

NEWS BY THE ENGLISH MAIL.

THE PROXIMATE PRESIDENT.

The affairs of the United States have occupied our attention this week almost to the exclusion of every other topic. Of course the arrival of Mr. Crampton, after having been dismissed from his ambassadorial office, was an event in itself of deep and abiding interest as respects the present and future course of the Republic. While the press was engaged discussing the eventualities, the news came, that the Cincinnati Convention had rejected all the Democratic candidates for the Presidency, in favour of Mr. Fremont, Pierce, and, *ad interim*, in favour of Mr. James Buchanan, of Pennsylvania, who has recently returned to his native country, after filling the office of American Ambassador to the British Court. This result has produced a great stir throughout the entire Republic, and we read accordingly of the joy which it has caused among the party to which Mr. Buchanan belongs,—of the bonfires, and cannon roaring, and illuminations which mark the occasion to celebrate this proximate victory, and of the new vigour which this event will infuse into American politics.

The late gifted Mrs. Maury, of Iowa, who, by Mr. Buchanan's aid, has filled the social relations of life, thus describes him in her work, "The Statesmen of America," during the time that he was Secretary of State in President Polk's administration:—"His opinions and decisions, his thoroughly appreciating the extent of his power and the responsibility of his position, this noble-minded man twice tendered his resignation when his opinions conscientiously differed from those of the administration; and it was unquestionably true in the existing government, and there is no doubt that he had quitted office, the relations between England and the United States would have been a much more hostile aspect, for though Mr. Buchanan regarded the duty of a diplomat as the undoubted right of America, his humane and sagacious policy yielded this right rather than rush upon a war fraught with doubtful good and certain evil. For the sake of the peace of the world, and of every lover of his country, both in England and America. It may be gratifying to Mr. Buchanan to learn, that since the publication of the correspondence between the minister and himself, many persons on this side of the Atlantic have adopted his opinions, and consider that the Americans shouldered the greater claims." To those who desire to know something of the *personae* of a nation, whose destinies they are to meet part in the affairs of the great Republic during one of the most critical stages through which it has ever passed, it may be interesting to be told, that Mr. Buchanan is most delicate and exact in the selection of the female character; and free from those narrow prejudices which reduce a woman to a plaything, he does not disdain to honour her worth and to encourage her attentions and usefulness. We may learn, however, from Mrs. Maury, that "the fair and delicate, though fresh complexion of Mr. Buchanan, his eye of light blue, and full-blooded system, attest unequivocally his Anglo-Saxon descent." We may also, from his religious opinions, we are informed on the same authority, that "he is a constant attendant on public worship. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church, but is too enlightened for bigotry, and to be distinguished from the sect, it is owing that a Roman Catholic prelate, of exalted reputation for wisdom and piety, was consulted on the aspect of affairs between the United States and Mexico. Mrs. Maury does not state the age of Mr. Buchanan, but according to the American journals he is now in his 65th year,—an age of experience and wisdom, when the physical powers are strong enough to second a clear and healthy intellect, as in the eyes of the general public, in any probability, will succeed Mr. Pierce at the White House.

The fearful agitation which now rages throughout the Northern States of the Union, at the outrage of which Senator Sumner was a victim, may be said as it were to have relieved the dark picture of rancour and deadly strife between the South and the North, to say nothing of the civil war of

which Kansas is the scene, would induce any man but one of strong nerves to decline the giddy elevation which lies before Mr. Buchanan. But at the same time the Old World is not very apt to be misled by the tone of the American press respecting their own internal differences. We hear much about these differences being so much as speedily shake the Union to pieces—prophets of the South, accompanied by all the horrors of civil war; without at all underrating the importance of the crisis through which the United States are now passing, we may be permitted to say, that the prospect which an American means the dislocation of his country. He may talk about it in bluster, but the realisation is the last idea which enters his mind. In fact, he associates the Republic with enormous territorial possessions, and the greatness of the Union, in its physical extent, is wedded in his belief with its democratic institutions. Come what may, there will be no separation. Some compromise will be effected, before matters proceed to that extremity.

One of the most agreeable features of the Cincinnati Convention is, that instead of selecting as candidates for the office of President obscure or unknown men, whose names have scarcely penetrated beyond their own locality, the prominent candidates in the present instance are amongst the foremost men of the Union. The jealousy which has hitherto prevented the friends of the leading candidates has too often led of late years to the nomination of obscurities, without the prestige or ability to do justice to the office; but in the person of Mr. Buchanan, Washington's first and last extended political career has been. His ability has been proved, and his position is unquestioned.

THE IMPERIAL CHRISTENING BALL.

The ball given on the 16th inst. by the city of Paris to the Emperor and the Empress, in honour of the baptism of the Prince Imperial, was of the most rare magnificence. The Emperor, in the person of the Duke of the Tuileries, which they had reached about an hour before from St. Cloud. The imperial cortege consisted of eight close carriages, that conveying their Majesty, were escorted by the troops of the Cent Gardes in full uniform. A vast crowd filled the streets from the palace to the Hotel de Ville; and in the vicinity of this latter building the mass of human beings was so dense that the movement was nearly impossible. The reason of the afflux towards that spot was, that the splendid illumination of the municipal palace and the simulated cordon opposite threw out a light as bright as day, and enabled the spectators to distinguish perfectly the occupants of the several carriages. The Emperor and Empress were received at the bottom of the grand staircase by Baron Haussmann, prefect of the Seine; by M. Drouin, prefect of the municipal police; the body, accompanied by the members of that office. The imperial party then ascended to the Cour Louis XIV., the Emperor giving his arm to the Grand Duchess of Baden, the Empress giving it to the Grand Duke Oscar of Sweden. Her Majesty was dressed in a white gauze, with paillettes d'argent over white satin, and ornamented with white camellias; a smaller diadem of brilliant stones encircled her crown, and a magnificent necklace of diamonds and emeralds sparkled on her neck. The Emperor wore the uniform of general officer, with white inexpressibles and silk stockings. The imperial party, on arriving at the landing of the beautiful horse-shoe staircase paused for a few moments to admire the gushing fountain and the female figures pouring forth water from their urns. They then ascended to the gallery, and stood perfectly to view by the multitude of tulip-shaped lamps, which shed over every detail a light "so soft as the moonbeams." Their majesties then proceeded at once to the principal ball-room, the Grand Galerie des

Fetes, and took their places on chairs of state exactly opposite the Salle de Caricatures. The ball then commenced, the Emperor dancing with the Baroness Haussmann and the Empress with the prince, in order to mark fully their sense of the splendid entertainments given at the Hotel de Ville. His Majesty also, in the course of the evening, waltzed with the Princess Mathilde, and the Grand Duchess of Baden, in the space in front of the Imperial seats was kept clear to a vast extent, in order to render the heat as little oppressive to the Empress as possible. Their Majesties were afterwards accompanied by the Emperor on arriving at the prefect's apartment, to a room of refreshment. Both seated in high spirits, and conversed in an animated manner with a number of the high personages present. There were three ball-rooms opened on this grand occasion,—that already mentioned, a second in the Salle du Trone, and a third in the large saloon over the Prefect's apartments. Buffets were disposed in every convenient part of the building, and such a profusion of drages were placed to show that the fete was a baptismal one. The masses of natural flowers arranged throughout the building were in such profusion as to excite astonishment; and during the evening, the ladies of the Salle St. Jean were as much an object of admiration at the wondrous arrangements of the Cour Louis XIV. One o'clock struck before the imperial party thought of retiring; and when, on the way to the carriage entrance, they arrived at the uppermost landing of the staircase, they second again so struck with its manifold beauties that the Empress seated herself to enjoy the view, and her ladies following her example, extended their stay. In a moment organised, the ladies being all seated, but the Emperor, Prince Oscar, and the other gentlemen standing. After about a quarter of an hour's delay, the Emperor, the Grand Duke of Baden, and the Duchess down the staircase, the Emperor following with Prince Oscar. Before leaving, their Majesties expressed to Baron and Madame Haussmann their admiration of all that they had seen, and their satisfaction at the splendour of the fete. Loud cheers arose from the guests as their Majesties proceeded to their carriage, and similar acclamations arose as they drove away. The front of the Hotel de Ville was lit up at the moment of departure with Bengal lights, and the effect on the illuminated building was charming. Meanwhile dancing continued in the three ball-rooms above, and until nearly four o'clock, many of the guests remained until nearly four in the morning.

Mr. Crampton arrived in Liverpool, on a Sunday, and immediately proceeded to London. The London Times, in speaking of his arrival says:

"Mr. Crampton was certainly not the man to send a minister to the United States. But the truth is, the United States is not a foreign Embassy, and it is not very easy always to get the man you want for it. You may offer it to the proper man, and he may refuse to accept it. He does not like to banish himself from European society, taste, and refinement, and to fix himself amongst a new and rather rude and uncouth people, who cannot estimate the value of such an office in his own Senate-house, and whose ways and habits are very different from ours. Diplomats are not adventurers; their character is rather the reverse of the adventurer's character. They are the children of civilization and established order, the disciples of system, manners, and *etiquette*. They prefer Paris, Vienna, or Berlin, as an Embassy, on the same principle that they prefer the society of Europe to the society of America. The diplomatist is a delicate artist; he does not like rough handling; he likes the smooth security of decorous ceremonial and oily words, interposing all disturbance, and acting as a buffer between the passions and the violent surge of human passion and petulance. Moreover, diplomats, like soldiers, sailors, clergymen lawyers and, we believe, most other professions, like promotion, and the United States Embassy, as being a course completely out of the ordinary line of embassy promotion."

A CITY SUMMERER.—Capt. Jordan, of the brig *Hobart* from St. Domingo, which has arrived at New York, reports on the night of May 21st. in consequence of the torrents of rain, which had fallen almost without intermission for three days so proceeding, that the cargo of oranges overflowed and submerged a part of the city and carried away from 20 to 35 houses with persons in them. Several were drowned, while others escaped in boats. Many of the inhabitants are, it is impossible to estimate, the damage not only in the city and vicinity, but likewise in the interior, all the banana trees were rooted up and washed into the river with animals, &c. The roads to the capital and elsewhere were almost impassable, as the flood appears to have been great throughout the island. A great deal of coffee was washed away out of the stores in presence of the spectators, in different parts of the city.

A PROPHECY.—The Washington correspondent of the New York Journal of commerce says:

"The political aspect of the times has reminded me of an old prophecy which appeared in a Magazine towards the close of the last century, in relation to the 'good old thirteen,' that just united under a Constitution. Of course it was, as it indicates, from a source hostile to the 'spirit of '76;' When figures 1 and 3 are changed to 2 and 1, the result is 213, which is 1836; For at that year, is done by fate, 'The 31st night in wain and sparrows.' This was a prophetic vision, that could see in the then existing political state, that the year would become *Thirty-one*. The seer who saw so much, may have seen more."

WASBARD'S GAZETTE.

Wednesday, July 9, 1856.

The weather has been for these some days past extremely fine; the rain that had lately fallen has given an impetus to vegetation which promised well for the crops, one of which, the wheat, is said to be in the hands of the Charlottetown. We sincerely trust, that the harvest will be such as to compensate the farmer for the damage done by the storm of peace. If, however, he failed to yield during the last two years, he has acted unwisely, and if he has been too extra expensive in the hope of obtaining facilities, he must only thank his own want of judgment. We had hoped, that this terrific scourge—this heavy tax on the human race, would be surpassed before the increasing knowledge of the day, that railroads, electricity, universal exhibitions or the world's fair would have taught the nations of Europe, that there is a rivalry in which we can safely indulge a contest, which will prove as exciting in the end, and not only exempt from the evils attending upon war, but the contrary, bringing many blessings in its train. And we cannot but think, that this will be the result. If Napoleon III. be really sincere in his desire to see the world at peace, he must exert the energies of the nation over his prejudices, to the development of its domestic, commercial, and industrial character. He must respect the people, a great change will necessarily take place in the surrounding nations; for France has exercised, and will continue to exercise a powerful and controlling influence, not only in fashion alone, where she is supreme, but in modes of thinking as well as in dressing, and in the hope of obtaining facilities by being all but universal, is a convincing proof that such is the case. Go where you will, if you speak the French language fluently, you will find it the language of the day, and the same paroxysm as did the Latin language a few centuries since. That a great change has taken place in the character of the nations, we believe, indeed, and Louis Napoleon is going a wise man, taking advantage of it, and going to the aid of the nations, by the aid of himself and his family into a quiet and secure haven. If, therefore, the French Nation is convinced, that there are other kinds of glory to be obtained, and that the nations of the world, in Siberia itself, in spots of spices and silks, and the arts of peace may be more sedulously cultivated than those of war. There is a lesson to be learned from the French Revolution, and liberty which is beginning to work in Europe, and which in due time will produce the same result, and that the nations will play itself in the shape of hostilities, these cannot last long. The fall of Sebastopol has