

## FOREIGN NEWS.

## ENGLAND.

The Army and Navy *Gazette* says: Mr. Donald McKay, the well known American shipbuilder, is at present in this country, and is in close communication with the admiralty on the subject of torpedoes. It is the intention, we understand, of the authorities to entertain seriously the question of having on hand a stock of these destructive missiles, with a view of laying them down, in the event of a war, in the different channels leading into our harbors. Thus leaving our fleet to a great extent free to proceed to sea.

The cattle plague continues to increase. The London cow houses are decimated.

The Liverpool *Albion* says that Mr. Benjamin, Ex-Confederate Secretary of State, intends to join the English bar.

The *Times* says: Captain Coles has been presented by the Grand Duke Constantine of Russia, with a massive gold snuff-box, set with diamonds. Such an acknowledgement of the worth of the turret principle, which has been so long and persistently advocated by Capt. Coles, must be highly gratifying to him now that the turret is already fitted to about a dozen vessels of the imperial Russian navy in the Baltic, and has been tested under all possible conditions of wind and weather.

## FRANCE.

Accounts from the manufacturing districts continue to be favorable.

The vintage has commenced throughout France, and it is now certain that there will be an abundant crop of wine.

The *Moniteur de l'Algerie* states the accounts received of the crops are in general satisfactory. The cotton crop augurs well. The entire districts of Bon Roumi and El Afroun are covered with cotton plantations, and an abundant crop is expected. Flour declined 50c the sack in the Paris market.

## AUSTRIA.

The Official *Gazette* of Vienna contradicts the rumor that the government intends to establish in the German provinces of Austria a system of provincial self-government similar to that of the Hungarian comitats. The official journal at the same time, however, wishes it to be understood that the government is nevertheless favorable to provincial self-government, although not in the form represented by the Hungarian Obergespanns.

A telegram from the Hague, of September 18, says: The Dutch Chambers were opened to-day. The following are the most important points mentioned in the speech from the throne: The relations with foreign powers are stated to be friendly, and the conditions of the colonial possessions favorable. The finances are prosperous and the redemption of the public debt will be continued. The harvest is better than was expected. Measures have been taken to arrest the progress of the dangerous epidemic prevailing among cattle, and if necessary the attention of the Chambers will be again directed to this subject.

## PRUSSIA.

A despatch from Ratzeburg of Sept. 15th says: A royal proclamation issued here to-day and countersigned by Herr von Bismark, declares that Prussia takes possession of Lauenburg in compliance with the wishes expressed by the Representative Assembly of that duchy. The King of Prussia assumes the title of Duke of Lauenburg.

## Miscellaneous.

## THE PUBLIC DEBT—THE SEPTEMBER STATEMENT.

The following is a recapitulation of the public debt as appears from the books of the Treasury returns and requisitions in the Department on the 30th of September last:

Debt bearing interest in coin.....	\$1,116,658,191 80
Interest.....	65,001,570 50
Debt bearing interest in lawful money.....	1,260,009,120 44
Interest.....	72,527,644 75
Debt on which interest has ceased.....	1,389,320 09
Debt bearing no interest.....	306,891,093 84
Total amount outstanding.....	2,744,947,726 17
Total interest.....	137,529,215 25

## Legal tender notes in circulation.

One and two years 5 per cent notes.....	32,954,230 00
United States notes, old issues.....	392,070 00
United States notes, new issues.....	427,706,499 00
Compound interest notes, act of March 3, 1863.....	15,000,000 00
Compound interest notes, act of June 30, 1864.....	202,012,141 00
Total.....	\$678,126,940 00

As compared with the statement for August there is a reduction of the public debt of nearly \$12,742,000, and of in-

terest over \$500,000, and also a reduction of \$6,012,000 of legal tender notes in circulation.

Amount in the treasury, coin.....	\$82,740,788 73
Amount in the treasury, currency.....	56,296,441 13
Total.....	\$88,977,229 86

Showing a decrease of nearly \$12,700,000 of coin as compared with August statement, and an increase of \$13,454,157 of currency. The amount of fractional currency is \$26,487,754, an increase of \$143,000. There has been an increase of the June 30, 1864, Five-twenty bonds of \$8,211,000, and of the July 11, 1862, Six-per-cent temporary loan of nearly \$8,000,000; and of the March 1, 1862, certificates of indebtedness a reduction of over \$22,000,000.

Secretary of the Treasury McCulloch has issued a circular giving notice to holders of certificates of indebtedness which mature the first day of January next, of compound interest notes, and of one and two year Treasury notes, of the readiness of the Department to give in exchange for them, to the extent of \$50,000,000, six per cent five-twenty year bonds at three per cent premium. —[N. Y. Tribune.

**PLAGUES:**—Here is a sad chronicle of plagues. At Rome, nearly eight hundred years ago, A. D. 80, a pestilence slew, we are told, 10,000 people daily. In the years 167, 169, and 189 pestilence again ravaged the Roman Empire. In Britain, A. D. 430, so many people were swept away that there were hardly enough left to bury their dead. At Constantinople, 746-9, 700,000 people perished. In England, so William of Malmesbury tells us, the plague was so great in 772, that in and about Chichester 34,000 people perished. In 1111, Holinshed tells us of a dreadful pestilence in London, in which thousands of people, cattle, fowls, and other domestic animals perished; and it is said that at Paris and in the South of France the same process has just begun by the death of the fowls. In Ireland, in 1204, a prodigious number perished. In 1340 the "Black Death" raged in Italy, and in 1348 the plague, described by Boccaccio, raged over Europe, causing a fearful mortality. We here in England suffered severely. In London alone, in the year 1348, when the plague at Florence, described by Boccaccio, took place, 200 people were buried daily at the Charter-house. Again we were visited by plague in 1367, Ireland in 1407, and again in 1478, when 30,000 people were slain by pestilence in London alone; and throughout England, more persons were slain by disease than by the fifteen preceding years of war. In 1485 we were cut down by the *Sudor Anglieus*, the sweating sickness, and this again broke out in 1499-1500 so dreadfully in London, that Henry VII. and his Court removed to Calais. And so on: we need not follow the quick coming years that brought the trouble. In 1611, 200,000 perished at Constantinople. In 1664-5 the Great Plague, called so probably because most remembered, carried off 68,596 persons; Defoe gives the number at 100,000. "Infants," wrote he, in a fiction unequalled for its terrible pictures, save by the reality, "passed at once from the womb to the grave; the yet healthy child hung upon the putrid breast of the dead mother; and the nuptial bed was changed into a sepulchre. Some of the affected ran about staggering like drunken men, and fell and expired in the streets; while others calmly laid down, never to rise again, save at the last trumpet. At length, in the middle of September, more than 12,000 perished in one week; in one night 4,000 died, and in the whole, not 68,000 as has been stated, but 100,000 perished in this plague. The appalling cry 'Bring out your dead!' thrilled through every soul." —[*Family Herald*.

**VALUABLE DISCOVERIES.**—Two French discoveries of merit have been recorded lately. One, which is authentic, enables copper smelters to utilize their pestiferous smoke so perfectly that Mr. Vivian, head of the greatest firm in Swansea, says he shall be able to turn out 1,000 tons of sulphuric acid per week, restoring incidentally many thousands acres of land to cultivation. The other, which is less authentic, is a new mode of tanning in turpentine, said to be so rapid that 12 hours will tan a skin at half the former cost.

**A VALUABLE RECEIPT.**—The *Scientific American* says: "The unpleasant odor produced by perspiration is frequently a source of vexation to persons who are subject to it. Nothing is simpler than to remove this odor much more effectually than by the application of such onguents and perfumes as are in use. It is only necessary to pro-

cure some of the compound spirits of ammonia and place about two table spoonfuls in a basin of water.—Washing the face, hands and arms with this, leaves the skin as clean, sweet and fresh as one could wish. The wash is perfectly harmless and very cheap. It is recommended on the authority of an experienced physician.

**THE MALE AND FEMALE VOICE.**—Nature alone has given the human being two distinct kinds of voice, that are again divided and sub-divided. In order to make the causes of this clear, let us cast a glance at one of the simplest laws of tonal vibration. For example—we take a string of a certain length and strength, and give it a certain tension. If with a bow, or simply with the finger, we set it in motion, we shall perceive a tone, which we shall call C. Here is another string of the same strength and tension, but only half the length of the last. If we set it in motion, it also gives out the tone C—but not the same; it is finer, higher, more penetrating. If we now strike both strings, we perceive this difference more distinctly, and recognize that peculiar union which musicians term octaves. In order to give forth the high C, the short string is obliged to give forth twice as many vibrations as the long, but in the same time. Without knowing or willing it, we obey the same laws of vibration. Ask a young girl to sing an air that has just been sung by a man, and in the same key; she will sing it an octave higher. The finer and more delicate voice of a woman makes more vibrations, in the same time, than that of a man, and is higher from that cause. The woman is the octave—the half of the man. The good citizens who call their wives their "better halves," are right, musically speaking. The octave exists through the might of the right divine. In the male and female voice there are, again two principal sub-divisions—man sings tenor or bass, woman contralto or soprano. The contralto is the octave of the bass; the soprano the octave of the tenor. Each of those voices has its own peculiar character, that does not depend merely on compass or on fullness, but rather on tone coloring. —[*Musical Review*.

**THE UNDER-GROUND RAILWAY** in London, is found to be a great convenience. A correspondent of the *New York Journal of Commerce*, writes as follows:

"It is the best means of relieving the over crowded streets, as thousands of people avail themselves of this great institution to reach any end or place of London in a very comfortable and cheap way, and in a comparatively short space of time. The trains leave every five or ten minutes, according to circumstances, and stop at the intermediate stations just long enough to set down and take up passengers, making a distance, say, for instance, the Battery to Union Square, in about ten minutes. They run 1st, 2d and 3d class carriages, well fitted up and lit with gas, thus enabling passengers to read newspapers, &c. They use fine strong locomotives, consuming their own smoke, thus keeping the air in the long tunnels perfectly clear and healthy. The speed between the stations is very fast. The traffic is enormously great, and makes me think how well such a road would answer in New York under Broadway from Battery to Central Park.

**VICE-PRESIDENT HAMLIN TAKES CARE OF HIS FAMILY.**—The Bangor *Jeffersonian*, in two or three consecutive issues, has informed the public that "Maj. Charles Hamlin" has been promoted for meritorious services during the war. It has not deigned to advise the public what these services were, but so far as we are informed they consist in having lived luxuriously in Washington during about the entire war, in what the soldiers term a "soft place," securely beyond the reach of bullets, and drawing a comfortable stipend of three thousand three hundred dollars per annum—from Uncle Sam.

The other son of the Ex-Vice-President has had about as hard a time as the Major, down about New Orleans, where, with the rank and pay of a Brigadier-General, about \$4,500 per annum, he has managed to live very elegantly, leisurely, and securely.

The Ex-Vice-President's brother has been kept since March, 1861, in a mere sinecure at \$4,000 per annum, paid in gold, and his son has been foisted to the medical staff of the regular army, with the rank and pay of a Lieutenant-Colonel—\$3,600 per annum.

In addition to all these positions of the family, the gentleman who a few months since became Mr. Hamlin's son-

in-law, was at once made a paymaster \$3,200 per annum.

And if to-day the Ex-Vice-President has a brother, son, son-in-law or nephew, who is not quartered on the government at a very fat salary, we should be glad to know it. And this is only one of the instances of nepotism—one of the many instances of whole families in office.

The Vice-President is now in Washington endeavoring to save his "family" from the effects of the general "muster out" which is returning so many really gallant men from the service. —[*Ex*.

**NEW ARTIFICIAL LIGHT.**—James Wilkinson, of Chelsea, is endeavoring to rival the magnesium light, for photographic purposes, by means of a mixture of phosphorous and nitrate of potash. He recently burnt a quarter of a pound of this mixture in his garden, at night, with a view to obtain a photograph of a wind engine which was being erected in an adjoining garden, and he states that the length of time from when it was first lit until it was finally burnt out was nearly six minutes. The utmost cost was a fraction over fourpence. The reflection of the light might be seen for two miles round. So bright was it that the fire-engine authorities mistook it for an ordinary conflagration, and hurried their engines to the spot. Upon finding no trace of fire they returned, rather chagrined, not, however, without first satisfying themselves by a thorough examination of the premises. All around appeared one blaze of light, the sky looked like a mass of fire. The picture taken during this startling illumination "came out," we are told, "with great sharpness and vividness, the houses near being brought out prominently. It, in fact, equaled any picture taken on a bright day." —[*Mechanics' Magazine*.

**RAILROAD ACCIDENTS.**—The *Tribune* gives the running history of railroad accidents the past year with the following recapitulation and remarks:

Disasters due to collision.....	23
Rotten cross-ties, broken rails, &c.....	18
Turning curves.....	4
Badly built and rotten bridges.....	7
Bursting of engines.....	3
Defective Locomotives.....	2
Absence of double track.....	1
Raised drawbridges.....	1
Landslide.....	1
Broken culvert.....	1
Absence or defect of lights and signals.....	2
Running into horses, cows and derricks.....	4
Trifling with brakes.....	1
Tornado.....	1
Misplaced switches.....	1
Culpability of companies or employees, about 45	

<b>LOSSES AND MORTALITY.</b>	
Passengers killed or mortally wounded.....	300
Passengers burned to death, about.....	35
Cases of injury in every form.....	600
Trains more or less demolished.....	67

The value of the property destroyed or hopelessly damaged, including baggage, freight, mails, personal effects, ruined trains, bridges and machinery, it would be vain to attempt computing. Adding the cost of inquest, claimed damages, doctors' and undertakers' bills, we would not dare to reckon it short of \$30,000,000 in barren figures. But moral loss must be far greater.

—A Yorkshireman who had attended a meeting of the Anthropological Society was asked by a friend what the learned gentlemen had been saying. "Well, I don't exactly know," he said; "there were many things I could not understand; but there was one thing I thowt I made out; they believe that we have come from monkeys, and I thowt as how they were fast getting back again to where they came from."

—When Henry VIII. sent an offer of his hand to the Princess of Parma, she replied that she was greatly obliged to his Majesty for his compliment; and that if she had two heads, one of them should be at his service, but as she had only one, she could not spare that.

—"I mourn for my bleeding country," said a certain army contractor to General Sheridan. "So you ought, you scoundrel," replied Sheridan, "for nobody has bled her more than you have."

EGYPT has this year been obliged to have recourse to Odessa for large supplies of wheat. The export trade from Odessa to Alexandria has accordingly been unusually animated.

AN "Anti-Butter League" was formed in Boston last week, the members of which determined to purchase but one pound of butter per week for their families.

At the recent cheese fair in New York a cheese was exhibited which weighed 4,240 lbs, and measured five feet in diameter and two feet four inches in thickness. It was said to have been sold at 17 cents per lb. in Utica, for shipment to England.