

News of the Week.

From English Papers to the 15th February.
EUROPE.

FRANCE.—Assault on the Empress.—A madman attacked the Empress on Thursday. He was instantly arrested. No arms were found upon him. He declared that his intention was merely to embrace her.

The Neufchatel Question.—A letter of Wednesday evening says:—"Paris is, I believe, now definitely named as the place of meeting of the Conferences on the Neufchatel question, and the time next month. Between this and then diplomacy will put forth all its strength—not vainly, I should hope—to leave as little as possible for the plenipotentiaries to do. Its efforts will be directed to the very difficult—I will not say impossible—task of pleasing all parties; of satisfying the incomprehensible King of Prussia, and leaving Switzerland not in a worse position than she now is.

Scarcity.—M. Fould the Minister of State, lately left Paris for Tarbes. It is announced that he is charged with an important mission. The Emperor is extremely anxious about the high and increasing price of the necessaries of life in all the southern markets. M. Fould, one of the Emperor's most confidential advisers, is sent to inquire into the cause of this state of things, and to make suggestions for a remedy. This mission is intended solely for the Emperor's private information, and has no officially administrative character.

The late Princess Lieven.—The body of the Princess has been embalmed and sent to Russia. She has left by her will a life annuity of 8,000 francs to M. Guizot. This considering his advanced age (68) is a very modest legacy, and it is reported that the family of the Princess propose to pay a substantial sum instead, so that M. Guizot's family may be benefited. It is most confidently said in some quarters that M. Guizot was privately married to the Princess.

SPAIN.—The reactionary party have triumphed in the provincial elections by the interference of the Governmental authorities. The rumoured dismissal of General Concha from the Governorship of Cuba is contradicted.

The *Gaceta* announces the discovery of a depot of arms and ammunition in the Theatre des Varieties. The director of the theatre has been arrested.

PERSIA.—Assassination of the Governor of Herat.—St. Petersburg, Feb. 11.—We have news from Teheran to the 3rd of January. Since the taking of Bushire the English have attempted nothing. A squadron had appeared off Port Mohammed, at the mouth of the Tigris. The garrison of Shat-al Arab were ordered to resist. The Persians are sending reinforcements southwards. Isaakh Khan, the Governor of Herat, after having defended that city ineffectually against the Persians, has been assassinated by the Afghans.

The Persian War.—A dispatch from Mar-seilles, dated Wednesday says:—"In Persia, General Bullar has been sent to the theatre of war, but he has left Herat and Candahar in a good state of defence. The Persians were very much excited by the English invasion. A great agitation prevailed in the province of Ourmha. There had been received a confirmation of a revolt at Maraca. The insurgents had sacked the town. Fifteen English ships were anchored before Bender-Abbas.

NAPLES.—State of Naples.—A telegraphic dispatch dated Turin, the 11th, states that the King of Naples remains shut up at Caserta. The people are gloomily silent. The police form the only visible Executive Government. There are rumours, but their source is not traceable, of serious tumults in Sicily.

February 12.—The Council has decided upon declaring Naples a free port; also a liberal revision of the Customs' tariff. A proclamation is in circulation, calling upon the people to avenge the death of Agostino Milano.

SARDINIA.—Education.—The law prescribing the system of public education passed on the 12th by a majority of 75 against 55. The *Gazette* of Turin energetically confutes the assertions of the *Gazette* of Milan relating to the Sardinian press.

RUSSIA.—St. Petersburg.—A letter of the 4th says:—"A considerable amount of discussion has taken place during the last few days between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the English Legation. Lord Wodehouse, who displayed much moderation in these negotiations, announced to Prince Gortschakoff that the English fleet will have evacuated the internal waters of Turkey by the period fixed—viz., the 30th March. This declaration was made without any reserve, and there is no doubt but that it will be acted on. Prince Gortschakoff declared, in his turn, that Russia was ready to admit English Consuls into the Black Sea.—Lord Wodehouse is, no doubt, convinced that Russia is occupied with other things than schemes of conquest and territorial aggrandisement, and that she considers the development of her internal resources as the most urgent of her existing duties. He has communicated that conviction to his Government.

English Merchants and the Czar.—The English merchants at St. Petersburg having expressed the wish to pay their respects to the Emperor, a deputation composed of twelve persons have been received by his Majesty.—M. E. de Michele, British Consul, was present as the direct representative of the commercial

interests of England in Russia. His Majesty received the deputation most graciously. He told them that he received them with pleasure; and reminded them that throughout the war the English merchants enjoyed in peace the protection promised them by the late Emperor. The Emperor concluded with expressing the hope that the commercial relations between Russia and England would become more and more developed, to the great advantage of both nations.

AUSTRIA.—Another Amnesty.—A letter from Milan says:—"I hear from good authority that the Emperor of Austria has decided on granting a general and unconditional amnesty to all political offenders in the Austrian empire. As this measure will apply to Austrian Poland, it is said that the Emperor of Russia will do the same with regard to his exiled Polish subjects. . . . The relations between Austria and Russia are anything but improving. The same may be said of Austria and France. The language of the Austrian journals evidently indicates the policy of political reconciliation with the liberty party at home and abroad, whilst it is sought to identify France with the despotism of the Czar.

The reduction of the army, resolved on by the Emperor, will be of great financial importance. The extraordinary military expenses are still 102 millions of florins, and the deficit 135 millions. The reduction in the army by removing the extraordinary military expenses amount to 114 millions, but by savings already approved of by the Emperor they may be diminished by 10 millions.

IRELAND.—Mr. James Sadleir.—Yesterday (Saturday) morning were issued copies of the several warrants issued for the apprehension of Mr. James Sadleir, M. P., and of the reports from the crown solicitor and officers of constabulary, of the steps taken for his arrest. The crown solicitor concludes by saying:—"I may add my own belief, and what I fancy that of most if not all here, that Mr. James Sadleir, M. P. is not in Ireland, and has not been in Ireland since the middle of June; but when he went, or where he went, I have no means of knowing."

GREECE.—The Evacuation of Greece.—Letters from Athens of the 26th state that the evacuation of Greece by the troops of France and England will be accomplished by the 20th or 25th of February. The finance committee has, it is said, terminated its labours and communicated the result to the three Powers.—The Government promises great public works. Vessels have left Toulon in order to bring back to France the troops that remain in Greece.

Papal States.—A communication from Vienna of the 30th states that the last dispatches received from Coloredo, the Austrian Ambassador at Rome, confirm the account given of preparations being made by the Court of Rome to introduce the administrative reforms recommended by the Western Powers. The Austrian troops are to stay in the Legation until these reforms are completed. Those at Parma will leave at the same time.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Particulars of the Hurricane in the Philippine Islands.—The *Mouiteur de la Flotte* publishes a letter from Manila, dated the end of November, giving the following details of the late hurricane in the Philippine Islands:

About the middle of last month, we had very heavy gales from the westward, but about the 24th the weather became more calm, and the wind veered round to the south. On the 26th there was a complete calm, with particular indications which are well known to the inhabitants as presaging some violent collision of the elements, and considerable uneasiness prevailed. On the morning of the 27th the wind rose suddenly, and went on increasing in violence during the whole of the day, and became at once one of the most terrific hurricanes that had ever been witnessed in the country. Trees were torn up by the roots, houses carried away, and men and animals in the fields dashed to the ground with terrible violence.

All the island of Sunda is literally ravaged, and the town of Manila only presents the appearance of a heap of ruins; the quays and most of the houses along the banks of the Pasig have been blown into the river; in the capital alone upwards of 6000 houses have been destroyed. All the Archipelago of the Philippines have suffered; Mindano, Soolou, Pal-souan, Leyta, and Panay have been completely desolated. On the small island of Samar where there were 300 buildings, not a house or tree remains—all have been swept away. Boats which have been previously on the shore have been since found several miles inland, and a small river in the southern part of the island has been dried up by the force of the wind.—On the glacis of the city of Manila some guns were blown from their carriages and carried a distance of more than a hundred yards. The number of houses destroyed is immense, far greater than was at first supposed. The loss of vessels on the coast is not yet known, but it must have been very considerable. The hurricane which lasted altogether eight hours exceeded in violence that of 1776, and was felt in all the Philippines at almost the same moment. It has also been felt at Borneo, and the Moluccas, and as far as Java, but in a less violent degree.

UNITED STATES.

The policy of the new President of the United States is thought by many to be foreshadowed by an article in the official organ, which

appeared a few days since. The following is a despatch from Washington referring to that and other matters:—

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.

The Union to-day has an article relative to the Central American question, which occasioned considerable excitement in Washington. It strongly denounces all partnership or co-operation with Great Britain in relation to Central America; declares that the right of England to interfere in the affairs of those States is based upon sheer usurpation; that the Clayton and Bulwer treaty has been the source of all the accumulating difficulties in that quarter, and under the entanglements created by it England is pursuing an insidious policy, to the success of which Walker is now almost the only obstacle; that the policy of Great Britain, though not amounting to actual war, is directly hostile to the interests of the United States, and is more insidious and insulting from being coupled with professions of friendship, and that open war is better than this secret hostility, and the duty of a decisive stand upon our part enforced.

Mr. Appleton being in Washington, it is surmised that the article may foreshadow the policy of the new administration.

The President has approved the Coinage bill.

Recent events in Persia having occupied the attention of the administration, a formal application has been sent to Congress for an appropriation of \$12,000 for the pay of an Envoy Extraordinary to that country, and for nearly \$5,000 for his Secretary of Legation and interpreter.

By arrival of the Europa, on the evening of Thursday last, we have New York dates to the 24th inst.

It seems now to be quite settled that General Cass is to be the Premier and Secretary of State in President Buchanan's Cabinet; and that the Hon. Howell Cobb is to be Secretary of the Treasury. There are still differences of opinion as to who are to be the other members of the Cabinet. General Cass's acceptance of the Secretaryship will be regarded by most persons as the precursor of a war with Britain; but a large portion of the Yankee press declare that, guided by the first law of nature, the measures of the new Government with regard to foreign relations—at least to those with regard to foreign relations—at least to those with Great Britain—will be of a decidedly pacificatory nature. Nevertheless it is rather an ominous looking fact that the Dallas-Glendon Treaty, although not finally adjudicated upon by the Senate, has recently received the virtual condemnation of that body. The Washington Union, as yet it is true, the organ of the Pierce Administration, breathes a furiously hostile and blustering tone towards England. As another sign of the future, we may mention that no one seems to doubt the aggressive intentions of Mr. Buchanan and his Ministers towards Mexico, Central America, and Cuba.

The "Corruption Investigation Committee" in the House of Representatives has made its Report in which it is recommended to expel from the House Messrs. Matheson, Gilbert and Edwards, of New York, and Welch of Connecticut; also to exclude from the precincts of the House, as a reporter Mr. Simonton, the special correspondent of the New York Times. It seems that but four members have been positively convicted, but the testimony is strong against a great number of others. The investigations of the Committee led to some startling facts and to the revelation of a gross and extensive system of bribery and corruption running through Congress, such as probably never disgraced the proceedings of any other legislative body that ever existed. Among other instances, it was asserted by one member that there were some twenty, or thirty, members who had formed a league and mutually agreed not to vote for any grant of land, or money, unless they were paid for doing so.—The most disgraceful jobs were brought to light showing when and to what extent members had received "pay" for such votes.

It was rumoured that Mr. Forsyth, the Minister at Mexico, had negotiated with that republic whereby in consideration of twenty five millions of dollars, the isthmus of Tehuantepec is to be conveyed to the United States.

Volcano in Virginia.—The Rockland Register learns from the most reliable authority that the shock of an earthquake was felt in Pendleton county, Va., some days ago, and that an aperture has been formed in the mountain, within two or three miles of Circleville, in that county, from which volumes of black smoke are issuing, and large stones have been thrown to a great height.

Mexico.—Advices from Vera Cruz to the 3rd inst., represent the country as in an unsettled state, but the power of Comonfort's Government was dominant in all quarters. There were still some insurrectionary movements in the North concerning which the accounts are conflicting. The insurgents of San Luis had made a precipitate retreat into the mountains and were being closely pressed by the Government troops. Among the prisoners taken by the latter were several Yankee filibusters who were summarily and very properly shot. General Blancarte had withdrawn from Lower California, for want of supplies. The Yankees from Upper California are, it seems keeping up a regular system of aggression in that quarter, fomenting insurrections among the native inhabitants, and effecting settlements themselves doubtless with a view to a general rising when they find themselves in sufficient force.

The Legislative body had declared its sittings permanent until the vote should be taken on the new Constitution.

Central America.—Walker's game in this quarter is not yet concluded, but his prospects seem daily to be growing darker. Early in January, upon finding that the river San Juan and Lake Nicaragua were in possession of the Allies, he withdrew all his force to Rivas.—Here the chain of the Allies were drawn more closely around him until, in a few days, Walker discovered that the enemy were in force at San Jorge, on the Lake shore, about three miles from Rivas on one side, and at Oriajab, six miles distant in a nearly opposite direction. General Henningsen was, on the 26th ult., sent to dislodge them from the latter place, but signally failed to do so. On the 28th a similar attempt was made against San Jorge; but the Filibusters were again driven back with loss. By the latest accounts from Rivas, dated the 3rd inst., Walker was making preparations for sustaining a siege. His force were reported to amount to 8000 men. His communications with San Juan del Sud, on the Pacific, were still open; but he was totally cut off on the side of Lake Nicaragua, and the river San Juan del Norte. The forces of the Allies in the immediate vicinity of Rivas were estimated at about 3500 men. General Cauas, their Commander-in-Chief, had established his head quarters at San Jorge, within three miles of Walker's position.

One would suppose from the large numbers of officers composing Walker's lists of his killed and wounded, that his loss must have been terrible in some of "battles;" but this may in part be accounted for by the fact his officers far exceed his men in number.

YESTERDAY'S MAIL.

The mail arrived here about one o'clock yesterday afternoon. We collect below a few items of news.

NOVA SCOTIA.—The Account current of the Receiver General with the Province for the year 1856. This shows a total expenditure during the year of, £174,090 9s 10d, of which the leading items are:—

	£	s.	d.
Paid to chairman of Board of works.	27,000	0	0
For general Education.	17,049	9	0
For Legislative expenses.	10,196	13	9
For Post communication.	7,912	0	2
For Revenue expenses.	9,422	12	11
For salaries to officers of government.	15,680	0	0
For road service.	43,930	13	7

The receipts during the year, together with the balance from 1855, were £196,483 19s. 1d, showing a balance in favor of the Province of £22,384, 9s. 8d. The leading items of the receipts are:—

	£	s.	d.
Colonial duties.	142,549	9	0
(of which Halifax alone paid about three-fourths, 91,950 2 3)			
For Light Duty.	3,216	14	10
For Licenses to Distilleries.	7,000	0	0
Canal Revenues.	13,77	37	0
From the Saving's Bank.	14,000	0	0
From Treasury Notes.	15,000	0	0

UNITED STATES.—Cabinet Rumours at Washington.—For the last 24 hours public opinion in Washington seems to have settled down upon the following cast of Mr. Buchanan's cabinet:

Lewis Cass, Secretary of State.
Howell Cobb, Secretary of the Treasury.
John B. Floyd, Secretary of War.
A. V. Brown, Secretary of the Navy.
J. Thompson, Secretary of the Interior.
J. Glancy Jones, Postmaster General.
Isaac Toucy, Attorney General.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—Fires in Carleton.—Monday night was the severest of any during this winter. It blew a tremendous gale from the North East, and the drifting snow yesterday morning was piled mountains high in all directions. About 9 o'clock, p. m., the alarm-bell gave signal of a conflagration, and the Western sky almost simultaneously presented a blaze of light, indicating that Carleton (opposite this City) was the scene of trouble.

The fire broke out in a house belonging to Mr. Cornelius Sullivan, situated on the corner of Union and Guilford Streets; and was caused by the filling of a fluid lamp. It was a sroary and a half high, and kept as a Liquor and Grocery Store—totally destroyed.

The adjoining house of the same height owned by Mr. Timothy Sullivan, also a Liquor and Grocery Store, was destroyed.

A small shanty owned by Mrs. White a widow was destroyed.

Also a story and a half building belonging to Mr. Andrew McNamee—insured—was destroyed. As respects the other buildings we could not learn that they were insured.

A second fire broke out in Carleton, about half past 4 o'clock, Yesterday morning, in the two story house owned by Mr. De Nette, situated on Union Street. (The building was formerly occupied by Mr. Stephens as a drug store. It was kept as a Grocery and Liquor establishment, and was totally destroyed—the origin of fire is a mystery.)

The wind blew a terrific gale during both fires; and the two Carleton engines worked nobly. The only supply of water that could be had was from the pond.