

are, whether the American government should afford the money, and whether Spanish statesmen, in any circumstances, could be easily brought to view the matter with their own eyes. It is for the advantage of both countries, we think, that each of the two should follow its own course unmolested by the interference of the other. Spain, like Russia and Denmark, may well consent to sell the remainder of her birthright transatlantic possessions. It is only too fortunate for her that she should still have anything left to sell.

The French Atlantic Cable.

[From the London Star, July 15.]
The success of the French cable will occasion great regret to the proprietors of the English line, but if their interests are much injured they have no one but themselves to blame. They have no confidence in what was really the first part of their enterprise—namely, its capacity to serve the general public, and not merely one particular class. Messages to and from America ought to be as common as similar messages are between England and France, for a constant stream of travellers is passing between the two countries, and a large proportion would be very glad to telegraph their safe arrival to their friends. Americans who live here, or in other parts of Europe, would often be glad to ask by telegraph after relatives who happen to be ill or to send news of their distant friends, or of the progress of important incidents in domestic life. But this kind of business has been deliberately discouraged by the managers of the English line. A Minister may send an important message to his agent, though even then the amount of his bill is likely to startle his government, as we may see in the case of Mr. Edward. He sent a message to the American representative in Paris, for which he paid 100 francs. He was charged. The government has not yet been able to make up its mind to pay for that costly despatch. Again, commercial men who have American connections are obliged to use the cable. It rarely costs more than sixpence to send a message, and they would much rather pay the money and send their messages. The firm which first learns the price of cotton, or iron, or of shares in a stock exchange, has a great advantage over competitors who are acting without this information. Such traffic, therefore, necessarily develops itself. But it is not large enough to pay for the expense of laying a cable between the Atlantic. The immense advantages which might have been gained by inviting the general body of the public to use the cable has been thrown away. The directors acted in a timid spirit, and their line would inevitably break down next week and it was necessary for them to scrape together all the money they could in the interval.

The competition of the French cable will explain their ideas. In the first place, they will find that French customers going to the other side, unless they reduce their prices; in the next the French company might easily attract a large share of the English business by a lowering of the cable rate. At the recent meeting of the English company one of the officials disclosed the fact that they had not enjoyed a longer lease of the monopoly of the Atlantic world. That is all very well from their point of view, but the public cannot be expected to sympathize with it. If anybody deserves sympathy in reference to Atlantic cable schemes it is the shareholder or director in the original company, who has not yet received back a penny of his money. They were the people who paid for the experiment which made future successes certain, and they have derived no profit whatever from the second cable. It is a plain matter of business with the present proprietors, and as they have acted in a narrow and miserably spirit towards the public, they cannot expect us to mix our tears with theirs. A great fuss was recently made about a reduction in the tariff. Messages were to be sent for two pence. But when a man came to write down his message he found that he was expected to pay for every word or figure in the dates or addresses, whereas five words had formerly been given in. The address alone now exhausts the two pence, thus, "Thompson to Barker, 112 Twenty-sixth street, New York." Here are the ten words, at once, which form the limit of a message for two pence. Of course, the rate is almost prohibitory as regards the ordinary run of people. A man with a slender purse cannot send word to his wife in America that their child at school in England is very ill. Messages of that description would be despatched by hundreds every day if the scale of charges invited them. At present there is scarcely work enough to employ one out of the two English cables now in existence. Would it not be far better to charge ten shillings for cable messages, and multiply the customers a hundred fold, than to let the wires lie comparatively idle? Memoranda, however, having failed, we are very glad that the sharp goal of competition has been applied to the directors. The French promoters may easily do the greater part of the business if they will come down to the public means. On that account we may well wish the new line success. We may not hear so much about its landing the old World and the New together in perpetual friendship; for we have found out that misunderstandings are possible, even with a telegraph wire lying comfortably beneath the Atlantic. But the cable will be a distinct advantage to the world, and everybody but the shareholders in the "Anglo-American" will be glad to hear that the difficulties which surrounded the promoters have been successfully overcome.

Our Relations with China.

[From the London Post, July 15.]
In seeking to arrange more stable, satisfactory relations with China there is one thing very much in our favor counterbalancing the difficulties alluded to. The people of that country, though conservative and prejudiced, are vividly alive to questions pertaining to pecuniary gain. This feeling might be safely relied on to insure the extension of our trade throughout the land, were it not for the prejudices and selfish motives of the educated or governing class. At the ports where we have for many years carried on a brisk trade with the people, they show not the slightest disposition to deal with us in a free and friendly manner, but in the interior of the country, where their minds have been poisoned against foreigners, and where they have not tasted the pecuniary sweets of trading with the better barbarians, the case is very different. Here what we have to aim at is to establish proper regulations regarding the transit of goods, and to prevent local officials from committing extortion. At present the contributions levied on articles of commerce on their way up the country virtually preclude them from reaching the people, who consequently are kept in ignorance of the benefits and advantages they might derive from intercourse with the foreigners. Their ideas of the outside world are chiefly derived from what they have seen or heard of missionaries, who have inverted the legitimate order of things, and have proceeded, instead of following, in the track of trade. The barriers, then, to be fought are, it is true, with the local officials, but certainly not by means of gunboats. We must begin at the fountain head. The imperial government must first be made to feel that the greater the extension of trade the greater the profit to the imperial exchequer. Then it must be led to see that there is a vast field for the development of this beneficial commerce among the teeming multitudes in the interior of China, and that this development is completely barred by the working of the official machinery and the opposition of the interested hierarchy and gentry. In time the reform of this effete social and official system may possibly be effected, and when this is done and the products of Europe can penetrate into the recesses of China, all other desiderata will follow. The process doubt will be slow—so slow that this generation may witness but little of the effect; but it will, we trust, be sure. There is no use in trying to make the pyramid stand on its apex; it is no use trying to force our trade or our religion upon any people at the point of the bayonet. Cupidity, veil the idea as we like, is the prime mover of the world. Demonstrate the pecuniary advantages of intercourse and half the battle is won. In the case of China we have now some four years before the revision of the treaty. The young Emperor will come of age about the same period. In the meantime we have only to carry out the policy delineated with statecraft and ability by Mr. Olway, and to hope that a just and an enlightened course of procedure will likewise prove a successful one.

The Telegraph Bill.

The bill brought in by the Postmaster General for the transference of the telegraphs to the government was printed on Tuesday. The preamble recites that the Telegraph Act, 1868, the Postmaster General is empowered to purchase the whole or any part of any telegraph or other company authorized to transmit telegraphic messages in the United Kingdom, except the undertakings of the Atlantic Telegraph Company and the Anglo-American Telegraph Company; that he is required to make one uniform charge for the transmission of messages throughout the United Kingdom; that a monopoly should be granted to the government, and that agreements should be entered into with the several telegraphic companies for the attainment of these objects. The bill gives power to the Postmaster General to have the exclusive privilege of transmitting telegrams within the United Kingdom, with the following exceptions—Messages in respect of which no charge is made transmitted by telegraph maintained or used solely for private use, and messages sent by a railway or canal company in conformity with the provisions of the Telegraph Act, 1868. Any person transmitting any telegrams in contravention of the exclusive privilege of the Postmaster General will be liable to a penalty not exceeding five pounds. The commissioners of her Majesty's treasury may raise for the purposes of the telegraphs act of 1868 and use any sum not exceeding in the aggregate £100,000 sterling by the creation of terminable annuities for any period of years not exceeding thirty, or by the creation of exchequer bills or exchequer bonds, or of three per cent per annum capital stocks of annuities. The amount so raised shall be placed to an account in the Bank of England in the names of the Commissioners of the national debt, and shall be at the disposal of the Postmaster General. The gross revenue received for the transmission of messages shall be paid into the exchequer to the account of the consolidated fund, and the expenses incurred in working, maintaining or extending telegraphs shall be paid out of moneys to be voted by Parliament. There shall be laid before both houses of Parliament on or before March 31 in each year an account showing the gross amount received during the previous year, ending December 31, the amount of expense, and the balance remaining. Every written or printed message delivered at a post office for the purpose of being transmitted by a postal telegraph shall be a post letter within the meaning of the act, passed in the first year of the reign of her present Majesty, chapter 36.

Opinions of the English Press on Napoleon's Concessions.

The London Times of the 13th says that the message read by Mr. Bonner yesterday afternoon announces the greatest advance in the path of constitutional government which has been made since the

coup d'Etat. If it does not concede at once all that was demanded by the tiers parti, it concedes so much that the remainder may be considered a mere matter of time. The reforms promised by the Emperor amount, in substance, to nothing less than the limitation of responsibility and constitutional government in France. It will, at all events, be the fault of the Chamber itself if this result is not attained, and, to judge by their recent conduct of affairs, we may entertain the greatest hopes of this future.

The London Post would welcome the reforms very warmly if only it was convinced of their suitability to the French character. The doubt is whether the Chamber to which they large concessions are made will have the sense to make full use of them. Take, for instance, "the extension of the right of interpellation." Is it possible for our mercenary neighbors to conduct the evening catechism with the platoon of the Chamber itself? It is not possible. Past experience seems to show the contrary.

The London Standard remarks that the promises of the Emperor as not very intelligible, and says that the reforms he offers fall short of those demanded by the members of the Corps Législatif who signed the interpellation. But the concessions are large and real ones, and if the Frenchmen of to-day are capable of liberty conjoint with order, they offer the opportunity of a great and happy progress towards genuine self-government. But they certainly fall very far short in mere words—and it is to words that French politicians unfortunately attach the chief importance—of the demand for responsible government made in the "interpellation" framed by the leaders of the Third party, and supported with such unexpected enthusiasm by the bulk of the members of the Corps Législatif who owe their election entirely or in part to the influence exercised by the government in their favor. The Emperor gives way in fact, but holds out in point of form.

The London Daily News says nothing that the Emperor has done for many years appears so truly prudent as this timely declaration of a readiness to meet the wishes of France by accepting the principles of parliamentary government. At present, indeed, France has attained nothing but a promise—a promise made to a legislature which demand is reforms is much more than a mere spontaneous offer, which he who made it may think at pleasure.

ENGLAND.

Spain and the Sale of Cuba to the United States.

[From the London Times, July 15.]
Under such circumstances it would hardly seem desirable for Spain to prolong the contest. After the failure of the experiment tried by General Dulce it must be evident that the system of sending public functionaries from Madrid to bathe on the colony will have to be given up. Something like progress towards an enlightened commercial policy will soon become a necessity for revolutionized Spain, and, upon the introduction of more liberal tariffs, it will be difficult for the four of Castile to keep up a competition with that from New Orleans, or for the manufacturers of Catalonia to monopolize the markets of the Antilles. If all that comes to pass, it is impossible to see of what earthly use Cuba can any longer be to Spain, unless it be to gratify national pride by the maintenance of a dominion which is depleted in the teeth of some 40,000 or 50,000 of Spain's best troops. It seems but reasonable to think that considerations of this nature must have some weight with the men now guiding the destinies of the Spanish monarchy, and make them doubt whether Cuba does not cost them much more than it is worth, and whether its loss almost under any terms might not be counted rather as a just feeling of pride, presents any step in that direction being taken so long as insurrection trusts to arms for the success of its cause. But upon the pacification of the island being effected, and Spanish honor receiving the fullest satisfaction, it would seem natural that the dictates of wisdom should be listened to. Cuba is valuable property, Spain is hard-up for cash, and a purchaser is at hand. Able negotiators would be at no loss for a compromise which, while sparing the just susceptibilities of the Spanish nation, could induce it to yield a troublesome sovereignty for a consideration which might afford the means for restoring its shattered finances and consolidating its revolution. It is important for Spanish statesmen to think of it; nor is it quite certain that they are not thinking of it. The intercourse between the new country and Spain, and the Cabinet at Washington is carried on on the most cordial and friendly terms. Notwithstanding the untiring efforts of Cuban refugees, and the zeal of German and Irish adventurers in their cause, the American government has dealt in the matter with great loyalty and uprightness, and its efforts to discountenance sympathy and to prevent aid to Cuba have almost entirely succeeded. In putting an end to filibustering expeditions, when the year is thoroughly ripe and ready to fall it would be a proof of unwise impatience to shake the tree. If Cuba is to become American it must be for the interest of her future masters that she should come into their hands as little ravaged and wasted by civil strife as can be found practicable. Apart from scruples about high principle of nationality and popular sovereignty, an arrangement that would suit all interested parties. Convince the real population of the island, and the plebeians would give only one result—a vote for annexation to the American Union. Already have said the "real" population, for, after all, Cuba should be for the Cubans, and the "Peninsulars," if the new order of things were less to their taste, have always their new country to fall back upon. The only serious question, rising about the scheme