

A last (Friday) night's London cable says: Although it further news has arrived either from Russia or from the theatre of hostilities in Afghanistan, there is a general feeling that the situation has somewhat improved. This feeling seems to be mainly due to the receipt of the sudden stimulus given to the war fever by the Gladstone's 500,000 demand made on Tuesday evening, and as day after day passes without the declaration of war, which has never been predicted as imminent, people begin to realize that the situation of affairs differs very little from that of a week ago, when it was stated that probably Baron de Staal had another long interview with Earl Granville to day, and it is said on excellent authority that the Russian ambassador talked very soothingly.

The Duchess of Edinburgh, daughter of the late Czar, is greatly displeased at the strained relations between Russia and England. She will reside at Coburg in the event of war.

The Armstrong works, at Newcastle, having received an order from Russia for a large quantity of war material, have declined to fill it.

Mr. Gladstone will be a keid in the Commons on Monday whether he is willing or not to support the Anglo-Russian dispute to President Cleveland for arbitration. To the Commons this afternoon Mr. Labouchere and Mr. B. Cardwell sought the Government before deciding to go to war with Russia would seek the chances of a friendly peace to obtain a peaceable settlement. Mr. Gladstone replied that never during the present correspondence with Russia or the discussion of the serious questions at present before Parliament, had the Government said anything to the prejudice of the idea advanced by the questioner. As, however, every answer made by the Government to the Commons in asking for a vote of credit has compromised negotiations between England and Russia, and imperilled their success.

A St. Petersburg correspondent telegraphs that Russia has desired Mr. Gladstone to resign his office from the Commons, in asking for a vote of credit has compromised negotiations between England and Russia, and imperilled their success.

It is reported the Russian troops are advancing upon Tirgul.

There is a rumor in circulation concerning the seizure of Hurbt by Russia.

Naval officers who have been retired on half pay have been ordered upon the active list.

The Russian port of Vladivostok, in the sea of Japan, has been closed by the sinking of a torpedo.

"THUMBS UP." Whiskey Men Get the Better of the Police.

A Kingston despatch says a letter has been received here from Mr. Obispo, the Lake Superior, which says that whiskey, which is not allowed to be sold there, sells for \$20 a gallon, and continues: "At this season of the year a great many men come to the lake shore to go on a spree. They have lots of money. Last night the police got wind of the arrival of a dog train with whiskey from the Sault. A couple of Indians brought the information. Chief of Police J. O'Connell and Policeman D. McEllen started out to intercept the peddlers. The police had a dog train of four dogs and a toboggan. Through carelessness on their part the police allowed themselves to be surprised, and the first warning they had was two of the dogs starting their heads in the air, and the usual order given in this part of the country, 'thumbs up,' uttered by the whiskey men. O'Connell was completely taken by surprise, but although owing up that they had the dog on them, he would not hold up his hands. He was shot in the back when he got a shot in the top of his head that completely stunned him. The two whiskey men then pounced on O'Connell, beating him on the head with their revolvers. The whiskey men took the weapon from the police and then took the dog and toboggan, leaving the police nearly dead. This happened five miles from here, and the police have had an awful time getting home. The place where the fight happened and the snow for yards around was covered with blood. O'Connell was lying in three places. McEllen has the fur of a bullet for three inches on the crown of his head. This afternoon one of the gang was arrested with the whiskey, dog, toboggans, etc., in his possession. The other is yet at large, but the police are after him.

A BELFAST WELCOME To the Prince and Princess of Wales.

A last (Thursday) night's Dublin cable says: Notwithstanding the early hour at which the Royal visitors started for Belfast, this morning there was a large turnout all along the route from the Vice Regal lodge in Phoenix Park to Amiens street, the terminus of the Dublin, Drogheda & Belfast Railway, and the crowd was very enthusiastic. The engine was handsomely decorated, and the special train started at 10.30. At all the stations, where the train stopped long enough to permit it, addresses were presented and replies made, and everywhere, even from the cottages along the line, there were signs of welcome in the shape of banners, ribbons and noisettes. Arrived in Belfast the Royal couple were met by the Mayor, the members of the corporation and an immense crowd of citizens. The route from the station to Ulster Hall was packed with people, the houses were gay with flags, the streets were crowded with ladies and the streets were spanned by arches. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed. The cheering was incessant, and the Prince and Princess had, perhaps, never a more hearty and spontaneous welcome anywhere than when they were met in the town of the North. Arrived at Ulster Hall, the various public bodies of the city presented addresses and the Prince made feeling replies. Throughout the whole reception there was not a single discordant element. The Prince and Princess were met on the evening on the royal yacht Osborne for Carrickfergus Roads, where the yacht will be moored for the night.

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There are 628,325 Odd-fellows in Great Britain, a gain of 38,377 during last year. The number of deaths in 1884 was 7,078.

THE LANCET

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VICEROY OF IRELAND.

The Duties, Patronage and Privileges of the Lord Lieutenant.

The Lord Lieutenant is charged with a certain, but not very large, amount of patronage, says the "Fortnightly Review." Since the disestablishment of the Irish Church there is no ecclesiastical patronage; since the introduction of open competition there is little civil service patronage, a few heads or chiefships of departments and a few secretarieships alone remaining. The Lord Lieutenant nominally, but in reality the sovereign on the advice of the Prime Minister, appoints the judges. In a similar way he appoints the Lord Lieutenants of counties in Ireland—he actually appoints County Court judges, officers of the police and constabulary forces in Ireland, also the stipendiary magistrates, and in the borough ordinary or unpaid magistrates. He also appoints, or, as it is called, "pricks," the high sheriffs of counties from the lists submitted to him by the judges of assizes. He has a few legal appointments, such as crown solicitors, clerks of the crown or peace, and also some unpaid and honorary appointments to certain public boards. There is, it will be observed, no patronage of a character different from patronage in England, certainly not to mention the Lord Lieutenant for his exercise. That portion which he exercises as Deputy of the Crown should be resumed by the Crown; as regards the rest other arrangements could easily be made. The principal departments under his control and management of the Lord Lieutenant are the prisons department, the fisheries, the lunatic asylums and the Registrar General. Each and all of them are analogous to the similar departments in England, and so far as they are concerned, there is no reason for the Lord Lieutenant to exercise his patronage as the representative of the Government, is also nominally concerned with the system of national education in the country, but as the exposition of defects of the existing system, the Lord Lieutenant falls upon the Chief Secretary, the latter is really the principal person. So far, then, nothing points to any necessity for the Irish Vice-royalty. There is one function or privilege of the Crown which has been reserved to the Lord Lieutenant, and that is the power of which has of late subjected the Lord Lieutenant to much unjust contumely—the privilege of pardoning offenders or mitigating their sentences. In Great Britain the Secretary of State for the Home Department is responsible for the pardon of offenders, and it is not one who really knows anything about Ireland that if the dead weight of the British Government were taken off Ireland the two functions in it would be at each other's throats, and even now, between the frequent party demonstrations and disturbances on the one, the Executive Government has to exercise vigilance and to act with energy. The whole of the Royal Irish Constabulary Force is directly under control of the Lord Lieutenant, and also the three Mounted Police Divisions. Should these be insufficient he can always call on the military for aid. He has also at his control a large number, over seventy, of stipendiary magistrates, who are sent here and there, as occasions may require, to the various parts of the country. The Lord Lieutenant has usually had certain special powers given him by Parliament for the maintenance of law and order. The exercise of these powers rests with him exclusively, and he is not answerable to the Government. At the present moment he has extra powers under the Constabulary Acts, enabling him to quarter extra police in counties and charge part of their cost; under the Arms Act, enabling him to restrict the importation or possession of arms; and under the Prevention of Crimes Act, enabling him to prohibit public meetings, and when needed to impose other restrictions on the liberty of the individual.

THE STILLWELL TRAGEDY.

Not Enough Jurymen in St. Thomas to Try the Case.

A last (Thursday) night's St. Thomas despatch says: At the Assizes this morning Ransom Forbes and Sarah Jane Stillwell were placed in the dock, Forbes being charged with murdering Louis Napoleon Stillwell on the first of January last. Sarah Jane Stillwell is charged with being the instigator, and procuring Forbes to commit the murder. Mrs. Stillwell was dressed in black. She looked thin and pale, and was accompanied by a female friend, who appeared a composed appearance, and pleaded not guilty in a distinct tone. Forbes seemed cool and indifferent, and pleaded not guilty in a firm voice. Mr. Colm MacDonnell, counsel for Mrs. Stillwell, asked the jury to acquit her, and tried a peremptory. Mr. Idington, on behalf of the Crown, refused the request. The selecting of the jury then began. Only five jurymen were accepted and sworn when the clerk announced that the panel was run out, there having been but forty-eight jurymen empanelled. The different counsel for the prisoners challenged the balance. This brought the case to an abrupt termination, which was great disappointment to the large number of witnesses summoned in the case. His Lordship said there would have to be a new jury empanelled, and adjourned the case until May 18th. The Crown was represented by Mr. J. Idington, of Stratford, and C. W. Colter, of Cayuga; E. Meredith and Chas. F. Clarke for Mrs. Stillwell and Colin MacDonnell for Forbes.

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POOR "BAGPIPES."

Why Dr. Witt Charles Clinton Fletcher Piper Wishes to Change His Name.

De Witt Charles Clinton Fletcher Piper petitioned the City Council for leave to change his name to Charles Clinton Fletcher. He says his name is too long for convenience in correspondence and for transacting business. He has been known as Charles Clinton Fletcher for some time, and prefers that name. The name Piper and humilitation, par-oise of calling him "Bagpipes" and "Piper," and recasting in his hearing such old-time sayings as "Tom, Tom, the piper's son, stole a pig and away he run," and "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers." He was born in Dresden township, Oxford county, Ontario, and his parents' names are Isaac and Sarah Piper. His mother's maiden name was Ball. Judge Clement has given leave to the petitioner to assume the name of Charles Clinton Fletcher after May 10th.—*Brooklyn Eagle.*

Spring Fashion Notes.

The short "Spanish" or "Sultana" jacket is fashion's latest whim. "Castogan" is the name given in Paris to the newest style of hairdressing for young ladies.

The pretty beige and almond tinted dresses are revived, and find as much favor as they met 25 years ago.

A dainty little fashion is introduced of having a card case made to match the calling costume and any lady can easily make one to match any dress she desires.

Handkerchiefs are purely ornamental. They are small, with colored borders, delicately embroidered and enriched in one corner with design or monogram.

Sashes of watered ribbon, which are eight, twelve and sixteen inches wide, are worn as fashion's r elegant indoor and walking toilettes and are especial favorites with young ladies.

The key-note of this season seems to be embroidery. It is used upon everything—dresses, bonnets, ribbons, laces, trimmings and fabrics of every description for under and outside wear.

Lawns with small figures are made up with open V shaped bodices edged with lace and belted with soft silk the color of the figure, or they are finished with Swiss bodices in silk or velvet.

Plain gray-woolens and gray-blue are made up with red to look very pretty for country wear. The red sometimes forms a trimming over the collar and cuffs, or is put out in points or shell shapes, while upon the bodice it forms a tucked vest.

Chenille trimmings will remain fashionable,