

FOREIGN NEWS.

ENGLAND.

A notification had been received at Chatham dockyard, that the admiralty had decided on constructing a squadron of iron gunboats. The new gunboats are to be constructed on an entirely new system, from plans proposed to the admiralty by Mr. Reed, the chief constructor of the navy. They are to be armored, and driven by double screw propellers, each boat being adapted to carry two heavy Armstrong guns. The design of the proposed gunboats is at present being worked out at the admiralty, and as soon as the plans have been finally adopted by their lordships the construction of the proposed squadron will be at once commenced.

The general committee, charged with the relief of Lancashire distress, reports a large diminution of the number of dependent operatives. In December last, no fewer than 247,330 cotton operatives were out of work altogether, while 165,600 were on short time, and 121,129 only on full time. At the end of last month these proportions were reversed, for 267,962 were in full work, 104,193 on short work, and only 160,835 out of work entirely. One of the committee states that England would receive next year about three hundred and fifty thousand more bales of cotton from India than were received in 1863, the increase being due not merely to extension of cultivation, but to a more favorable season. The increase to be expected from the Turkish dominions, was set at two hundred thousand bales, after making allowance for certain damage which the crop is now said to have suffered. Egypt will exceed its former contribution by 100,000 bales, and other countries, especially the Brazils, by 160,000. Altogether, he was of opinion, that he did not at all overstate the case in promising next year upwards of 800,000 bales above the present year's importations. This would enable the factories to consume 33,000, instead of, as at present, 22,000 bales a week; and as the present consumption yielded three days' work per week, it follows that the consumption of next year being just half as much again, would raise those three days to four and a half. A few year's continuation of the war in the Southern States, will soon render England independent of King cotton—she will find it elsewhere.

RUSSIA.

The Russian Admiralty are building two hundred gunboats, plated with iron, on a new model. They are not to draw more than four feet six inches of water, and may consequently serve in shallow places. Such boats are regarded by the Russian admirals as very useful for the defense of Cronstadt, of which the works are surrounded by groups of rocks which render the approach very difficult for ships, drawing much water. The government expects that these gunboats may be launched before the Baltic is frozen; and as the arsenal at Cronstadt is occupied with other works, orders have been sent to a private establishment in Prussia, for two hundred guns capable of throwing shot of one hundred pounds weight to arm the boats.

AUSTRIA.

The Congress of Germanic artisans at Mayence having resolved to raise a testimonial to the memory of Robert Blum, the representative shot at Vienna in 1849, the local Sovereign has stepped in with a formal prohibition of any such demonstration.

ITALY.

It is reported that the French government was insisting very seriously upon the expulsion of the ex-King of Naples from Rome on account of his connection with the prevailing brigandage in Italy.

FRANCE AND MEXICO.

Louis Napoleon's Generals seem determined to make themselves and their master ridiculous by their lavish professions of good will towards the Mexican nation that thoroughly detests them. Marshal Forey is very sorry that the Mexicans cannot appreciate the kindness of the Emperor in meddling with their affairs. "The object of the mission" was "that all might be happy," of course, but the perverse could not see it. Forey winds up with:—"You may be proud, and you may thank Providence that your happiness has been consigned to the French Emperor. In leaving, I can say you will not regret placing your happiness in his hands." Forey seems a very funny fellow.

ENGLAND AND THE UNITED STATES.

Lord John Russell is fast becoming a favorite with the North, and the South is correspondingly bitter against him. The detention of the Rams built at Liverpool, evidently for the Confederate service, by order of the British Government, and the recent development of the intended attack upon Buffalo, by the Secessionists residing in Canada, through the British Minister at Washington, tend to elevate considerably public opinion in favor of England. The doubtful attitude of France is also an excellent shade to the British picture. At present, John Bull is "some."

MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES.

Senor Romero, the new Mexican Minister, was recently received by President Lincoln as the accredited representative of the Republic, in a very marked friendly manner. As is usual on such occasions the presentation address and reply were prepared before the occasion, and both scrupulously careful to avoid alluding to France. It is reported by a correspondent that Romero had been instructed by his government to protest in the most strenuous manner against the French invasion, and did his utmost to get the subject into his address, but he received the hint that an allusion to the present condition of things in Mexico would necessitate a reply which might be subject to misconstruction, and prove greatly embarrassing to the government. It seems to be the determination of President Lincoln not to take any official notice of the French invasion of Mexico until domestic difficulties at home shall have been adjusted; very sensible.

THE MEXICAN EMPEROR—HIS BATON.

Maximilian has accepted the Mexican throne and Louis Napoleon his imperial patron, approves, of course he does, of his reply to the Mexican deputation. "Max," is expected to sail for Mexico in February or March in great splendor.

A Paris correspondent says of the emblem of authority:—

"The golden sceptre to be presented by the Mexican deputation to the Archduke Maximilian was seen by a few of the initiated in Paris during the stay of the Notables here. It is a thick gold stick about the size in circumference, of a very fat alderman's thumb, and of about eighteen inches in length. The gold is from the mines of Mexico, and the four large emeralds which adorn the handle, are likewise of Mexican produce. The ruby fixed at the end, and which is said to send back the seven rays of the star in sunlight, was taken from the watch chain of Iturbide, where that unfortunate monarch wore it for some time, always with the intention of having it engraved as a signet ring, indicative of the imperial dignity which it was his intention to have borne, with so much magnificence. The fleur-de-lis into which the head of the sceptre is carved, represents something very like a fleur-de-lis, at which our gazers here were most astonished. But Mexican art has not as yet reached a very high standard, and the exact emblem intended for representation is not so absolutely evident to the sight. The sceptre is rich enough and will serve as an imperial policeman's baton, to be used according to the great inspector's orders. It is a pity that the same Notables who come provided with the sceptre for governing the people of Mexico do not come provided with instructions how to use it. The first false movement in the exercise of this new and strange weapon—the first thrust will render the bearer liable to the same fate as that of his predecessor—while it is scarcely long enough, thick enough, or strong enough to execute a parry without a risk of being shivered to atoms."

WAR IN INDIA.

The Punjab (north-western portion of India) has been invaded by 7,000 men headed by the sons of Dost Mohammed, and it is thought that a larger force may follow. The English government has dispatched troops to the seat of hostilities. There are now living in India, under British rule, nearly 190,000,000 of people, governed and kept in check by a small body of European troops and officers. Outside of the native Europeans, there are only small portions of the native population on whose loyalty England can depend; these are the native Christians, the Parsees, the East Indians, or descendants of Europeans and natives; but together they number not more than four or five millions of inhabitants. The remainder are all doubtful. Large portions of the native population, especially among the Mohammedans, are opposed to the continuance of British rule, and only waiting for a favorable opportunity to rise in insurrection. The memory of the horrors of the Sepoy Rebellion is still fresh and the breaking out of a new Indian war is viewed with intense interest. Nana Sahib, the bloodthirsty chief of

the Sepoys, is still at large; for the recent report of his capture turns out to be erroneous. He meditates vengeance, and may be expected to avail himself of the first opportunity to raise again the standard of revolt.

NEW ZEALAND.

The latest intelligence received from New Zealand represent the natives engaged in a murderous crusade against the colonists. The *New Zealander* estimates that the rebels could bring 7,500 fighting men into the field, but that, even allowing one-third for contingencies, 5,000 men would be a powerful army for the scattered line of defenders to encounter and arrest. In opposition to natives the same paper states that the total amount of Her Majesty's forces may be reckoned at something like 5,000 men of all arms—a very inadequate army to furnish garrison for posts and take the offensive in the field against an enemy whose tactics are sudden murder, not a bold stand behind their own entrenchments, or a trial of strength in manly conflict. It is said Sikhs may be expected from India, the remainder of the 12th, 40th, and artillery (about 1,000 in all), from Australia and Tasmania; reinforcements from England are likewise spoken of; and the general government are reported to have decided upon raising levies in the Australian colonies to the number of 5,000 men. There is great excitement and horror among the colonists, who are fleeing from the unprotected settlements to the older towns. The natives seem to adhere to the old style of barbarous warfare and finish up their victims by roasting and feasting on their bodies.

GEN. ROSECRANS AND ADMIRAL LISOVSKI.

The news by mail, apart from that received by telegram, may be summed up in the discussion of the removal of General Rosecrans from the command of the Army of the Cumberland, and the great ball given by New York to the officers of the Russian fleet, on the 5th inst., at the Academy of Music. Of course, Rosecrans, in the way things generally are measured in the lower world, was in the hands of the politicians, and left to their tender mercy, and was nothing in the estimation of the multitude compared with the Muscovite Admiral Lisovski. The substantial and brilliant services of the general to his country were too obscure in the presence of the more easily comprehended glare of red, white and blue, oysters, champagne and fiddling. The *Herald*, with its usual lavish expenditure on sensations gives a dazzling account of the affair, which by the by, was as usual there, a grand fizzle, with a thousand too many invited, and a nice bill of expenditure of over a million and a quarter. But then, says our New York cotemporary, "we wanted to treat, and we have done it, and would have done it, if it had cost twenty-two and a quarter times as much as it did." It was "the grand golden offering of the Metropolitans to the Russians—the unstinted hospitality of New York to a friendly power."

CALIFORNIA.

The building of the Western Pacific Railway is progressing at the rate of two miles per week. It is anticipated that the line for San Francisco to San Jose will be completed in a few weeks.

Artemus Ward has reached the Pacific shore and promises to richly entertain the Golden State with his amusing lectures. He has had a fair start and crowds flock to listen to him with as great enthusiasm as in the Atlantic States. Artemus is likely to return east overland, and will no doubt pay us a visit.

NEVADA.

MURDER HAUNTED—A TERRIBLE PICTURE. Ross Brown gave everything but a flattering picture of Virginia, the chief city of Nevada; but it seems that the racy writer on the advanced civilization of our neighbor, had not even painted the actualities of every day life in their somberest hue. The *Daily Union* of Nov. 12 furnishes us the following:

We have a statute against public gambling, but one would not think so in view of the hell dens which drink in nightly the wages of the laborer, and vomit forth murder daily. Our streets, in the neighborhood of these saloons, are swarming with desperadoes, who habitually use a pistol or a knife upon very much less provocation than would induce a really brave man to use even his fist; they walk unwhipped of justice in our midst, loaded down

with deadly weapons; prepared to take life upon the slightest provocation or upon no provocation at all; and when their daily work is accomplished, and a man lies dead in the street or in a bar room, the cry goes out that he was killed in self-defense, and magistrates discharge, or juries fail to convict the assassin. We do not blame the police officers, for they themselves are frequently victims of a random or purposed shot—and if the law will not protect its ministers, and punish their assailants, who can look for protection?—but we blame the juries who so misplace mercy, as to fail of convicting offenders when brought to trial; and we very much blame the public opinion which regards so apathetically the frightful social condition of our city. The ghosts of a hundred men surrounded us, whose murderers walk the streets to-day in contempt of the law through whose fingers they have slipped; our pavements are slippery with the blood of men shot down in open day, and the genius of assassination walks riotant through our crowded thoroughfares. Our city is not lawless in any respect save this terrible indifference to human life. Cases of robbery are not more frequent than in older communities of equal population. Cases of fraud and swindling are far more rare than in other places of equal size. Yet the daily announcement of a man shot, scarcely provokes comment; and, unless the victim be a prominent citizen, he is forgotten in a day or two.

For this terrible condition of things, the *Carson Independent* blames the too free indulgence in the use of whisky:

We maintain that the primary cause of so much crime in this Territory, is liquor. In nine cases out of ten—yes, in nineteen cases out of twenty—the fatal rencontres that we record, from day to day, occur in liquor saloons, or between men who are at the time under the influence of liquor.

The citizens of Gold Hill, about a mile from Virginia, two weeks ago, had a very interesting time with a crazy drunkard, named Jerry Davis. Jerry had been up to Virginia, where he had got crazy drunk, and on returning to his hotel at Gold Hill, he rushed wildly up stairs, where three men were asleep, and before they were aware of his presence, he had stabbed two of them with a long dirk knife which he had concealed about his person. One of them, a Portuguese, named Frank Casey, who had been taking care of him during his illness, received a thrust in the stomach, near the navel, which will probably cause his death. The other man, whose name is Michael McCormick, was stabbed in the pit of his stomach, and there is but little hope of his recovery. Davis then ran frantically down the staircase, with the weapon dripping with blood still clenched in his hand, and his eyes glaring with the wildness of insanity, when he met a man named Michael Hayes at the bar-room door. Him he immediately attacked, and in his efforts to protect his person Hayes was badly cut upon his arms and hands. He managed to escape, however, without serious injury, and Davis rushed out of the house and down the road leading to Silver City. In the midst of his mad career he met another man, named Vallery, whom he struck just above the hip, but not seriously. All this time a crowd of men who had given chase were attempting to stop him, but could not succeed until they had knocked him down with stones and other missiles. He fought desperately, and was very roughly handled before he was overpowered and the knife taken from him. His hands were tied behind his back, and he was made to walk back to Gold Hill, where he was given over to the proper authorities. He exhibited all the symptoms of the wildest and most ferocious insanity. His mouth was covered with foam, and his eyes flashed with the wild unmeaning glare of a maniac.

To the list of its other grievances, Nevada has to add the development of a new race of Highwaymen, bold enough to take rank with Turpin. "A few days since, says one of our last Exchanges, two ox teamsters, returning from Carson Valley, over the Amador and Nevada road, were overtaken by two men on horseback, who presented cocked pistols and demanded their money. They admonished the teamsters to be lively, as they had no time to parley. No chance offering to dodge this summary requisition or of making a successful resistance, the only alternative left was to comply with the modest demand of the "knights of the road." One of the teamsters was fortunate enough not to have any money about him, the other was so unfortunate as to have \$500 in coin, which he handed over to the robbers. One of the scoundrels, after taking the money, remarked to the man whom he had robbed, that he seemed to wear a watch, and, as he might need a timepiece, he would take that also. They then wished the teamsters good-day, and quickly skedaddled.

The Nevadians are now assembled at Carson in Constitutional Convention.

SHOOTING AFFAIR AT CAMP.—On Monday evening, private McGee, of the C. V's., and John Andrews, a harness maker, had a few words about a woman, of course, and were about to measure forces; but "made it up" again. On returning to Quarters, McGee is said to have drawn a derringer and shot Andrews in the neck. This is likely to go bad with both.