, unhappily, it is not in our power to award; but shall we, can we withhold our indignation against the oppressor? Our common sense will not counsel us to put our tongue in our cheek, and bow in acquiescence, when our heart beats with the basest wrath, the wrath that is born of hatred of prosperous wrong. Our common sense does not tell us to believe—a creed too readily adopted—that God has forsaken the unfortunate.

Unhappy was the choice of words, when Louis Napoleon appealed to our English common sense. Now and then it may fail us; on an imperial visit for instance, when a fluttering courtesy rechristened the Waterloo-gallery of Windsor Castle, and would, doubtless, for the time have repealed Waterloo bridge had the servility been possible; the common sense in high places was assuredly wanting on that occasion; even, it may be, as it failed the general people that crowded and huzzaed when the ex special constable of St. James's returned through his former beat the Emperor of France. Nevertheless, this same common sense is, in the main, an abiding power with us: is a national quality that in its very stubbornness makes us a distinctive people. Our common sense may, in comparison with the flexible French, the fervid Italian, the beggar proud Spaniard the smart Yankee, make us appear a hard, cold, dogged, dullard race; nevertheless, it is the same common sense that has made us conquer the greatest and the most rational amount of human freedom; that, in defiance of the battle-field, the dungeon, and the scaffold, has won for us the ennobling privilege that makes man only "a little lower than the angel;" the right of free utterance of free thought. We have disdained to be gagged, even though the gag was a sceptre. Our common sense sharpened the axe for the tyrant's head that sought to dumbfound us. Our common sense, glowing into eloquence all but sacred, spoke in the glorious English of John Milton for the birthrights of British men. Our common sense in its strength, its endurance, has upraised for us the English Constitution, under whose sanctifying influence the meanest, poorest Englishman is at once protected and enabled. Our common sense has girdled the seas; our common sense fervid in the heart and brain of a Nelson; watchful, sagacious in a Wellington, has proved and confounded Napoleon the First, with all France obedient at his back. And our common sense, responding to the insolent appeal of Napoleon the third—an appeal that coolly asks us to be tongue-tied—our common sense flings back the insolence in the imperial face with a common scorn, defiance, and contempt.

Notice to Schoolmasters.

Wanted immediately, a SCHOOLMASTER for DOUGLASTOWN, A First Class Teacher would be preferred, apply to,

CHARLES MARSHALL,
ROBERT T. MILLER, School
ALEX. JESSIMAN, } Committee.
Douglstown, November 22nd, 1856

MUSIC & ENVELOPES.

A selection of CHEAP MUSIC for the Piano Forte ENVELOPES white and coloured, plain and Embossed, of various sizes, in great variety, on sale at the Stationery Store adjoining the Gleaner Office, Chatham, 25th October, 1856.

News of the Week.

From English Papers to the 9th November.
EUROPE.

SCOTLAND.—A Whale Attacking a Ship—Greenock, October 31. The ship Cuban, of this port, Captain Galloway, which arrived here from Demerara on Wednesday, met with a most extraordinary adventure on her homeward voyage. About twenty minutes past nine, p. m., of the 16th instant (nautical time,) when in lat. 43. 49. N., long. 23. 50 W., the ship, which was running before the wind at the rate of nine and a half knots an hour, received such a severe shock that she heeled over several strokes, and her way was completely stopped, while the men who were sleeping on the starboard berths of the topgallant fore-castle were thrown out upon their chests. Shortly after the shock an immense whale rose at a short distance from the ship's quarter, and after lying motionless for a short time, as if stunned by the blow, swam toward the vessel, at if with the intention of repeating the attack. It was a moment of intense anxiety on board; but, fortunately, when close to the stern, the monster wheeled round in the opposite direction and dived, throwing with his tail, as he did so, a quantity of blood and water came on board. It was a moonlight night, and the bulk of the huge animal could be seen distinctly towering to a considerable height above the surface. When he dived his tail appeared to those on board to be from thirty to forty feet out of the water. The pumps were sounded, but the ship was found to be making no water. From the force of the blow, and the fact that the second mate thought he heard a whale blowing a short time before the shock occurred, it is supposed that the fish made a regular attack upon the ship, and was not come in contact with while asleep. An estimate of its immense size and power may be formed from the fact of its bringing to a stand still a deeply-laden ship of 500 tons, sailing at the rate of nearly ten knots an hour.

FRANCE.—The *Moniteur* of Thursday, contains a letter from the Emperor to Marshal Vaillant, Minister of War, eulogising him as "the able and indefatigable Minister who laboured day and night" to supply the army of France during the late war. The official journal also contains the Marshall's report on the state of the Army, its *matériel* and the means of transport at successive stages of the war.—The report shows that France sent to the East 309,263, and received back 227,135 men. The difference—namely, 12,904—is accounted for in a technical manner. The number of horses sent out was 41,974. About 9,000 were brought back. The losses are not returned, but it is said that most of the animals remaining at the peace were made over to the Turks. The effective strength of the French Army of the East on the day when the peace was signed is stated to have been 146,240.

RUSSIA.—Russian Fortifications in Finland.—A letter from Vienna of the 1st, in the *Gazette de Cologne*, says: The intention of Russia to construct new fortifications in Finland is confirmed, and we are assured that amongst the questions which are occasioning just now an animated interchange of despatches between the courts of London and St. Petersburg, this intention occupies a prominent place. The cabinet of St. James's considers, it is said, the project as contrary, if not to the text, at least to the spirit of the treaty of Paris, which forbids the re-establishment of the fortifications of Aland, and this opinion has been made known to the French government. The latter, however, views the question in a different light, one more favorable to Russia, and Count Morny has replied to a communication from Prince Gortschakoff on the subject, that France will not oppose the construction of new fortresses in the Gulf of Bothnia.

The Force at Nicolaieff.—It appears by a letter from Nicolaieff that the greatest activity prevails in the building yards in that port, where not only vessels of war but merchant vessels are being constructed. The ships of war which are to be stationed in the Black Sea and in the Sea of Azoff will be strong.—They will be composed of three divisions, that is to say, of twelve vessels, frigates, corvettes, and others, all screw steamers, constructed on the most approved system. The garrison of Nicolaieff now consists of 10,000 men.

AUSTRIA.—Relations with England.—A letter from Vienna says:—As has been already stated, our relations with the Cabinet of St. James's are every day becoming more and more friendly. It may be said that our political situation in this respect has been completely modified in the space of from twenty to thirty days. In official circles, pains are taken to show all the advantages which Austria obtained at different epochs from the old alliance with England, the only great Power of Europe from which we have nothing to fear, but from which, on the contrary, we have much to hope.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.—Some disturbances have broken out in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem, Abdel Kader has returned to Damascus. Some disturbances have taken place in that city, in which a French medical man was knocked down by some of the fanatic people. The consul has obtained the arrest of several of the guilty parties.

It is stated that the English squadron in the Black Sea has been reinforced. The Commission relative to the navigation of the Danube is about to assemble at Vienna, at which the Porte will be represented.

PRUSSIA.—Berlin.—Symptoms are evident in official quarters that the relations between France and Prussia are much closer than formerly. It is almost openly stated that in Europe there are two policies—one, that of France, Russia, and Prussia; the other, that of England and Austria. A new treaty of commerce with Prussia is said to have been settled; and both Prussia and Russia are ready to commence negotiations; in order that all may be settled before their railway communication becomes more intimate.

ITALY.—Piedmont.—The tenth subscription list for 10,000 muskets, and which are to be given to the first Italian province that rises in insurrection, has been published in Genoa. The city of Messina has sent about 400 francs, and Constantinople about 230. The whole sum subscribed does not yet amount to 4,000 francs. The subscription for the hundred guns of Alexandria has reached 70,000 francs and upwards.

Lombardy.—Austria is fortifying at Piacenza. This town and Ferrara are the two fortified places she holds on the south bank of the Po; from these localities she can enter the Duchies and the Legations whenever she thinks proper to advance upon Southern Italy. At Piacenza the Austrian Government has purchased the lands and buildings at the two points where they intend building the forts; and, in fact, the works have been commenced already.

Rome.—Forli, Faenza, and Imola were occupied by the troops of the Pope on the 28th and 29th of October. The Austrians now only occupy Bologna and Ancona. This is important news; and if it means that Austria is about to abandon the positions she has so long unjustly held in the Pontifical States and elsewhere, we may hope that the Pope has really decided on reforming his governing system in such a way as to render the presence of foreign troops unnecessary.

PERSIA.—An ultimatum from England has been forwarded from Constantinople to the Shah of Persia. The Indian squadron was to sail in the beginning of October. The capture of Bushire was considered inevitable. Notwithstanding the efforts of England, the Persian army was actively pressing the siege of Herat. It was fortifying the environs, of which it had obtained possession after having defeated the Affghans, 6,000 of whom had surrendered.

INDIA.—Destruction of Indian Towns.—The town of Leia, in the Punjab, has been almost washed off the face of the earth by a most extraordinary deluge. We are indebted to the *Lahore Chronicle* for the following official particulars:—

In consequence of the unprecedented fall of rain and the great floods of the Indus, the town of Leia has been nearly destroyed and much loss of life and property has occurred in the low lands between Thal and main channels of the Indus, from the latter of which the town lies at a distance of about nine miles. Unusual drought prevailed until the 15th of last month; the fall of rain was unexpected, and no precautions on the part of the people could have prevented the misfortune which has occurred. On the 20th of last month the water outside the bund of the Hazarah nullah rose suddenly so high, that it was deemed necessary to close the lock-gate of the nullah; and it was hoped that if the bund stood, no harm would be done.—But at about midnight the waters overtopped the bund above the lockgate, then made a breach through it, and submerged the whole place. The families of all residing within the civil station have resorted to the Thal, and are encamped on its brink like shipwrecked people. The houses of all the clerks of the several offices have been washed away.—The commissioners' kucherry, having a high plinth, has as yet stood, and appears to be secure. But the deputy commissioners' kucherry is incapable of repair. The treasure could not be removed, and is deposited within the iron gratings, with a guard in a boat placed alongside of it.

In the town, in consequence of the heavy rain alone, such as no inhabitant of it ever remembers to have ever before known, the kuchah houses have tumbled down, whole streets are in ruins, and the pukka frontage for bazaars has been destroyed. From several parts of the districts accounts of loss and damage to life and property have reached the local authorities; and it is feared that the calamity will prove a great one, after inquiries shall have been made on the subsidence of the floods. Many lives have been lost in the low lands near the river; whole villages have been submerged; cattle have been drowned, and the inhabitants compelled to take shelter on machans, or trees, from which many dropped exhausted into the water, or perished in endeavouring to reach higher ground. The local authorities have made, and are making, every effort in their power to extricate the people from danger.—Floods of unusual magnitude occurred in 1851 and 1853, but none equal to the present one for many years past.

A similar catastrophe has befallen the cantonment of Derah Ghazee Khan.

INDIA AND CHINA.—A letter from Calcutta dated September 22, says:—This side of India has this year been heavily afflicted. The work left undone by the cholera has been completed by the inundation, and from the Punjab and every part of the Gangetic valley we have nothing but tales of suffering and loss. The pestilence broke out in Agra in May last, and in a few months slew 16,000 people. Then it took a spring, missing Umballah, but striking Ferozepore, and finally concentrating its