THE PRESS.
PUBLISHED DAILY (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED)
BY JOHN W. FORNEY,
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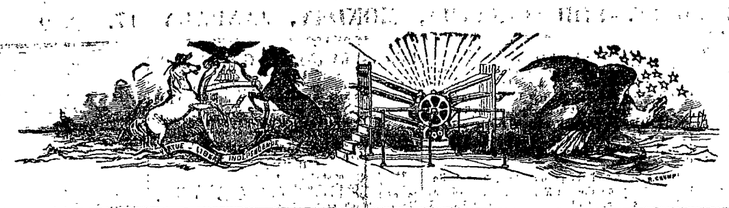

VOL. 2—NO. 145. PHILADELPHIA, MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 1859. TWO CENTS.

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SHARPLESS BROTHERS
Are selling their whole stock of Fancy Goods—
Velentias and Poplins,
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At prices very much reduced. They have also supplied their GREAT COUNTRY with a large stock of new Prints and De Laines at very low prices.
ja6 CHESTNUT AND EIGHTH.

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CLOSE OUT VERY CHEAP!
THE BALANCE OF THEIR FALL AND WINTER GOODS!
Cloaks and Raglans,
Shawls and Silks,
Merinoes and Cashmeres,
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Satin Troveres and Valencias,
Chintzes and Ginghams,
Cloths and Cassimeres,
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Hosiery and Gloves, &c., &c.
With a large and well assorted general stock of
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All Bought CHEAP for CASH, and now to be sold AT REDUCED PRICES!
To close out preparatory to STOCK-TAKING!
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"WE SELL FOR CASH AND HAVE BUT ONE PRICE." ja1-tf

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$60 Cloaks Reduced to $45 00.
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Fine Black Cloths.
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All at WHOLESALE RATES.
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Jal5 3t

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The Press.

MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 1859.

Prince Demidoff.

To take a man's life, and then take away his character, may fairly be considered a heavy offence. Yet this has been done by some respectable journals in this country. Not with "malice prepense" and intentionally, we can well believe. But—it has been done.

All persons acquainted with French affairs know that the Princess MATHILDE, daughter of JEROME BONAPARTE, ex-King of Westphalia, is the wife of Prince ANATOLE DEMIDOFF; that they have been separated for several years; and that the Prince is one of the most wealthy of the rich nobles of Russia. A few months ago we saw in several American journals an account of the death, at Florence, of the Prince ANATOLE DEMIDOFF, Russian Minister to Turkey," mentioning his immense wealth, (from the silver and diamond mines of Russia,) and what purported to be particulars of his pecuniary relations with his wife. As Prince DEMIDOFF was not only a liberal patron of letters, but himself an author of well-merited celebrity, we were sorry for his death.

Soon after we heard of it, there appeared, from the Paris correspondent of the *Boston Post*, a long, elaborate, and, we may say, remarkable account of Prince DEMIDOFF. It described him as the original from which EUGENE SUE had drawn a revolting character in one of his romances—it represented him as feeling no delight, save in wreaking revenge upon those who had offended him, and especially enjoying "the merry sport of trampling upon men's hearts"—it spoke of his "brutal ferocity of mischief"—it expatiated upon his "cruelty to his wife"—and wound up with declaring that, on his death-bed, at Baden, he had set all his twelve physicians at loggerheads by getting each to write an opinion about his illness, and, almost at the last gasp, exhibiting the documents before the whole of them, no two opinions agreeing on any one point!

This narrative, between a biography and a romance, was copied into various journals throughout the Union. Two respectable papers in this city thus helped to give it extended circulation. Hence, the impression on the public mind cannot have been other than most unfavorable to the reputation of the Prince. Unfortunately, however, for the "well-informed Paris correspondent" of the Boston *Post*, the Prince Demidoff is particularly described, with great extravagance of invention and much particularly of detail, happens *not* to have died. To our certain knowledge he was alive and well, in Vienna, within the last three weeks! With the exception of his great wealth and his having married Princess MATHILDE, all that has been published here about Prince ANATOLE DE DEMIDOFF is as wild and fictitious a romance as any in the Arabian Nights' Entertainments.

Last summer, died at Baden (not at Turin) a cousin of M. ANATOLE DE DEMIDOFF; and *this* death evidently made the Boston *Post's* Paris correspondent venture into the realms of fiction, in the extraordinary manner already alluded to. Of course, it would speedily be known at Paris that the newspapers had killed the *wrong* man. Yet we do not recollect having seen in the Boston *Post*, from its Paris correspondent, any withdrawal of the gross slanders which he had written respecting Prince de DEMIDOFF, nor yet any correction of the misstatement respecting his death.

At the very time when, on this false representation from Paris, our public were freely discussing the character of the Prince, he was employed in completing a literary work, for publication, which will contain an account of his Travels in Spain, in 1847. This work was originally to have appeared in 1848, but the political and personal complications of that Year of Revolutions prevented its completion at that period, and what BYRON designates "the distractions of a various lot" have since delayed it. However, its publication may be looked for, ere long, and it will be at once valuable and interesting, if it be as good as the Prince's preceding works. For this maligned gentleman, who has been so elaborately described as at once an effeminate Epicurean, an incarnation of the spirit of mischief, and a new edition of the redoubtable Blue Beard, happens to be a laborious student, a lover of literature and art, an acknowledged *savant*, a traveller through every country in Europe, and many parts of Asia and Africa, and a man of letters who delights to communicate to the public, in charming narratives, his impressions of his native land and of other realms.

There is a circumstance connected with Prince DEMIDOFF's tour in Spain, so much to his credit, and so likely to interest our readers, that we take leave to mention it here—though the generosity which we shall record undoubtedly neither expected nor desired to be made public.

In September, 1847, Prince DEMIDOFF visited Gibraltar. The United States steamer *Princeton* was there at the time, commanded by Captain FREDERICK ENGLE. Prince DEMIDOFF visited this vessel, then anchored in the Bay of Gibraltar, and, out of compliment to his nation, was honored with a salute. Unfortunately, one of the guns burst, and so much injured a seaman, THOMAS DENNIS, of Boston, that it was necessary to amputate both his arms, the same evening. On hearing of this accident, next morning, the Prince wrote to Captain ENGLE, with whom he was on terms of intimacy and friendship, that considering himself "the indirect, though innocent cause" of the misfortune, he desired to settle upon DENNIS an annuity of four hundred French francs, paid annually in advance, at the office of the United States Navy Agent, at Philadelphia. The accident took place on September 5th, 1847, and Prince DEMIDOFF's intended liberality was acknowledged, on the part of DENNIS, by Captain ENGLE, in the warm terms of gratitude which the generous deed excited. The necessary legal document, binding the Prince and his heirs to pay the annuity to THOMAS DENNIS, was prepared without delay. Five copies were executed. The Prince retained one, while the remaining four were severally placed in the hands of Captain ENGLE, of the United States Consul at Gibraltar, the Notary Public who officially attested the deed, and of the Governor of Gibraltar. The first year's income was paid in advance, and the succeeding annual payments have been duly made, in this city, ever since.

Under date November 12, 1847, the Hon. J. Y. MASON, then Secretary of the Navy, (and now United States Minister at Paris,) wrote a letter, on the part of our Executive, to Captain ENGLE, in which he expressed regret at the accident, the painful consequences of which were "much alleviated by the considerate and generous kindness of Prince DEMIDOFF and Sir ROBERT WILSON." The latter was Governor of Gibraltar at the time of the accident, and at once received DENNIS into the British hospital in that garrison, where he was treated with all kindness.

After DENNIS left the hospital, with one arm amputated above, and the other below the elbow, Prince DEMIDOFF sent him to Paris, accompanied by his own private secretary, and two men from the *Princeton*, in order to have artificial arms fitted on. After DENNIS returned, it was found that the mechanical arms did not work properly, whereupon the Prince sent him to England, where a new set of arms was bought for him, very costly, but so complete that DENNIS has ever since been able to help himself to food by their aid.

Those who feel any interest in these particulars may thank us for informing them that DENNIS eventually returned to this country, where he married and has a family, and that he is now under pay at the navy-yard at Washington, able to perform his duties (as a messenger, we believe,) to the satisfaction of his superiors in command.

There is not the slightest necessity for commenting on the humane and generous feeling manifested by Prince DEMIDOFF in this case. We will charitably hope that if the Paris correspondent had been acquainted with these circumstances, he would not have made the *Boston Post* the medium of slandering such a well-deserving man. Certainly, no *American* has any grounds for clouding the name of DEMIDOFF.

We have mentioned his reputation as an author. His first work is entitled "Lettres sur L'Empire de Russo," published in the Paris *Journal des Débats* in 1838 and 1839, and collected, in an octavo volume, in 1840. In the newspaper, they excited much attention, from their candor, their spirit, their minuteness, without tediousness of detail, and their great accuracy. The principal subjects here discussed may be briefly summed up:—Ruissan journalism in 1838; military education; Russian fisheries; *coup-d'œil* of literature in 1838; works of the Academy of Sciences of St. Petersburg; Siberian exile; scientific explorations set on foot by the Imperial Academy of Sciences of St. Petersburg; Form of Russian Government—the Czar's power; political constitution of the Russian Empire, the Council of the Empire, the Senate, and the Holy Senate, respectively representing the legislation, the judicature, and the ecclesiastical rule—the Ministers of State, the provincial Administration, and the social condition of Russia. This work was published anonymously, but the authorship has long since been acknowledged.

Prince DEMIDOFF's great work, in four 8vo. volumes, containing nearly three thousand pages, is entitled "Voyage dans la Russie Méridionale et la Crimée, par la Hongrie, la Valachie, et la Moldavie." It was modestly declared, in the title-page, to have been performed "under the direction of M. ANATOLE DE DEMIDOFF," by seven men of letters and *savans* who accompanied him. But the first volume, describing this six months' tour, was written by the Prince himself, who supervised the other portions, especially those upon mineralogy and geology, kindred sciences with which he has attained extensive familiarity. These volumes were embellished with sixty-four drawings after nature, by M. RAFFET, a Parisian designer, and dedicated to the late Emperor NICHOLAS.

Though the Travels recorded in this work were made in 1837, the publication was not made until 1842, so much labor was bestowed upon it, so much pains taken to secure accuracy in even the minutest detail. The first volume relates the incidents of the journeying,—from Russia to Paris, thence to Vienna, Bucharest; through Wallachia, Moldavia and Bessarabia; Odessa, and across the Black Sea, to the Crimea, to all the places since rendered so familiar by the subsequent war; a rest at Constantinople, and Smyrna, and Malta, and finishing with quarantine at Marseilles. The tour is related with much spirit, and not only the countries traversed, but their inhabitants, manners, customs, history, and productions, are very vividly described. It is a matter for surprise that this volume, at least, has not been translated. Volume II contains phrenological studies (with plates) on nine human skulls found in various parts of the Crimea,—studies in natural history, in various places,—botanical researches,—geological tour in the Crimea, in the island of Taman, in Austria, Hungary, and the district of the Danube; geographical notes on the Crimea, and on the succession of races there, with notices of plants, fossils, animals, and temperature. Vol. III has descriptions of animals, birds, insects, reptiles, fishes, &c., of the Pontic sea and region. Vol. IV has numerous chapters on the carboniferous lands between the Donetz and the Pruth, and their vast mineral resources—climate, spontaneous vegetation, geology being all treated of. There is an entire work to each volume, and a large atlas of illustrative engravings besides. We have forgotten the exact c