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Monday, October 20, 2025

Cryptic • by LR

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ACROSS

- 1 Nice compliment for Trump's leadership by eccentric Bernie S (4,4)
- 6 League disqualified the French over quarter-final fight (5)
- 9 The Fifth Element box office receipts of Norwegian premieres (5)
- 10 I say, father! Model church costume for a pirate party (8)
- 11 Soldiers warm your heart (4)
- 12 Puzzle migraine? Editor adapted (10)
- 13 Show Mulder when women and men leave joint (8)
- 15 Speechless actors in tears, frantically penning cross letter (6)
- 16 Formula 1 creep crashed (6)
- 19 Dianne's briefly pranked on the phone in the local area (8)
- 22 Dip into spa, terribly upset (10)
- 23 Hire cockney after digging first grave (4)
- 24 Cost to accommodate funny girl, I made intricate jewellery design (8)
- 25 Sword stuck in boulder, basically retracted (5)
- 26 Leader fled from anger about one African country (5)

DOWN

- 2 Fresh start for clan coming back into Royal Hotel (7)
- 3 Cross America northwards, right then left over 12 months (5)
- 4 Paid no attention to rocks eroding (7)
- 5 Maiden name of Reid-Uppingly? Became less wealthy (7)
- 6 Standard entrance to garage removed around half-five (7)
- 7 Happy with aviator avoiding a fifth fighter (9)
- 8 Crap! English get cross with king over letter to Greeks (7)
- 14 Going to toilet training, shockingly after university (9)
- 17 Splashing iodine around Tom's face is an issue (7)
- 18 King beginning to examine politician beside queen with zero rupees (7)
- 19 They're used to start a hole, opening deep waterways (7)
- 20 Please stay out, hiding one southern force (7)
- 21 Stream now (7)
- 23 Woman to remove underwear? (5)

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