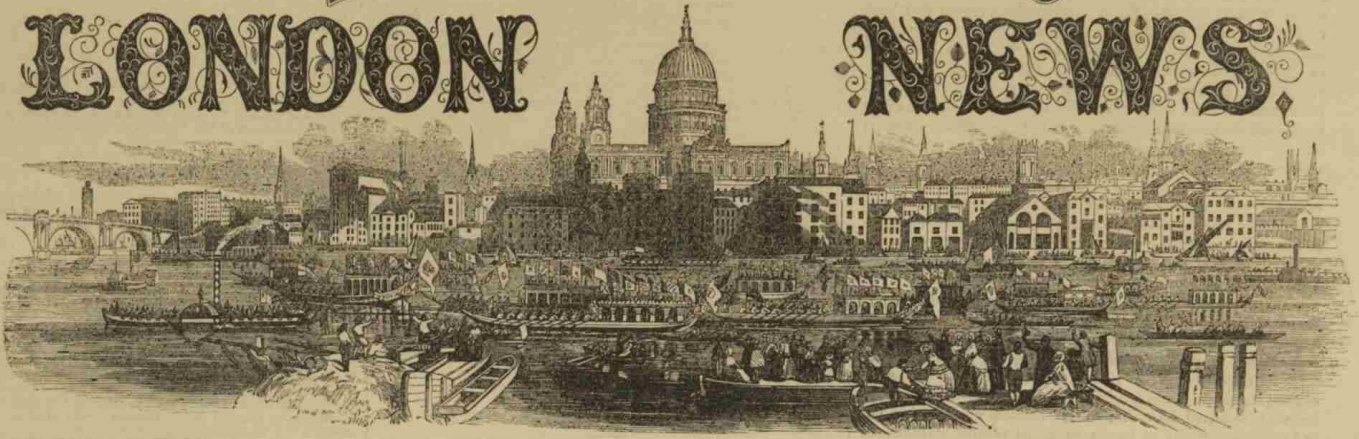


THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



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SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1858.

[WITH A SUPPLEMENT, FIVEPENCE

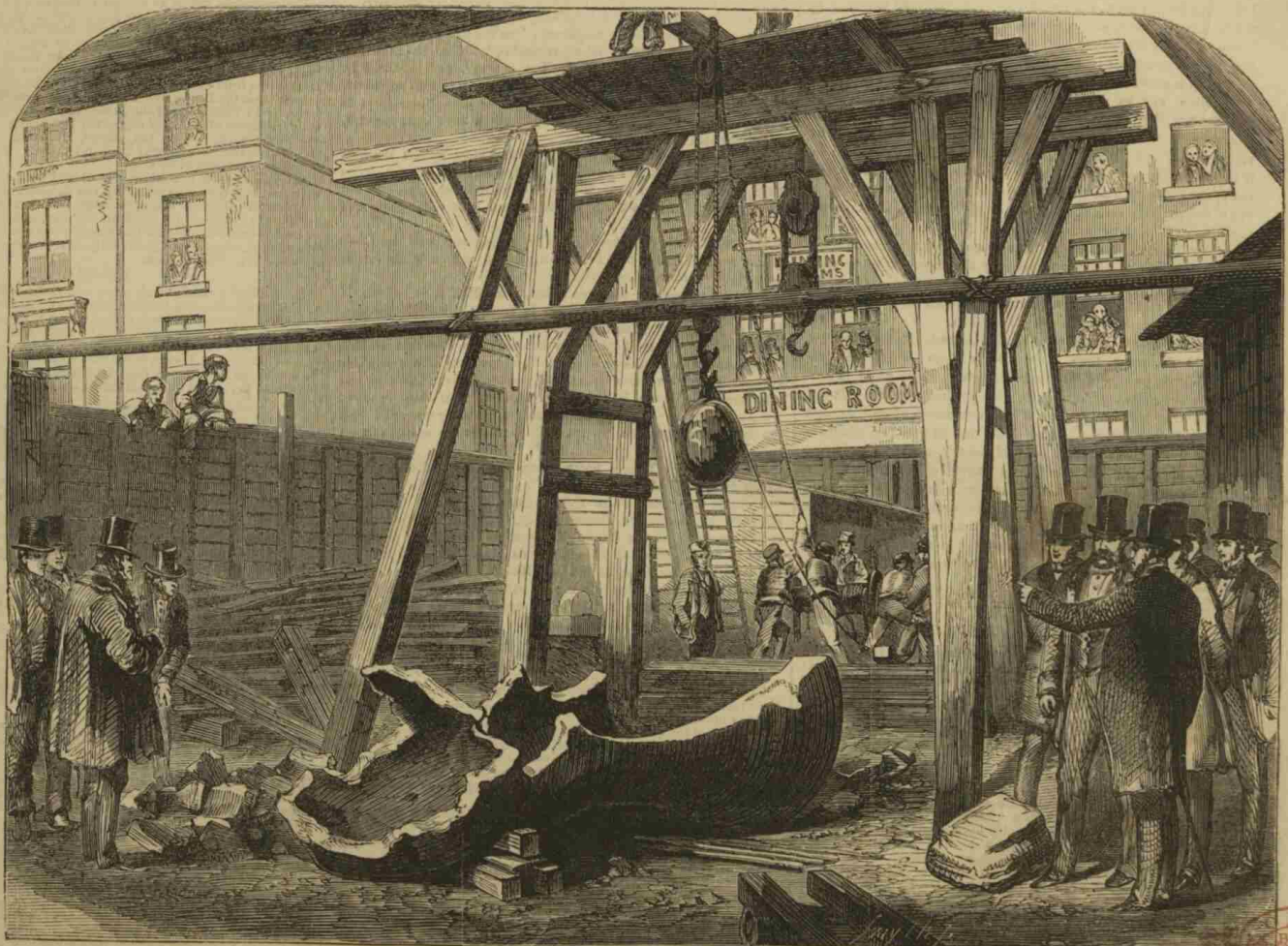
THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

its composition, and to certain extent in its policy, the Government of Lord Derby is fairly set before the public. A Parliamentary vacation of a fortnight will afford time enough to the country to dissect the *personnel* of the nascent Ministry, and to speculate on the probabilities of its policy. As regards the noblemen and gentlemen who fill the thirty or forty offices, in and out of the Cabinet, which go to make up that which we comprehend in the phrase, the Government, a good deal might be said; and, as respects many of them, the facts of their accession to certain departments is rather tempting to criticism. But there are two reasons which ought to generate forbearance, and to avert hostile comment. In the first place, it must be remembered that none of Lord Derby's followers are strictly and personally responsible for their awaking one morning and finding themselves under the necessity of proceeding regularly to certain desks in certain rooms in Downing-street and Whitehall. Probably, if Sir John Pakington has indulged in visions of a return to office, his aspirations by no means mounted so topgallant high as to lead him to imagine that he should some day find himself the chief of the first navy of the world. It is hardly possible to suppose that General Peel's ambition ever soared much higher than the Under-Secretaryship of the department at the head of which he has been placed. When Lord Stanley found himself in so false a position, when sitting next

to Mr. Disraeli and Mr. Walpole on the front Opposition bench, as to be induced to remove to a lower and less conspicuous location in the House of Commons, it could not have entered into his notions to believe that he should rub shoulders with those right honourable gentlemen at the same council table, as one of the component parts of a Conservative Cabinet. But, without going further into the minutiae of this transformation, the suddenness and completeness of which outstrips any modern pantomime trick, it may suffice to suggest that no set of men can justly be blamed for quietly taking possession of quarters supposed to be desirable which were empty, which they were invited to occupy, and to their entrance into which they received not the slightest opposition. Why they are there may be a question, but it is a question which nobody seems inclined to ask—at present.

Again, there seems good reason to think that the country is getting over an idea, which had almost reached to the magnitude of a faith, with regard to what is called administrative capability. It has been for many a long day a tradition of public life, amounting well-nigh to a political principle, that the Government of this country requires at the head of each of its departments trained administrators, men who have served a regular apprenticeship to office, and who are imbued with a certain abstract essence which is only to be found after due search in the pigeonholes of the Treasury bureaux; and, unless the occupants of offices come into possession of them by means

of this prescriptive law of succession, those patriots who agonise over the perils of their country in the easiest chairs of the cosiest of clubs have been accustomed to utter the oracular exclamation of the late Duke of Wellington, "How is the Queen's Government to be carried on?" forgetting, be it remarked, that that question was practically answered by the noble Duke himself, when he and the clerks of all the departments once carried on the business of the country for three or four weeks. The first blow which this notion of administrative necessity received was at the period of the commencement of the Crimean war, when a Ministry composed of the crack administrators of their time broke down and was scattered to the winds, just because it failed in administration. And by this time we are coming to a belief that a sensible practical man, who has taken his share in public life, who has sat a reasonable time in either House of Parliament, who has opinions, and can comprehend a principle, is not absolutely at sea when he comes to preside over a completely organised department in which his immediate coadjutors are permanent officials, who, from long habit and experience, know every detail of the machine which has been under their fingers for years. In short, there seems to be a growing feeling in the outside world that a new man is not necessarily an inefficient Minister because he is new to office. So much of advantage as is contained in this opinion Lord Derby's Administrators have on their side. Perhaps, too, now that



CLOCK BELLS FOR THE NEW PALACE OF WESTMINSTER. — BREAKING UP OF "BIG BEN." — (SEE NEXT PAGE.)

the prestige which the possession of power naturally gives to a Government having been lost by Lord Palmerston's Ministry, a consideration of the individual merits of its members is not without its weight in the public mind. Discoveries after the fact have of course been made of the incapacity and unfitness of many of the ex-officials, whose shortcomings and deficiencies gave us little or no concern while they were on the Treasury benches in Parliament; and even their professing friends have begun to make comparisons, and to insinuate that, man for man—with the notable exception, of course, of the Premier—there is little, if anything, to choose between the *matériel* of the Administration of Lord Derby and that of Lord Palmerston. All this indicates that, as regards the men, there is no disposition to do otherwise than to give them fair play, and to trust to the innate strength and solidity of our institutions to keep the mere machinery of the State in working order.

But then comes the question of the policy. Out of office Mr. Disraeli's cry to Ministers (to do Lord Derby justice, he never prated much in this respect) was always "What is your policy?" To that interrogatory he, or rather his chief, is now called on to make a practical response. Well, Lord Derby has pronounced; and, as far as can be ascertained, his policy is to do whatever a majority of the House of Commons—of course, a decided majority—thinks proper to be done. If that be so, why, at last we have solved the theory of our representative institutions, and we have attained at length to actual popular government. Imperfect as it still is, the House of Commons, if it does not broadly represent, when it comes to the pinch, at least registers the decrees of public opinion. Lord Derby accepts the decrees of the House of Commons, and is prepared to embody them in his measures. The sequence is logical, complete, and unbroken, and the people of England are therefore really about to be self-governed. It is a mistake, says Lord Derby, to suppose that a Conservative Government is opposed to progress, and I am ready to progress at the call of the country, only begging that I may be allowed to do things gently, safely, decently, and in order. All I ask is to be allowed to pay so much tribute to traditional prejudices as take the House of Commons as the exponents of the public feeling: speak but through that most constitutional body, and do not fear but that your bidding will be done.

Nor does the noble Earl confine himself to mere protestations of this ready and expansive policy. Here are proofs of the actuality of his intentions before he has been a fortnight in power. The House of Commons, speaking with the voice of the country, demanded of Lord Palmerston that, before he legislated on the refuge question, an answer should be written to a despatch of the French Government which was offensive to the public feeling of England, and it enforced that demand by a majority which was all-sufficient for Lord Derby, for he acts on the very letter of the resolution on which Lord Palmerston's Government was wrecked; and he writes a despatch to the French Government and suspends legislation until he receives such an answer as may be satisfactory to the country. Again, although not himself believing that it is a fitting time to legislate for the government of India, he yet finds that the inevitable House of Commons has declared, by a majority which is not to be impeached, that the East India Company has forfeited its claim to public confidence and respect, and he, accepting the situation, will proceed as readily and as promptly as the late Government did to put an end to that condemned body. Then he learns that public opinion demands a revision of our representative system; and, coincident with that claim, he finds in his own mind a conviction that adjustment in that respect is necessary and politic, and he promises us a Reform Bill, only with the qualification that it is not to come until next year. The incoming Premier, too, finds himself agreeably relieved of any responsibility with regard to the state of the Army and Navy; he is hopeful of the condition of things in India; and he sees his way out of the difficulty with China. All that he has got to do, then, is, out of deference to certain members of his Cabinet, to make the abolition of Church-rates, and the Oaths Bill, open questions, and to set Mr. Disraeli about a plan for the equalisation of the Income-tax; and really one can hardly see why the Conservative Government, which has attained to office in spite of its Conservatism, should not remain in office for even more than the usual term, and that because of its Liberalism. We do not see that, if Mr. Ernest Jones were to find himself Prime Minister, he could do more than Lord Derby does when he proclaims to the people of England that his political creed is embodied in the simple phrase—Ask, and ye shall receive. Can it really be that we have arrived at the millennium of politics, and that the time has come when we shall not be able to distinguish between Mr. Bright and Lord John Manners? Speaking seriously, however, if the declarations of Lord Derby, as far as they have gone, mean anything, they mean something like this; and remembering always that he is in office, not because of himself, but in spite of himself, he has a right to expect so much of candid forbearance and fair dealing as will enable the country to test his professions, and to ascertain whether he is likely to realise his new-born theory of government.

BREAKING-UP "BIG BEN."

This is the age of great wonders, more especially in arts and sciences. Almost every country in the world has had its Great Exhibition, and our own London has its big bell, and its big ship, and its big bell. But success is not always proportionate to size, and the great bell for the great clock at Westminster is a case in point. The bell having been cast at Norton, near Stockton-on-Tees, had to be conveyed by railway to West Hartlepool to be shipped for London. It was too wide for any train meeting it to pass, and of necessity had the railway to itself. It reached Maudslays' wharf in safety, and was then drawn up a low truck, by sixteen horses, over the Westminster-bridge, and safely deposited at the foot of the clock-tower in Palace-yard. This took place some sixteen months ago. It was followed by the experiment with a hammer of half a ton weight, which fully brought out the sound. Up to this time all went merrily "as a marriage bell;" when the *sevens* not being content to let well alone, in repeating the sounding experiments, cracked Ben, though the metal was nine inches thick. Bells have the faculty of speaking, and Ben might have quoted the family motto of the then Lord Mayor of the Council—*Frangas, non flectes*—thou mayest break, but not bend. There lay the giant of sound, reminding one of "the cracked bell" in the mystical composition known as Hogarth's "Tailpiece."

Next came the last scene in the brief history of the great bell, and poor Ben had to be broken to pieces on the spot where he was first deposited at the foot of that clock tower to which his admirers hoped

he was to have given voice for centuries to come. This took place on Thursday, the 18th ult. The process by which the enormous mass of metal was reduced to fragments may be told in a few words. Ben was simply lowered from the massive framework which supported him in the corner of Palace-yard, and laid upon his side on the ground. In this position the great weight of the head of the bell caused it to sink into the earth, so as to leave its mouth, instead of being completely vertical, slightly inclined upwards, yawning like an enormous cavern. From the framework above an ordinary rope and block were fastened, and with them, by the aid of a windlass, a ball of iron weighing 24 cwt. was hoisted to a height of about thirty feet, and when the proper moment arrived suffered to fall with all its weight upon Ben.

There was something lugubrious in the attendance of the Rev. Mr. Taylor and Mr. J. G. Bennett, D.D., who came in a kind of mourner-like capacity to see the last of the bell on which the latter gentleman has discoursed so minutely, to the great delight of the members of the Royal Institution in Albemarle-street. The breaking-up (by the way, a few days before the break-up of the Ministry) was after the manner of pile-driving in the river hard by. The instant the heavy iron ball reached its appointed height the string was pulled, and down came the mass in the inside of "Ben's" sound bow, and, with a crazy bellow, two pieces, one of about a ton, and one of some 10 cwt. or 12 cwt., were knocked clean out of his side. After the first blow the work of destruction went on rapidly, piece after piece was broken out till scarcely anything but fragments remained of poor "Ben," and even these were carted away as fast as possible to Messrs. Mears' foundry in Whitechapel.

The bell has now to be recast; hence "a question arises"—will the new bell retain its name of "Big Ben," or will it be called after the new Chief Commissioner of Works, "Big John." We leave the reader to settle this "ringing of changes."

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday.

THE number of accidents of various kinds taking place in Paris during the last fortnight has been something quite unusual. Besides those already chronicled as occurring to the Prince Napoleon, *Maréchal* Bosquet, and Princess Joachim Murat, we have to record the fact of the *Maréchal* Carrobert having put his shoulder out of joint by a fall against a piece of furniture when playing with a child; the upsetting in the Champs *Elysées* of the carriage of *Mme. de Verly*, the wife of the *Chef d'Escadron* who commands the *Cent Gardes*, by which her leg has been entirely crushed; and several deaths, chiefly among the members of the *haute société* in Paris. The most interesting has been that of the widow of the late *Duc de Monchy*, whose health has been so shaken by the death of her husband as to render her unable to resist the effects of an attack of influenza. *Madame de Monchy* was the first cousin of her husband, daughter of the *Duc de Noailles*, and granddaughter of the *Prince de Poix*, of whom an amusing anecdote is related.—Wishing one day to enter the *Tuileries*, he was opposed by the guard, who did not know him, and, thinking that the mere sound of his name would be sufficient to clear the way, he announced his title. "If you were the *Prince des Haricots* you should not pass any the more," replied the sentinel. The Duchess was so beloved that on the arrival of the funeral procession at the village adjoining her estate, where her remains are interred, a body of more than three thousand labourers arrived, unharnessed the horses from the hearse, and drew it to the cemetery. The Duchess leaves two sons, one seventeen, the other fifteen. From Italy, also, has arrived the news of the death of *Prince Belgiojoso*.

The new law on general security has passed with the opposition of a single voice, that of *General MacMahon*, who declares against it on the ground that it is unconstitutional, and that it leads the supreme power into a course that can hardly fail to be fatal to it in the end.

A significant proof of the little danger that exists of a collision between us and our "lively neighbours" on the subject of what Mr. Disraeli calls our "painful misapprehension" lies in the fact that large reductions are going on in the French army, more especially in the cavalry, where nearly half a squadron is reduced in each regiment.

A great number of arrests have been made in different parts of France of late. Some of the persons thus taken have been released, but others still remain in custody.

A complete *révolution de palais* has taken place by the Empress having suddenly changed nearly all her tradespeople, among others *Félix*, the illustrious *coiffeur*, who used to attend her Majesty in full Court suit, wielding the comb and the sword with equal grace and dexterity.

It seems that *M. de Lamartine*—why, nobody very well knows—is still in such difficulties that there is a question of selling his landed property by lottery or subscription.

Paris has come to the conclusion that, after all, if it is not wicked to give and attend *soirées dansantes* in Lent, there can't be much harm in giving and attending balls; so, accordingly, balls are given and attended. The most splendid of the week has been that of *Mrs. Mason*, wife of the American Minister. The crowd was immense. There appeared a large concourse of American belles, Paris notabilities, and members of the Corps Diplomatique. On all sides were displayed the American flag—even the dishes at supper being decorated with the stars and stripes, and in the cotillon the ladies wore them in their hair.

Mr. Rarcy, the Yankee horse-tamer, has been astonishing "le monde du sport" with his feats.

A dinner took place a few days back at *M. Emile de Girardin's*, attended by *Alexandre Dumas*, *Méry*, &c., for the purpose of arranging some of the details of the new comedy the former is about to write. *M. de Girardin's* famous piece, "La Fille du Millionnaire," is being got up at *Brussels*, *Rhems*, and *Libège*.

The *Bouffes Parisiennes* is bringing out a new work, "Les Dames de la Halle," and there is talk of an *opéra comique*, entitled "La Bacchante," for *Mme. Marie Cabet*. The "Magicienne" is to have some scenic effects, chiefly of Russian invention, which are quite novel.

The *Moniteur* publishes a decree promulgating the bill adopted by the Legislative Body, and sanctioned by the Senate, relative to measures of public safety.

The trial of the assassins of the *Rue Lepelletier* closed on Friday week—the jury finding all the prisoners guilty. Sentence of death was pronounced on *Orsini*, *Rudio*, and *Pieri*; and *Gomez* (to whom the jury had given the benefit of extenuating circumstances) was sentenced to hard labour for life. The particulars of the trial will be found in another part of this Journal.

A good many arrests are taking place in Paris, and very strict measures are being also adopted with respect to all *cafés*, *cabarets*, and places of meeting suspected of affording a rendezvous for the disaffected.

The *Moniteur* publishes an Imperial decree to the effect that on the 31st of March next the law of 1829 is abrogated, and the butchers' trade is free.

The Emperor has recommended his Monday evenings' receptions. His object in these meetings is said to be to break through his immediate *entourage*, and bring himself into more immediate contact with the representatives of public opinion.

M. Dupin again, now past his seventieth year, has taken the trouble to contradict a report of his going to be married again. The same

venerable and acute politician has also just published a volume of "Legal and Moral Maxims," derived from Sacred Writ.

The *Rev. Father Ravignan* expired at the house of his order in Paris on Saturday last. His funeral obsequies took place on Monday at the Church of St. Sulpice.

Mgr. de Bonnehoehe, Bishop of *Evreux*, has been named to the vacant archiepiscopal see of *Rouen*. The *Abbé Duroussin*, Canon and *Vicar-General* of *Autun*, succeeded to the see of *Evreux*. The Bishop of *Marsailles* has received the Grand *Cordon* of the Order of *Constantine* from the King of *Naples*. It is the most ancient order of the kingdom, and said to be *très recherché* at the *Napoleonic Court*.

The *Moniteur* of Monday morning announces that *Generalis* *Changarnier* and *Bedeau* "are authorised to re-enter France." The first volume of the "Correspondence of *Napoleon I.*" has just appeared, with the Report addressed to the Emperor by the Commission appointed by him to collect and publish it. The volume, printed at the Imperial press, is in type, paper, and appearance magnificent, and so is also the language of the Commission.

Marshal Bosquet, though he has recovered all his mental faculties, remains for the present paralysed in one side, and has consequently need of constant medical attendance.

BELGIUM.

The Belgium Chamber of Representatives, in a recent sitting, voted by a majority of eighty to ten the bill relative to crimes and misdemeanours prepared or committed in Belgium against foreign Governments.

HOLLAND.

The vote of the Second Chamber of the States General on the commercial treaty with Belgium has produced a Ministerial crisis. The Ministry was already, before the discussion, in a state of dissolution. *M. Vrolik*, Finance Minister, had refused to assist at the debates. The whole weight of the business, therefore, fell upon the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who was unable to perform the task. The majority of the States General being adverse to the Ministry, the latter will consequently be obliged to conduct any longer the affairs of the Commonwealth. Probably it will be a Liberal Cabinet which will be called to the direction of the Government.

DENMARK.

A Ministerial crisis has broken out at Copenhagen. *M. Krieger*, the Minister of the Interior, *M. Ungaard*, the Minister for Holstein, and *M. Andrae*, the Finance Minister, have tendered their resignations. The Cabinet is divided on the policy to be followed with regard to those provinces of the kingdom which belong to the German Confederation: some of the Ministers being of opinion that those territories might be safely dismissed from their connection with the constitution of the whole kingdom; whilst other Ministers maintain that the principle of the whole-state constitution must be kept to as long as possible.

SWEDEN.

A Ministerial crisis appears to be imminent in Sweden. According to the *Stockholm Tidning*, three Ministers—*MM. Gunther*, *Lagerheim*, and *Momer*—are on the point of tendering their resignations. According to other accounts, seven members of the Cabinet will retire, leaving only three. The same journal announces that *M. Mandersström*, Swedish Ambassador at Paris, has been chosen a Minister of Foreign Affairs. It is this eminent statesman who will take the principal part in the formation of the new Cabinet.

PRUSSIA.

The Princess *Frederick* has so far recovered as to be enabled, in company with her husband, to receive deputations and individual congratulations. On Thursday they graciously accepted the patronage of a new charity for the relief of widows and orphans, instituted at Berlin as a memorial of their nuptials.

The Princess has sent a thousand thalers to the *Oberbürgermeister* for distribution amongst the poor, with a letter, in which her Royal Highness says:—

"The reception that has been given to my husband and myself in Berlin was one so beautiful and so festive, the city and all its inhabitants have taken so lively an interest in it, that I experience the necessity of finding some expression for the warm gratitude it feels. Will you be the exponent of these my feelings to the city and its population? This country, in which I have long taken a most lively interest, has by its friendly advances made it doubly easy for me to feel myself at home in it, as belonging to it."

It is signed—
Your well-affectioned, VICTORIA.
Princess Friedrich Wilhelm von Preussen, Princess Royal of Great Britain and Ireland.

Various public bodies, as well as individuals, have been admitted to pay their respects to the Prince and Princess. Among the individuals *Count Hasvarden* presented a carved crucifix, a reliquie of the days gone by when art devoted its best inspirations to the service of religion; whilst, for contrast, the Secretary of the Committee of the Berlin branch of the Evangelical Alliance presented an address to their Royal Highnesses from the English branch of the Evangelical Alliance.

Last week the Prince and Princess *Frederick William* were entertained by the officers of the garrison at Potsdam. The first of these entertainments consisted of a series of equestrian quadrilles and other evolutions performed by the officers, the scene of action being the riding-house of the regiment *Garde du Corps*. This equestrian performance was followed by a ball.

On Monday an exhibition was opened at Berlin of all the flags, emblems, and insignia sported by the different trades' companies on occasion of the recent triumphal entry into that city—the produce of which is to go towards a fund for supporting struggling operatives. A similar exhibition for the like purpose was opened on the same day at Potsdam, which was honoured by the presence of the Prince and Princess *Frederick William*.

TURKEY.

On the 22nd a combat took place near *Zubri* between the insurgents of the *Herzegovina* and the Turkish troops. A corps of *Montenegrins* had joined the insurrectionary force. The Turks, after having feigned a retreat, made a sudden onslaught on the Christians, drove them back, and killed 200. There were 100 killed on the side of the Turks.

A despatch from *Vienna* states that *Achmet Fethi Pasha*, the Grand Master of the *Artillery*, is dead, and *Mehmed Reschid Pasha* has been appointed to succeed him. *Mehmed Dschemil Bey* has arrived from Paris.

UNITED STATES.

In the Senate attention had been directed to the relationship of the Government with *Brazil*. *General Houston* presented a resolution directing inquiry as to the expediency of the United States establishing a protectorate over *Mexico* and *Central America*.

A joint resolution, conferring upon the President authority to make appropriate arrangements for the reception and entertainment of the Turkish Admiral, *Mohamed Pacha*, was adopted.

The Special Committee of the House on the *Leocompton* Constitution had decided not to send to *Kansas* for persons and papers, but to rely upon the facts contained in the official documents in the departments for their guidance. The Committee was expected to report within a week.

The House Committee on Territories were expected shortly to report a bill organising *Carson Territory*, composed of territory lying west of the *Valley of Salado*.

A Washington telegram says the democratic Senators have agreed to dispose first of the bill providing for the increase of the army, and then to take up the bill for the admission of *Minnesota* into the Union. To the *Minnesota* bill an amendment will be made providing for the admission of *Kansas* under the *Leocompton* Constitution, the said Constitution so amended as to drop the clause which prohibits the people of *Kansas* from altering it till 1860.

Great excitement had been created in *Brooklyn* by the assassination of a respectable citizen by a party of *Kowdies*; and a vigilance committee had been organised to preserve the peace.

California news to January 20 is of little importance. The Supreme Court has come to the unanimous conclusion that the affirmative vote of the people at the last election legalised the State debt. The State finances were in a more prosperous condition than at any former period.

There was a rumour of a battle between the United States' troops and the *Mormons*, but it was not believed; and a report that five American citizens had been killed by the *Mormons*.

We learn from *Nicaragua* that the treaty negotiated with the United States had been ratified; and also that the treaty between *Costa Rica* and *Nicaragua* had been rejected by the first-named Republic. Those events which it was thought would lead to the renewal of hostilities.

The revolution in *Peru* is at a stand. A *Captain Homer* had been arrested at *Valparaiso*, charged with organising an expedition in the United States against the *Peruvian* Government. He was expected to be shot.