

[For the Deseret News.]
THAT CONCERT.

Respectfully inscribed to Prof. David O. Calder.

BY E. R. SNOW.

That Concert—that scene—all was form'd to inspire
Thoughts of Eden's fresh bowers of love;
And it seem'd, as I gaz'd on that beautiful choir,
As a type of the choir above.

The music—the singing—saluting the ear,
Spread Elysian sensations around,
As the sweet tones were utter'd in sounds full and clear,
And the words were not swallowed by sound.

The order was perfect—the beauty was rare:
The fair Goddess of Purity too
Embellish'd the grandeur that brilliantly, there,
Illum'd the magnificent view.

God bless the kind Teacher with fullness of joy,
For his patience in "labors of love,"
From ennobling progression, may nothing decoy,
The blest youth, whom he toils to improve.

Success crowns his efforts in what he has done—
His example, a beacon, will shine,
In refining improvement, to lead others on,
Where the Muses their laurels entwine.

God bless those young children—yes, bless that whole
choir;
Such pure strains may they long live to sing;
And all join in the chorus with Gabriel's lyre,
At the crowning of Zion's great king.

G. S. L. City, Dec. 19, 1863.

**ENGLAND DECLINES NAPOLEON'S
CONGRESS.**

The Government have laid before the public the Correspondence which has passed between them and the French Court, with reference to the proposed Congress. They have done wisely to give this somewhat unusual instance of promptitude and openness in diplomatic proceedings. In negotiations carried on by responsible Governments, it must always be of great importance to make it evident that they are supported by public opinion. An Emperor may act upon his own responsibility, and the weight of his determinations depends principally upon his own will and energy. But no determination of an English Cabinet upon an important question of foreign policy has its due weight unless it represents the sense and resolution of the nation; and on such a grave subject as the present, it is of the greatest possible importance that the view of the Government should be unmistakably understood to coincide with that of the country. It is, besides, a great satisfaction to have this correspondence before us. We possess now every material for a complete estimate of the Emperor's proposal. The despatch of M. Drouyn de Lhuys, was intended to explain all that appeared doubtful in the first letter of the Emperor, and the careful criticisms of Lord Russell must combine all the points of view from which the most acute and experienced statesmen in this country considered the French invitation.

Our readers are already acquainted with the principle features of the English despatch, but the letters of the two Governments are so remarkably characteristic, that they will well repay a careful perusal. There is something even in the manner of the writers in exact character with the two nations. The French despatch is marked by all the well-known politeness and plausibility of a Frenchman. The Emperor and M. Drouyn de Lhuys, bow with all the gallantry of humility to England and Europe, and protest, with eager and insinuating officiousness, that they press their services on us with profound disinterestedness, that they are our most obedient, humble servants, and that if we will but put ourselves into their generous and ready hands, they will relieve us from every difficulty and make everything straight and pleasant. Lord Russell, on the contrary, combines with a tone of profound consideration, the sort of directness and plainness of speech and thought which is peculiarly characteristic of Englishmen. But this external feature is a mere indication of the marked and extraordinary difference in the point of view of the two statesmen. The one is exclusively ideal, the other exclusively practical. The whole weakness, as the whole charm, of the French proposal, consists in its ideal character. It is this by which it has laid hold so firmly of the French mind. It has held up to them a splendid abstraction, like the glory of the First Napoleon, and they are immediately possessed with it. The illustrations of this character of the proposal given by M. Drouyn de Lhuys' despatch, are such as would have been almost incredible in a statesman, engaged in real affairs of State. When we are told that the French government "admit, with Lord Russell, that it is not absolutely necessary to give to recent changes a more general and more solemn sanction than they have hitherto received, but they consider it would be an advantage to clear away the ruins and unite in a single body, all the living members," we see the Frenchman, whose eye cannot tolerate the confusion of a ruin, whose sense of order cannot bear irregularity. He would have Europe cut up into regular States, as his own country is divided into departments. He could not endure the irregularity of the old, uneven provinces. He cannot separate in foreign statesmanship, any more than in internal politics, unity from uniformity, order from regulation. But it is worthy of an idealist of the First Revolution, to propose deliberately, to upset and rearrange

the whole organization of Europe, for the sake of clearing away a few ruins; and it displays an equal want of practical sense to talk of reuniting by a piece of parchment "living members," which are supposed to be disunited.

But, as represented in M. Drouyn de Lhuys' despatch, the motives of the Emperor's proposal are as visionary as its objects. The Emperor, we are told, is less concerned than any sovereign in the calamities which he wishes to avert. "The questions out of which at the present time war may arise, interest France but indirectly, and it would depend on herself alone, whether she would take part in the struggle or stand aloof from it." It is really difficult to believe the Emperor in earnest in such an assertion, when we remember that there is not one public question in Europe to which France is not one of the principle parties. But, supposing the assertion to be as true in fact as it may be in imagination, it is acutely pointed out by Lord Russell, that it cuts away the ground from under the Emperor's feet. If he is not directly interested in the great questions which are agitating Europe, he has no right to interfere with the free action of those who are. If the Emperor has no direct concern with the present or future confusion of the Russian and Austrian Empires, the proposal of a Congress to arrange them is a most unjustifiable act of officiousness. In point of fact, the Emperor's universal benevolence overlooks the nearest obligations of mutual consideration. He has everything to gain and nothing to lose by a Congress. "He seeks no aggrandizement, and the interests to be secured are those, not of France, but of Europe." But other powers have a great deal to lose, and very little chance of gaining anything. All that they could do in a Congress, would be to make mutual sacrifices to relieve the sensitiveness of the Emperor of the French, and Lord Russell very properly says, that the more disinterested we are ourselves, the more we are bound to consider the feelings and interests of others.

All these grand and imposing concessions are brought down by the Englishman to the simple test of practical possibility. The excellence of the object which the emperor has in view is amply admitted, but the sole question is whether the Congress would afford any means of attaining them. To prove that it would not, all the considerations are urged with which the public have been made familiar in these columns. It is shown that there are insuperable obstacles in the way, not merely of the settlement, but even of the discussion in Congress of the great difficulties of Europe; and that, even supposing they could be discussed, and a decision come to by a majority, there would be no possible means of enforcing it, short of the very war which the Congress is intended to avert. Lord Russell, too, is particularly happy in two considerations, which he urges separately, but which are in reality closely connected. He points out, in the first place, that it has been possible in former Congresses, to distribute Territories and defend rights, because the nations of Europe had exhausted their efforts, and again that the circumstances of Europe, which it is proposed to settle, are still in a state of transition. A month or two may change the whole aspect of the Polish insurrection, or of the Schleswig-Holstein difficulty. Before former Congresses nations have come to a standstill from sheer inability to go on struggling, and then it is not difficult to define the terms of the existing equilibrium, but while everything is moving it is impossible to fix the condition of affairs at any one moment. What the Congress had settled one day would be unsettled the next, and the Emperor would find his new treaties, not like the treaties of Vienna, gradually decaying from lapse of time, but slipping away with incessantly shifting foundations. In point of fact, the Emperor talks as if treaties made the state of Europe; Lord Russell speaks as if the state of Europe made treaties; and a true statesman will have very little doubt which is right.

We shall probably be accused by the French nation of a cold and phlegmatic indifference to the grand objects of their Emperor, and an incapacity of appreciating the great conception of a Congress where ill-feeling and selfishness shall be laid aside, and all shall combine for the common good of the whole. They will, we think, be entirely mistaken. It may be just because we have a far more profound value than the French nation for peace and order, and because we think still more seriously than they do of the importance of a Congress, that we avoid every risk of turning an instrument of peace into an occasion of war. But the simple truth is that we have no faith in any human ingenuity, though it be the ingenuity of a Congress of diplomatists guided by the acuteness of a Napoleon, to set bounds to the ever varying growth and shifting necessities of nations. We have no notion of securing the future—not even of regulating the present. If we can act fairly and prudently in the successive exigencies of life, we leave the course of affairs to regulate itself, and we trust the future to the security of the unknown laws of human nature and the unseen influence of higher powers. It is hard enough to regulate the life of an individual; we are gradually finding it to be wiser, so far as we can, to leave even the course of a nation to itself; and we decline to undertake the still more hazardous responsibility of regulating the course of the civilized world.—[London Times.]

—Punch defines Mr. Boucicault's notion of copyright as the right to copy.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A GLIMPE AT THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE.—The inside view of the New York Stock Exchange is not always open to the prying eyes of the general public, and it is only by an occasional sketch, as the following, that we catch a glimpse of that interesting locality, where transactions to the tune of millions of dollars are daily made, almost in the twinkling of an eye.

As you enter, at the left of the President your eyes rest on the most important personage present, Henriques, the principal Secretary, who does the most of the fabulous figuring hourly accomplished. He is a dignified and sedate, but shrewd looking man, of about fifty years, whose face, seldom lit up with the least expression, is closely scanned by every member of the Board throughout the stormy session. Not that Nature has chiselled there features which his fellows love to look upon, nor that tasteful Art has lent its aid to beautify what else lacked symmetry and ornament. Not at all. "The Governor" is no rival of Apollo in appearance and nothing in his address indicates any aspirant on in that direction. The glances aimed at him are not those of art connoisseurs admiring and criticising a favorite face or a faultless physique; far from it! His fellows watch to catch some tell-tale expression on those cool, calm features, from which to judge the drift of his thoughts and the real significance of his frequent bids. But the effort is fruitless; for his most intimate friend cannot discover, from his face, whether—when he bids—he wants to buy, or is watching his chance to sell. He often offers a thousand shares, at a loss of as many dollars, merely to fix a price at which he can buy five thousand shares back again at ten thousand dollars profit. While the rest laugh and jest, "the Governor" preserves his statuesque appearance, as though a smile slid in a sin, or a joke would cost a fortune. Of such stuff is the father and creator of the Public Stock Exchange made up; but there are a few of his sort besides. There is something truly Napoleonic about his "grand, gloomy and peculiar" position, as he sits there, "wrapt in the solitude of his own originality." He can scarcely move or speak without affecting, in one way or other, the price of the particular stock at the moment before the Board. If "the Governor" buys, the inference is that it is for a foreseen rise—if he sells a rush is improvised to stand from under, for the great Tycoon is "getting out."

Ever since the war began, he has bought largely whenever a military reverse occurred has done a business which has required his checks for two millions and a half daily; has owed as much as thirteen millions at a time, and frequently has owed for weeks together, six millions; always plunking up satisfactory collaterals, and never over drawing the bank account nor turning a cold shoulder to fellow operators who needed help. However short at times, himself, he could always lend to others. His operations have been heavier, and more widely extended and varied, than Jacob Little's ever were; and to those who have watched these operations and seen purchases of Pacific Mail at 66, (now 235,) of Pennsylvania Coal at 78, (now 168,) of Harlem at 30, (since sold by him at 130)—those who have seen all this and much more of the same sort, are not open-mouthed with wonder that A. G. Jerome has in less than three years made himself a real millionaire on a capital of less than five hundred dollars. It is a remarkable fact, moreover, that speculative stocks do not form any part of his present fortune; that species of property having been worked off, as opportunity allowed, at higher prices than now rule.

Nor have the successes of Leonard W. Jerome, John M. Tobin, and E. A. Corey—members of this same Public Board—been less magnificent. The street is full of stories respecting their stupendous operations and their rapid accumulation of wealth. Almost fairy-like seems the tale of their fortunate ventures and financial triumphs. They have, as it were, dreamed of wealth, and awakened to find it really in their grasp. At another time, it may be worth while to trace the brief story of their gains and watch the mushroom growth of these modern millionaires.

USEFUL KNOWLEDGE.—Why do some things reflect one color and some another? Because the surface is differently constructed, both physically and chemically, and therefore some things reflect one ray, some two rays, and some none.

Why are some things of one color, and some of another? As every ray of light is composed of all the colors of the rainbow, some things reflect one of these colors, and some another.

Why is a rose red? Because the surface of a rose absorbs the blue and yellow rays of the light, and reflects only the red ones.

Why is a violet blue? Because the surface of a violet absorbs the red and yellow rays of the sun, and reflects the blue only.

Why are some things black? Because they absorb all the rays of light, and reflect none.

Why are some things white? Because they absorb none of the rays of light, but they reflect them all.

What is the cause of the wind? The sun heats the earth, and the earth heats the air resting upon it, as the warm air ascends the void is filled up by a rush of cold air to the place, and this rush of cold air we call the wind.

Why does the black skin of a negro never scorch or blister with the sun? Because the

black color absorbs the heat, conveys it below the surface of the skin, and converts it into sensible heat and perspiration.

What are clouds? Moisture evaporated from the earth, and again partially condensed in the upper regions of the air.

VICE.—He who yields himself to vice must inevitably suffer. If the human law does not convict and punish him, the moral law, which will have obedience, will follow him to his doom. Every crime is committed for a purpose, with some idea of future pleasure; and just so sure as God governs the universe, so surely does a crime, although concealed, destroy the happiness for the future. No matter how deeply laid have been the plans of the criminal, or how desperately executed, detection pursues him like a blood hound, and tracks him to his fate.

BRUTAL.—The atrocities attributed to the Russians in Poland surpass all possible imagination of human cruelty in an age like the present. The corporal punishment of women of all ranks, under circumstances of special indignity, is incredible enough; but the Moscow Journal states that the Russian soldiers in Poland have been furnished with a new description of dagger, of peculiar formation, with jagged sides, pierced with small needle holes and filled with strychnine, amalgamated in some way with gum. To make the effects of the poison more fatal, this dagger is, by order, turned in the wound! The Moscow Journal publishes a wood cut representing the instrument.

AUTHORIZED EXPLANATION OF THE BIBLE.—The following important announcement appears in the London Guardian:—"We are happy to see that the objections brought against certain portions of the Bible are about to be met by leading theologians of the Church of England in a very practical way. If a false and unfair system of interpretation has been applied to the text of the Scripture, the best way of confuting it is to apply a true and legitimate one. The honor of originating the plan is due to the Speaker of the House of Commons, who consulted several of the bishops on the subject, and the Archbishop of York, at his instance, undertook to organize a plan for producing a commentary which should put the reader in full possession of whatever information may be requisite to enable him to understand the Word of God, and supply him with satisfactory answers to objections resting upon misrepresentation of its contents." The plan has received the sanction of the Primate. A committee, consisting of the Archbishop of York, the Bishops of London, Lichfield, Landaff, Gloucester and Bristol, Lord Lyttleton, the Speaker, Mr. Walpole, Drs. Jacobson and Jeremie, takes the general supervision of the work. The Rev. F. C. Cook, preacher at Lincoln's-In, will be the general editor, and will advise with the Archbishop of York and the Regius Professors of Divinity at Oxford and Cambridge upon any questions which may arise. This really promises to be a work second only in importance to the LXX or the English version made by order of King James. Perhaps it will be quoted as 'the XXX.' The names of the editors and contributors, while they ensure orthodoxy, give promise that the comment thus put forth almost with the sanction of the Church of England as a body will not be the utterance of any narrow school or section of it."

GRATITUDE.—The following anecdote, which does much honor to the parties named in it, is recounted in the Constitutionnel:—"At the conclusion of the war in the Peninsula, under Napoleon I., an English colonel was captured by a French patrol, commanded by a serjeant. The soldiers, who pretended to have been ill-treated in England, when prisoners of war, proposed to shoot the Colonel. The serjeant refused, and, covering the prisoner with his body, he exclaimed, on seeing the soldiers prepare their arms, 'You must shoot us both.' The soldiers relented, and on the Colonel being sent to headquarters he asked the name of the serjeant, and inscribed it in his pocket-book. Many years passed over, and the English Colonel, who had risen to a high rank in his profession, being on his death-bed, called his eldest son and told him that he greatly regretted never having had an opportunity to reward his preserver, and made him promise to do so. The son came to Paris and made inquiries at the War-office for Francois Lefebvre, but no trace could be found of him. The Englishman, not discouraged, continued his enquiries, and finally discovered Francois Lefebvre in the Customs' department on the Belgian frontier. The gallant old serjeant received a gratuity sufficient to place himself and his family in comfortable circumstances for the remainder of their lives."

PHOTOGRAPHY IN MODELLING.—French photographers have invented a method of making statuette likenesses with the aid of photography. The process appears to be simple, a mechanical application supplementing the chemical results in the first instance. The sitter is placed in the centre of a circular chamber, lit from above; around the walls of this chamber are placed, at equal distances, twenty-four lenses, by means of which he is photographed in every possible view. By a mechanical contrivance of extreme ingenuity three images of the sitter are traced and moulded upon the clay. A short sitting is required, and, under the hand of an experienced sculptor, a most faithful likeness is insured, and, it is added, an agreeable work of art.