

## News of the Week.

From English Papers to the 20th July.

## EUROPE.

House of Lords, July 15.

## AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

Lord Lyndhurst begged, pursuant to notice, to call their lordships' attention to the affairs of Italy. When Lord Clarendon published the protocol of the 8th of April it was hoped and expected that great advantages would be conferred on Italy, but those expectations and hopes had been completely disappointed. He had often questioned the policy of that publication, unless the governments of France and England intended to follow it up; because it was impossible that men should continue to live under foreign military tyranny without being eager to break their chains; and to raise expectations and hopes in the minds of persons in that situation which were afterwards to be disappointed, must, in all probability, end in a most calamitous state of things. Of all military tyrannies, that of Austria was the most galling and most odious: it was not in Italy alone they had experience of the military occupation of Austria; they had experience of it also in the Danubian principalities, and he thought he was justified in saying that the people of that country regretted that Russian invasion was exchanged for Austrian protection. By the treaty of Vienna, the limits of the Austrian power in Italy were strictly confined, but they had passed the boundaries allotted to them—spread themselves along the western coast as far as Ancona, occupied the duchy of Parma as great force, and commanded the whole of the south of Italy. Seven years had elapsed since they passed the frontier, and they not only had retained possession of the country, but placed it in a state of siege and martial law. When, he asked, was this state of things to cease?—when was a termination to be put to it? On a former occasion he was informed by Lord Clarendon that the Austrian government had expressed their readiness to withdraw their troops when the disturbances had ceased; but the government of the Austrians themselves produced dissatisfaction and disturbance, and might possibly cause insurrection, and according to that argument, it was difficult to say the Austrian occupation could ever have a termination. He preferred to adopt the plan suggested by Lord Clarendon and the Sardinian government, for the removal of the Austrian troops. That plan was the establishment of a government that would satisfy the people, and the creation of a small national force for the purpose of keeping the peace. All that was plausible and specious; and if it could be carried into effect, it would be satisfactory; but it could not be done without the consent of Austria, and would she voluntarily consent to do it? The person must be credulous, indeed, who thought that Austria would give up possession of the country occupied by her troops. It was said that the inconvenience experienced by Austria herself from occupation was such, that she would willingly withdraw her troops; but the inconvenience must be very great, indeed that would induce her to do so. It was thought that she might yield to the moral effect produced by the combined pressure of France, and England, but though he (Lord Lyndhurst) was sometimes sanguine on the subject, symptoms had recently appeared of such a nature and character as led him to entertain very serious doubts on the subject; and, although he did not absolutely despair of the state of Italy, he felt very great anxiety and distrust respecting it. He next called their lordships' attention to the condition of Naples, and referred to Mr. Gladstone's book respecting the state of the country. He also adverted to the political trials that are now taking place there, and condemned the mode in which the trials have been conducted. What made the matter worse was this—that the system adopted was founded upon no law—not even the law of an arbitrary government—and everything that had been done was done in open violation of the law.—It was said to be a general rule, that one state should not interfere with the internal affairs of another, but there were exceptions to that rule which made it a duty to interfere. His noble friend (Lord Clarendon), at the congress of Paris, had applied the exceptional rule to the state of Italy; but what course had he since pursued? Three months had elapsed since the treaty of peace, and when he (Lord Lyndhurst) asked his noble friend a few weeks ago whether an answer had been received to the note addressed to the King of Naples by the English and French Governments, he replied in the negative. It was then said by him that the answer was delayed because the King of Naples had undertaken a journey of a few miles from the metropolis; but such an excuse for delaying to send an answer on such a grave subject was a mockery and an insult. He was told that within the last two or three days an answer had been received from Naples. He observed an indication of assent on the part of his noble friend, and he therefore begged to ask him if the answer were satisfactory. He (Lord Lyndhurst) was told it was exactly the reverse, and that the King of Naples, while he denied the right of this country to interfere in the affairs of his kingdom, positively refused to give any explanation. He begged to ask his noble friend if that were the substance of the answer? but he observed that his noble friend now made no sign (laughter). He now asked him to lay the papers upon the table of the house, in order that they might have an opportunity during the discussion that evening of judging

whether the information he had received was correct. If the government of Naples had set their power to interfere at defiance, what was the construction they were to put upon its conduct? It would appear that they considered that there was some lukewarmness or backwardness on the part of France, in co-operating with them to attain the object they had in view. He next called attention to the course adopted by the Austrians in the legations, which were now occupied by them during seven years, and where they had established a state of siege and martial law. Persons on bare suspicion had been thrown into loathsome dungeons, and men of education and station were imprisoned with the vilest and most atrocious malefactors.—Occasionally a prisoner was brought to trial before a military tribunal of foreigners, and since the Austrians had taken possession of the legations, 200 persons were shot, and 2,000 persons were sent into exile. He next referred to the condition of Parma, which was also occupied by an immense Austrian military force. The government of Parma had insisted that the trial of the parties accused should take place before the ordinary tribunals; but the Austrians said that they must be tried before a court-martial of foreigners, and a number of them were transferred to the dungeons of Mantua. It was the duty of the British government to interfere for the purpose of putting an end to such a state of things, but although the contest had been going on for a very long period, it was only within the last few days the British ambassador had arrived at Parma. He next referred to the condition of Sardinia, and expressed his hope that nothing should occur to impair the constitutional system of government established in that country. The present government of Sardinia was regarded by Austria with dislike, if not with hatred. Austria would consent to any step which might put a stop to it. She had concentrated in Italy immense armies, for the purpose of intimidating Sardinia. He trusted that the British government would give the strongest moral, and, in case of necessity, material support to Sardinia against Austria. The best friends of Italy would recommend the people of that country to abandon all insurrectionary movements, and the plan of United Italy; for that plan was impracticable, and revolutionary movements would be crushed by the disciplined bands of Austria and the calamity would be increased tenfold.—The best informed men in Italy were most moderate in their views with regard to the improvement of that country. They merely wished to have a fair share in the administration of the affairs of Italy, and he trusted that England would earnestly co-operate with them in their endeavours to gratify that laudable desire. His object in bringing the Italian question under consideration that evening was to urge the government, the parliament, and the people of England to sympathise with and aid the efforts of the people of Italy to ameliorate the condition of that country.

The Earl of Clarendon regretted that it was out of his power to submit to the house the correspondence which had taken place between her Majesty's government and the Italian governments with reference to the reforms which her Majesty's government thought should be introduced in Italy. If that correspondence were produced, the result would be that the Italian governments would cease to have any friendly intercourse with them, as at present, with regard to the state of Italy. They could not improve Italy by force. The Italians were too sagacious to take part in revolutionary movements which they knew very well would only render their condition infinitely worse.—It would be cruel to excite hopes in the breasts of Italians if we were not prepared to realise those hopes. If we should hold out hopes to them of support, it would undoubtedly be our bounden duty to furnish it to them. As a general rule, interference in the internal affairs of other states was not justifiable and could only be resorted to on the clearest ground, and as a last resource. He had been assured by his noble friend Count Cavour, who had shown that the Italians were not unfit for constitutional government, that the Austrian government itself was not more opposed to revolutionary movements than was the government of Sardinia. Her Majesty's government had stated, in a friendly tone, to the government of the King of Naples, that it was their opinion that his throne would be endangered unless the administration of affairs in his kingdom were improved. The answer of the Neapolitan government could not be submitted to their Lordships until some further correspondence had taken place between the governments of this country and of France on the subject, but he would venture to say this—that that answer was less satisfactory than could have been desired. With regard to the question of reform, in the pontifical states, and the withdrawal of foreign armies from those states, he hoped that those reforms which were promised to the Roman people on the accession of the present pope, would be granted to them, and he rejoiced to say that both France and Austria were preparing to withdraw their soldiers from the papal states. It was obvious, that after such a long occupation of those states by foreign armies, those armies could not be suddenly withdrawn without considerable danger to the peace of the country. He might, however, remark, that the Austrian soldiers had retired from the Tuscan territories without any danger to the peace of Tuscany. In conclusion the noble earl promised, on the part of her Majesty's government, to further to the uttermost in a legitimate way, the views and wishes of the Italian people.

Their lordships shortly afterwards adjourned.

*The Coup d'Etat in Spain.*—A Paris correspondent has forwarded the following communication. It will be found of importance; and if what it states be true, great trouble may be in store for the people of Spain. The information will also cause much doubt as to the truth of the telegraphic despatches above quoted:—“The dead political calm of the last few days is now broken by news of the most exciting character from Spain. The few and short telegraphic despatches, from which it is to be gathered that civil war has raged for the last two days in Madrid, must be received with the utmost distrust, so far as they endeavour to represent that the reactionary party in the struggle is likely to get the upper hand. It must be remembered that these despatches are sent along a telegraphic wire each end of which is in the hands of Governments hostile to the cause of freedom. It cannot be doubted that Espartero, instead of having resigned was ignominiously dismissed by the Queen, and that O'Donnell had consented to become the minister of a *coup d'etat*.”

“I learn from a person well informed, that, as the result of intrigues long going on in Paris between Queen Christina and others, a ‘case’ was got up against Espartero, likely to prejudice him in the mind of the Queen of Spain, and that the bill of indictment was presented to her Majesty by the French Ambassador, the Marquis de Turgot. My informant proceeds to say, that the Queen Isabella, having summoned Espartero and O'Donnell to her presence, received them surrounded by her halberdiers, and that she then stated to Espartero the grounds of her displeasure. It is probable—but on this I have no positive information—that Espartero entered into explanations, and told her Majesty that he would not remain her minister except on certain conditions. The result, however, it is said was, that the Queen ordered him to leave Madrid within twenty-four hours. Now this narrative may very possibly not be correct in all its details, but I feel certain it will turn out that Espartero was dismissed—in this sense at least, that he could only have remained in the Government by betraying the people and proving false to the principles which he had ever manfully advocated.”

“O'Donnell, who, in spite of the many despatches which have affirmed that the most perfect harmony prevailed between the two marshals, has long been trying to undermine his colleague, was left apparently master of the situation. He began by forming a purely reactionary ministry, but that did not last many hours. With the hope of throwing dust in people's eyes, he took in two men, Luzuriaga, and Bayarri, said to be the friends of Espartero. But it was understood that the first act of his government would have been the disarming of the National Guards, and the moment their bayonets were safely lodged in the Government arsenals, a *coup d'etat* would have been made. In all probability the constitution would have been simply abolished. At all events Spain would have been placed in a state of siege, and the press would have been provisionally suppressed. This is as good as admitted by the Patrie of this evening to have been O'Donnell's intention.”

“Now the National Guard of Spain have no intention to be abolished. They flew to arms, and, supported by the people, maintained a contest for two days, and although it suits the purpose of the inditers or transcribers of the telegraph despatches to say that O'Donnell's troops had the advantage, it is evident that the position of the National Guard cannot have been very bad, since at the end of the second day the Queen felt the necessity of presenting herself to them in person, and they seem to have treated on equal terms for a ‘suspension of hostilities.’ A dispatch says that it is true that O'Donnell had given them till five o'clock on Tuesday afternoon (the 15th) to surrender, and that after that hour he would pitilessly fire on them. But as the Presse very shrewdly observes, the suspension of hostilities shows the weakness of the new Cabinet. It is not the habit of Governments, when they come triumphantly out of affairs of this kind to offer a truce.”

“The latest despatches, so far as their contents have transpired, make known that General Infante, who I believe is the president of the Cortes, was at the head of the insurgents. They also state that all telegraphic communications with Madrid will probably be interrupted. I believe I have mentioned every fact connected with this momentous affair that is known here. I may add that, according to the opinions of men who know Spain well, there must be by this time a general rising in all the principal towns against O'Donnell.”

*The Italians to the English Press.*—The Students of the University of Turin have sent the following address to the journals of the English metropolis:

We would wish to convey to you, gentlemen of the English press, the feelings of our high respect and gratitude. The lively interest and earnest zeal with which you have advocated and developed the principles set forth by the Sardinian Minister at the Paris Conference have laid us under a deep sense of obligation; and we speak in our name, and in that of our fellow-students of all the Italian states and provinces, to whose thoughts and feelings no utterance is allowed.

Gentlemen, the principles announced by Count Cavour at Paris are the same for which so many of our best and bravest countrymen have fallen victims. Till very lately they were the simple but warm aspirations of a certain party, frowned and scouted by the powers, and even nations of Europe, who deemed them

fraught with danger to the general peace and security. But those principles have now found an open and a legal utterance; they are embodied in a free and yet orderly and peaceful state—an Italian state; they are allowed by a lawful King; they go forth into the world under an acknowledged and respected standard.

That standard, gentlemen, our national standard, the only hope of Italy reared aloft, and held up by the constancy and loyalty of our true-hearted King, has waved, not without honour, beside those of England and France on the shores of the Tauric Peninsula. It has at last brought together, and joined all the hearts, the wants and the interests, the longings of all Italians, and breathed into them a confident hope that the hour is at hand when, by unanimity and valour, they may make their country their own.

To hasten that hour, gentlemen, powerful aid has been yielded by all the free European press, and by the freest of all, the English. That press has strenuously brought the cause of Italy before the high court of public opinion; it has maintained, in the face of Europe, that our national aspirations were not the wild schemes of hairbrained youths, or the plots of obscure fanatics, but they were shared by men who understood the real, pressing, irresistible wants of a divided and oppressed country, panting for union, for freedom, for a manly reclamation of its birthright. That press has shown that Italy is not to be governed by goals and scaffolds; that the feeling which is now abroad in the country is not to be quenched in blood, but it only strengthened by it. That press will now, we have no doubt, follow up its sacred mission; and when the day comes for the renewal of our national contest, it will have enlisted in our behalf the good will and sympathies of the friends of freedom throughout the world.

Thanks to you, then, gentlemen, who have exhibited generous and chivalrous feelings for the cause of the oppressed. We are mere youths and can do no more than give you this slight token of our regard and gratitude; but the day is perhaps at hand when the Italian youth may yet stand by old England, and fight out the cause of political and religious freedom all the world over, and show themselves worthy of the esteem of the freemen of England of all parties.

*Dreadful Colliery Explosion.*—More than one hundred lives lost.—A dreadful explosion of fire-damp occurred in Cymmer Colliery on Tuesday, by which it is feared the lives of all the men at work in the pit have been lost. At the usual hour in the morning the men went down into the pit, and shortly afterwards a fearful explosion or fire-damp took place. It is stated that a fire at one end of the pit was known to be burning, and it is suspected there must have been a fire in some other part also, the two causing the explosion. The catastrophe was soon known in the neighbourhood, and a harrowing scene ensued as men, women, and children frantically rushed to the pit's mouth to enquire or to search for sons, brothers, or fathers.

The Cymmer colliery is in the Rhondda Valley, above Cardiff, in Glamorganshire. One hundred and sixteen men and boys went down to their usual work on Tuesday morning, after the ‘firemen’ had pronounced all safe, and only six returned alive. Almost every house has its bitter mourner, its dead body too.

Mr George Owerton, of Merthyr, commenced his inquisition on Wednesday morning, at the Ty Newydd, or New House Inn, at the upper end of the valley. Mr Insoll, the proprietor of the colliery, being present and a highly respectable jury. The Coroner explained, in reading over the list of jurors, that he was always anxious in such cases to have some colliers on the jury, that practical knowledge might be brought to bear upon the investigation. The jury then proceeded to view the bodies, which lay amid their sorrowing relatives, at their homes in various parts of the valley. The spectacle in the greater majority of cases was frightful, the major part of the unfortunate deceased having met their deaths from the fire, not the choke-damp, the former causing the body to become charred, and literally scorched to almost a cinder while the ‘damp’ causes death by suffocation, and leaves but little on the countenance, except an expression like that of sleep.

It appears that on Tuesday morning 116 or 117 men and boys went down into the Cymmer pit, little anticipating the terrible catastrophe about to occur. The two firemen whose duty it was to examine the pit, to ascertain if there was any foul air or gas in it, re-ascended at about six o'clock, pronouncing the pit safe. In less than an hour after—indeed, before some had stripped off their clothes to commence work—the terrible gas exploded, and the afflicted people ran hither and thither for a few moments. Then one fell in the dark, and others staggering along stumbled on their dead companion, and fell dead also. Here some were struggling amid the tortures of the fire. There a tram full of boys, all dead; and in other places, men had sit down to await their fearful doom, and had died with their elbows resting on their knees and their faces buried in their hands. Some had struggled forward, no doubt hoping to reach the airways and possibly escape.

When the report of the explosion was heard on the surface it was too well apprehended what had occurred. Blowers or casual explosions of gas, had taken place. Two doorways had been blown down only on the previous day, and there were two many reasons to believe from the quantity of electricity with which the air had been charged, that an explosion of a more extensive nature might take place. This