

THE STANDARD.

NEW PAPER ADDRESS: 20, FINSBURY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C. 2.

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 1882.

FURTHER EUROPEAN NEWS.

France.

There is every reason to believe that the Roman question is now the one chiefly discussed at the Tuilleries. M. Lavette is the constant ally of the Papal Nuncio, M. de Chigi, has several times in the course of this week been summoned to some private conferences with the Emperor. The Italian Minister also is frequently seen at the Foreign-office, and as often at the Tuilleries Palace. A great deal has lately been said about the Emperor having designs against Victor-Emmanuel's influence in Naples, and still meditating the establishment of a Bonaparte or Murat dynasty there. But everything of the kind is contradicted in Ministerial circles, although it is true that the Minister still appears to fill at some period not far distant the throne which for his father or grandfather occupied. Indeed no secret whatever is made about it. But if they are very hopeful as to their chances of a Neapolitan crown, that is no reason why the French Government should be so considered as the avowed supporter of their aspirations to royalty.

There is now no doubt whatever that London will at an early period of the summer be favoured by an Imperial visit. The Emperor and the Empress will, it is expected, will also visit our Exhibition. Already the men-of-war belonging to the Mediterranean squadron have been ordered to Cherbourg, to form a part of the escort of the Reine Hortense, in which the Imperial party will embark. Admiral Bosc, who is now in Paris, will command the squadron of homing ships.

The newspapers here are full of speculations as to the further changes which the naval defences of France and England are destined to undergo in consequence of the ideas of Mr. Ericsson. Military engineers are already of opinion that grants to inventions must be refused, to resist attacks of such gunboats as the Monitor, be effected in iron; and some scientific persons of note in Paris are beginning to think that, by dint of arming themselves in the most complete manner, modern navies have reached to that extreme point which is likely to be equivalent to general disarmament. There is at no distant date orders are about to be sent to the naval ports of France for the naval buildings and engines to have off building ships of war now in the stocks till such experiments be made on Ericsson's system.

America.

New York, March 22. No further important movement have occurred in the Potomac. No decisive result has yet attended the operations at Island No. 10. The Federals have silenced all the guns on the upper battery, and dismounted one gun upon the island. The Confederates are strongly fortified, with case-mates for their batteries. They are supposed to have eighty guns, and of them of the largest size, and 20,000 men. Twelve Confederate gunboats are reported to be between the Federal batteries, unable to get out.

A dispatch from Nashville asserts that Mr. Vance has been elected to New Orleans. The report of his capture still requires confirmation. The Monitor is still upon the lookout for the Merrimack.

The Battle of Winchester.

The New York Herald of March 20 says:

We have another glorious victory to record to-day. Telegraphic despatches received in Washington last night announce that General Shields had a conflict with the rebels, commanded by General Jackson, Smith, and Lee, under four miles below Winchester, yesterday, completely routing them, and capturing numerous prisoners, several cannon, and a large quantity of small arms thrown away in the flight. At the last accounts our cavalry was in pursuit of the flying rebels. It appears that General Shields was under the impression that our troops had left Winchester, and were advancing on the road from Strasburg. When within about a mile and a half of Winchester, a skirmish occurred between the advanced guard of both armies, in which General Shields was wounded in the arm by the bursting of a shell. The enemy immediately commenced a retreat, but was followed up by the main body of General Shields's army, and an engagement took place, commencing at half past ten yesterday morning, and ended in the entire defeat of the rebels at noon. The rebels had been driven in the field, while the force of General Shields was only 8,000. The loss on both sides was heavy; that of the rebels, however, nearly doubling that on our side.

The same journal gives the following details of the battle:

The battle at Winchester, which General Shields so gallantly won, was a magnificent affair, and has been well followed up by General Banks, who pursued the rebels through Strasburg and five miles beyond it, on the morning of the 13th inst. General Banks had driven them into Strasburg yesterday morning, and on yesterday afternoon he sent a detachment of five miles beyond Strasburg. The despatch says:—

"The enemy are still in retreat, and our forces in hot pursuit. The loss of the rebels has been very enormous. They have abandoned wagons loaded with food, and dead and dying; the heaviest artillery are found crowded with the wounded and dead; the dwellings in the town adjacent to the battle-field of Sunday are also found filled with the wounded. The inhabitants aided the rebel soldiers in carrying off their wounded during the day, and in burying them quietly as soon as dead. Our artillery makes terrible havoc among the enemy in their flight, and the route bids fair to be one of the most dreadful of the war."

DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY IN THE SOUTH.

The *Wilmington* (N. C.) Journal, of the 11th of March, contains an official order for the destruction of property of this class by direction of the Secretary of War, all cotton, tobacco, and naval stores within this department must be removed west of the Wilmington and Weldon railroad; or, if distant from any railroad or navigable stream, put in such a place of safety that they cannot be reached by the enemy. Such of the above mentioned products as are in exposed positions must be removed at once, and those less exposed removed or secured by the 25th inst., otherwise they will be destroyed by the military authorities.

Captain Ericsson had forwarded the following letter, from the Mr. Y. Vance, to the Monitor to the New York Journal:

"Iron-clad Monitor, Hampton Roads, March 9.
"My dear Sir,—After a stormy pas-

sage, which proved to be no less a trial to our health than to the fleet, we have just landed here, we fought the Merrimack for more than three hours this forenoon, and sent her back to Norfolk in a sinking condition. I led against iron-clad, we manœuvred about the bay here, and went at each other with mutual fury. I was shot in the left leg, but my wounds were well. We were struck 22 times, point-blank twice, turret nine times, side armour eight times, deck three times. The only vulnerable point was the pilot-house. One of our great guns (9 by 13 inches thick) is broken in two. The shot struck just outside of where the captain and his gun, and it has disabled him, by destroying his left eye and temporarily blinded the other. The leg is not quite in two, but is broken and passed towards 4 1/2 inches. She tried to run us down and sink us, as she did the Cumberland yesterday, but she failed in the west of us. Her bow passed over our deck, and our sharp arrow-headed side cut through the light iron above her stern, and well into her side. She will not try that again. She gave us a tremendous thump but did not injure us in the least. We are just able to find the place of our wound."

"The turret is a splendid structure. I don't think much of the shield, but the pendulums are fine things, though I cannot tell you how they would stand the shot, as they were not hit."

"You were very correct in your estimate of the effect of shot upon the iron plates of the turret when it was struck near him; three men were knocked down, of whom I was one; the other two had to be carried below, but I was not disabled at all, and the others recovered before the battle was over. Captain Worden stationed him on the pilot-house, Greene fired the guns, and I turned the turret. Just the captain was disabled, and was relieved by Greene, when I managed the turret myself. Master Stoddard has been one of the two stunned men."

"Captain Ericsson, I can, relate you your great gun are a 'Thunder-bolt.' As day by day we are here, I have heard how crews cheer you. Every man feels that you have saved this place to the nation by furnishing us with the means to whip an iron-clad frigate that was, until our arrival, having it all her own way with our most powerful vessels."

"I am, with much esteem, very truly yours,
Allan C. Stinson."

"Captain J. Ericson, 95, Franklin Street, New York."

(P.) The "light" stated to be made of wrought iron of the best material.

Gas Reports.

Our attention has been called to three nice little pamphlets, well got up, which represent the gas supply of this city, from the beginning of 1853 up to March 1859. It is seldom such choice little documents get beyond the region of a few of the principal stock-holders. We therefore, think it will be interesting to our readers, to know something definite and authentic about this Company.

The dictation and style of these reports are of the most florid descriptions; and remind one more of the pompous oratory of the day than anything else. It is difficult to say whether the tank or the report contains more gas.

Who only refuge one has out of the labyrinth is a laudible feat, of those kinds of paper-dollars, the immense gains on paper, and preventive discoveries of the prosperity of the business, is that one of the kind of a company, who has paid little or no dividend, and the stock of which, although business enormous monopolised business companies neither premium nor inquiry.

It appears the capital of the company is \$2,300,000, in shares. In February 1858, the shares for the accruing year were estimated at \$1,000,000, out of which should be deducted \$320,000 deficit, leaving 113 per cent as dividend for the shareholders.

In January 1859, we find that the company not only realised, but surpassed, its hopes, in the preceding year, and that the declared profit for the year 1858 was \$970,239, which would afford a dividend of over 151 per cent on the stock-holders.

Wisely, however, appropriating these profits towards the extinguishing of their liabilities, which, at that date, amounted to \$2,454,637, they decided not to divide.

The way the company makes up these figures is as follows:—

Land, buildings, pipes, mains, gasometer & public lamps.	\$7,009,601 6
Minerals.	
Office, furniture, coal, coke, &c.	2,197,640 7
Cash and bank.	180,821 2
Do. in bank.	61,000
Debts to collect.	676,529 1
	\$10,124,570

Against the above we have the following capital in shares: 6,200,000
Debts due by the Company: 2,954,637
Net profits: 970,239
\$10,124,570

The debt of the Company, as is given by the report, was 2,954,637 on the 31st of December 1858. We all know well that the business of the Company has since 1858, vastly increased, and if then it netted a yearly profit of close on a million, it is not too much to expect that at the close of the year 1860, that debt was all paid off. Some trifling dividend, we know has been paid, but a year and a half should now have passed with accumulating profits, and it would be unjust towards the public not to advise them of the fact, that the stock of this Company was sold at a premium of 12 1/2 per cent and a semi-annual dividend of 10 p.c. to the stock-holders.

San Fernando Railway Co.

We extract the following from the *Times* of the 7th April:—
Paper (Standard) from Buenos Ayres contains the accounts of the commencement, on the 23rd of February, of the inauguration of the works of the San Fernando Railway, which had been interrupted by the disastrous gale of August, 1860. A new concession, extending the period for the completion of the line, was granted 15 miles in length, to three years, had been in the day before granted to the Buenos Ayres and San Fernando Railway Company (limited) of London. The first end was turned by General Irigoin in person, and great rejoicings, and in the presence of a large number of the principal inhabitants. A splendid *déjeuner* for 400 persons was provided in a spacious tent, at which Mr. J. H. Crook, representative of the Company, presided, and speeches were delivered by General Irigoin, the Governor of the Province, and the newly appointed Minister of the Interior, Mr. Thornton, Her Britannic Majesty's Minister, and several distinguished persons residing in Buenos Ayres, all wishing to do what they considered as a very important undertaking for the country. About 300 carriages, in the company of Mr. Eugene Murray, the contractor, proceeded immediately afterwards to the station, where the *Tréfin* was waiting, that the line may be ready to reach Belgrano within six months, and that there are sufficient materials in Buenos Ayres to carry out the line to San Pedro, (six leagues).

Travels in La Plata.
CHAP. XVII.
Rings.
Penitents make a pilgrimage on foot to the Chapel of Sarmiento, and pay dearly for the atonement of their sins; they surround the altar with a wreath of flowers, and a band covered with iron studs, at every movement, pricks-and draw blood, they also carry ponderous wooden crosses.

Saltenians attend in great numbers at this festival many of them take up their abode under spacious tents, erected for the purpose, and the festival is too small for half the visitors these tents are prettily arranged with all kinds of furniture. The morning and part of the evening devoted to the festival, is passed in the church the prayers and ceremonies are long and tedious. The feast commences with high mass, sung by priests and monks, and accompanied with music performed in all the dignity of village pomp, and concludes with a recital of prayers, and the reading of the *Suñes*, in commemoration of the miracles he has performed. The congregation retire to their huts and tents, on the conclusion of the ceremony, when they pass the day in feasting and dancing.—This festival is repeated for nine days: on the tenth and eleventh days the village and return to the city.

CHAP. XVIII.
The Spanish Exile.

There was residing in Salta a distinguished Spaniard, Colonel Pascual Infante, who, after the French had taken possession of his country, left the University of Madrid, with a number of students, and took up arms against the invaders. On the conclusion of the war, he elected a member of the Cortes, and highly distinguished himself as a speaker; he became a leader of the opposition party, and devoted his efforts to the good of his country, which engrossed all his time and care; it was the most critical period in the history of Spain. His species of erudition, with free and forcible languages, which drew upon him, and three of his colleagues, the anger of the King, and obliged him to leave his country, which engrossed all his time and care; it was the most critical period in the history of Spain. His species of erudition, with free and forcible languages, which drew upon him, and three of his colleagues, the anger of the King, and obliged him to leave his country, which engrossed all his time and care; it was the most critical period in the history of Spain.

