The New Orleans Daily Bee.

OFFICE 78 CHARTRES STREET. NEW ORLEANS, MONDAY MORNING, JUNE 4, 1866. Vol. XXVII—New Series. Vol. XVII—Whole—13,613

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY.

Mr. Gladstone thinks that the English should at once set about paying their national debt, because he is a free advocate of the fundamental proposition of England in Russia, and shortly after he had ceased to be the Prussian representative at the Federal Diet in Frankfort, was for the first time published in the Times as Hansing, on the 14th inst. From that paper we translate it for the columns of the Times:

PETERSBURG, May 12, 1859.

From the eight years of my official activity at Frankfort I have become convinced as the result of my experience, that for Prussia the present constitution of the Confederation are in quite an oppressive, and in actual period a dangerous yoke, without affording to those interests which Austria receives from them, while Austria obtains a larger share of her own interests. Both these great Powers are not treated with the same measure by the Princes and Governments of the smaller States. In the construction of the objects and laws of the Confederation is modified according to the requirements of Austrian policy. With your permission I will explain briefly what your personal knowledge of the subject I need not enter into details of the history of Federal politics since 1850, and I confine myself to refer merely to the proceedings of the Diet, of Holstein, of Schleswig, the commercial, Press, and constitutional question, the Federal fortresses Rastatt and Mayence, of the Neufchatel and the Luxemburg questions. Always have we been opposed by the same compact majority, by the same Austrian votes, supported by Prussia. In the Oriental question the influence of Austria was so much superior to our own, that not even the harmony of the wishes and desires of the Federal Government with the policy of Prussia could do more than oppose it by a yielding front.

Almost without exception, our confederates have insinuated to us, and even said that it was impossible for them to keep up to the confederation, if we did not follow in their own way, although it was not doubted that the right as well as the true interests of Germany were on the side of the prussian policy; that, at least upon the views of nearly all the confederated Princes. Would they ever in a similar manner manifest their own wishes and desires to the Confederation, and to their adherence to Austria upon false interests which to both countries Certainly not, for their adhesion to Austria rests upon false interests which to both countries are injurious, and which are the main reason of the development of the power and influence of Prussia as a permanent basis of their legal and Russia.

To develop the confederation with Austria for its head is the natural object of the policy of the German Princes and their Ministers; this, in their view, is the achievement of the century of Prussia and is necessarily aimed against it, so long as Prussia will not confine her self to the part of the subordinate ally. The armed powers of Austria, were attempted to be used repeatedly for carrying through Austrian policy, and the Federal fortresses have been used successfully to test the weight of the element in which we have been placed by the Confederation and its ultimate historic destination. We had to confess, however, that the Federal constitution was not to be blamed for such a speculation and experiment executed to 1859 broke, the most serious and dangerous, when the Federal powers were unbreakable and other fundamental changes in positive power have occurred within little more than a half century past, can afford 66 assume the continuance for a century to come, of the same conditions of relative power which now exist. Mr. Gladstone does in speculating the most valued industry of England and her unrivaled supplies of cheap coal as fuel for mechanical purposes. Yet, there are always persons who are ready to impart trouble to the present from a distant and speculative future; as there are those even in the United States who are moved to discuss, and to take an interest in hearing discussed, not only the exhaustion for practical purposes of American coal, but the prospective duration of the world's supply of iron. It is sufficient to consider, now and then, some of the enormous quantities for both wood and coal as articles of fuel and for the motive power of machinery, or for warming the human body and cooking food. It is needless to mention, petroleum, whose discoverers promise excess to the universal, whose quantity and possible durability baffle the calculation. There are nowadays hardly such a basis of human calculations. But there is a considerable substance, almost, if not quite as widely distributed as petroleum, and generally more accessible and practicable, which is scarcely ever mentioned in connection with the annual supply of material for fuel. This is peat, which has been estimated by the peasantry of Scotland, Ireland, France, and other European countries for centuries past. In this country every month and every year, where for ages to come the forests have been cleared and vegetable matter accumulated, in the deposits of peat. Mr. Gladstone London can no doubt be found, and the cost of the article to the consumer is not at all. In the connection it may be worthwhile to note the fact which we have mentioned in the Northern press, that a locomotive on the Hartford and New Haven railroad recently made a trip in which it was found with peat gathered along the line of the road, and that the experiment was quite successful, as the locomotive then fired with bituminous coal, and at times at high speed. Whether peat can be so compressed generally that it will be available as a compact fuel, is another question. But it is certain that no national speculation regarding the future exhaustion of coal can neglect to take peat into account as an important source of the problem.

The following, from the New York Tribune of the 1st inst., is also worthy of some noteworthy attention:

SIR—In your issue of the 25th inst., I find the report of a weekly meeting of the Polytechnic Association, at the Cooper Institute, on the preceding evening, under the heading of "Peat and its Uses," a discussion of which, as also, by one of the members, Mr. Gregory, as follows: "Mr. Gregory, of Ireland, said that the Government of Ireland had expended millions of dollars in the attempt to reclaim the bogs, and had failed. Mr. Gregory then stated that he had invented what he called a digging machine, which would dig out the peat, and prepare it for use at a small cost. Mr. Gregory appeals at first, if not altogether visionary, as a fraud.

If the following remarks can be deemed of any use to the public, it is hereby at the option of your pleasure of them:

There are three varieties of peat known to me, viz., the fibrous, the pitch, and the hypnum. The first named is indeed very good, and is known and used in Ireland, Scotland, and Holland. The second named is indeed very good, but is known only in the vicinity of coarse grasses, and the third named is composed of mosses, and is of little value. The first variety, when dug, should be dried, pulped, and formed principally, if not entirely, by machinery. It is also necessary that the water should be entirely expelled by the compression of the machinery. The second variety can be used in the same manner, but the third variety is to be rejected altogether. It is a fact that the