THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

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TERMS

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BALTIMORE.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1861.

TO THE PUBLIC.

THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET will be issued daily from the office formerly occupied by the *Daily Exchange*, and will be, as its name implies, simply a "News Sheet." It will furnish the latest intelligence as derived from the despatches of the Associated Press, by which it will be supplied in common with the New York journals; from its exchanges, and from such reliable private sources of information as it may be able to command. Expressing itself no opinions, it will devote its editorial columns to such extracts from other journals as may be deemed of interest to the public.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

The news from the South is of a very interesting character. Further particulars of the naval engagement are given. It will be seen that the Confederates had steamers carrying 19 guns, and the battering ram "Manassas," carrying one gun; and the Federal fleet consisted of four steamers, the Richmond, Vincennes, Preble, and Water Witch, and the schooner Joseph H. Toone, in all carrying 53 guns. The fight commenced in the night, and the Vincennes (not the Preble, as heretofore reported,) was sunk by the Manassas. The rest of the Federal steamers escaped. The Joseph Toone and launch were captured.

Particulars of the fight on Santa Rosa Island show that the Wilson Zouaves were driven into Fort Pickens, the camp destroyed, many of them killed, and between thirty and forty taken prisoners. The Confederates acknowledge a severe loss, yet do not state the number of their killed and wounded.

The Richmond *Enquirer* publishes an account of a fight at Chingoteague, Eastern Shore of Virginia, in which fifteen Federal soldiers were killed. The expedition of the Government troops was to destroy a vessel which was on the stocks, but they were compelled to retreat without succeeding in their mission.

General Wise's condition is not improving, and fears are entertained that he will not recover.

The news from Washington is very meagre. Quiet reigns along the lines of the Potomac. Several reconnoissances have been made by the Government forces, but no advance steps taken. Mr. Secretary Seward and the Ministers of England, France and Spain, are reported to have visited the camps and fortifications on the Virginia side, and attended a review at Arlington Heights. Much surprise is expressed by the Government at the misconstruction of Mr. Seward's circular, and the country is again assured that the relations of the Government with foreign Powers are of the most satisfactory character.

On Friday night three tug boats were despatched down the river, to assist boats *en route* up. Owing to the bright moonlight it was not deemed prudent to go within range of the Confederate batteries. The thick fog which prevailed towards morning compelled the return of the tugs. The Confederates captured the schooner Fairfax, ladened with hay. The Resolute had the schooner in tow, but the cable parted and the schooner drifted towards the Virginia shore, when the Confederates went out in boats and seized her. The Resolute did not go to her assistance.

The correspondence between Lord Lyons and Secretary Seward will be found very interesting. The British Minister in very plain terms tells Mr. Seward that the United States Constitution has been violated by the arrest and imprisonment of British subjects, and protests against the proceedings in the name of his Government. Mr. Seward replies in quite a sharp tone, and while he explains the particulars of the arrest, confinement and release of the British subjects, he justifies the proceedings, and closes his note with the assurance that the United States Government does not need, nor will it accept of the interpretation of the Constitution by English jurists.

We lay before our readers this morning a letter from Harper's Ferry, giving the most interesting account of the skirmish at the Ferry which has yet been published. There was one man killed and five wounded on the side of the Confederates. Colonel Ashby is still alive, performing acts of gallantry as well as valor. Mr. Abraham H. Herr, well known in this city, has been arrested and taken to Richmond. He is suspected of disloyalty. It is reported that his extensive mill has been burnt, and that it is also the intention of the Confederates to destroy Harper's Ferry.

The Republican papers are very quiet on the result of the late Pennsylvania election. This apathy is, no doubt, occasioned by the fact that they were overwhelmingly defeated in the contest. The State has gone largely Democratic.

THE ASPECT OF THE CITY.

Within the past few months a great change has taken place in the general appearance of our city. One familiar with Baltimore in 1860, but who has been absent for a year, will find some difficulty in recognizing what was once so comfortable to him, and still more in accommodating himself to this new order of things. Let any one who has not yet appreciated to its fullest extent the change which has taken place ascend Washington Monument and view the surroundings of the city. The conclusion to a person who was a stranger to the facts, would be that it was a besieged city. In whatever direction the eye turns, fields of tents are in view, while armed men are seen pacing their lonely beats. Vast fortifications, bristling with wide-mouth cannon, have sprung into existence apparently by very magic, and death-dealing shot and shell lie piled in profusion within the works. Men in glittering uniforms tread our streets and are met in all resorts. The most striking feature in the change is the great multitude of strange faces encountered at every turn, and the new class of people which they represent. It is no novelty for Baltimore to be thronged with strangers. Spring and Fall have invariably filled our city with country merchants and their families, and opulent visitors, who sought the city to enjoy a week, participating in the galeties which mark those seasons. Important anniversaries and memorable occasions have brought their trains of strangers, who have lingered a few hours or days at most, and then returned to their homes without leaving any particular impress on the public.

To-day, however, and for months past, the city has been crowded with strange faces of a people who appear to have no sympathy with us, either in habits, tastes, or manners. Any one who has been a careful observer of the class of men who attend on national political conventions, not as delegates, but as "outside pressure" and expectant office-seekers, can form a very correct idea of the major part of the visitors now here. The hunt for office over, the hunt for contracts has commenced, and every little village in the northern and western States has sent out its "sharp men" in search of some position or situation, or contract by which the Government can be fleeced.

Such a man can be distinguished easily. When the train stops in the depot, he jumps from the cars with a little black sack in his hand, containing a shirt and a collar, and hurries off to depot or hotel. The hotel clerk is wearied with questions as to localities, and names of unknown and unheard-of persons. Hundreds of this class of men are in the city to-day, ravenous as wolves, and as pertinacious.

Then there are the "country cousins," who have been visiting their relations in camps, bearing to them as presents nice jellies, woollen socks and a dough-nut. They promenade in quaintly-cut clothes, with a half-smile on their countenances, staring at the show-windows, looking into your face as though they were meeting you on a country road and it was their Christian obligation to bid you "good morning."

But the influx of strangers is not the greatest change. After years of suffering, during which the dearest rights of the community were trodden into the dust by licentious mobs, after great sacrifice and much patient endurance, the people of Baltimore succeeded in excluding from power and place the men who had wielded the one and filled the other, and the municipality was restored to purity. A police force was instituted which, for efficiency, had no parallel on this continent. The rowdies who had perpetrated outrage upon outrage were compelled to self-exile, or were called to answer at the bar of justice. Security reigned everywhere. Law was respected and enforced. It is scarcely necessary to say that a change has taken place.

In so large a city as this, street beggars are almost a necessity. And many were in this city one year ago, but compared with those to-day, the number was small indeed. Now thousands—men, women and children—are tramping the streets.—Not an hour passes that the dwellings of opulent families are not besieged with mendicants. Scarcely are the wants of one applicant supplied before another equally as needy is supplicating for relief. Tales of suffering—of days of fasting, and nights of hunger—are on a thousand lips, and too often the sunken eye, the blanched cheek, and the emaciated form are eloquent witnesses to the truth of the sorrowful story. Strong, earnest and honest men, who never knew what it was to want, whose hands were ever open for the relief of suffering, now walk our streets in absolute poverty. Heretofore it has been their pleasure to give bountifully; but they are no longer dispensers of charities,—on the contrary, they are its worthy recipients. Their tongues have never learned the art of begging, and they have been educated to look upon the practice, even when necessary, as disgusting. Hours of want—days of trouble, nights of sleepless sorrow, come and pass, and still they cheat themselves, with the delusion that help will arrive—that relief from some unknown source is at hand—that "something will turn up." Not so. Disappointment adds to the heavy sorrow; and at last, sick at heart, with hunger staring from their eyes, they are forced to apply to some friend, perhaps but little better off than themselves. The story runs always thus:—"Not a bite to eat for days—not a cent of money—no employment, nor prospect of it—a wife and little ones to feed." Hundreds in this city, within the past few months, have told the same sad tale. Hundreds more will tell it. And when winter, with all its rigors, its penetrating frosts and pitiless storms, is here, God only knows what the poor will do. Many a shoeless foot will leave its impress in the snows—many a grey head will go unsheltered of the storms—many a throbbing heart will be stilled for ever. "Alms," "alms," "alms," is a doleful sound to be constantly ringing in the ears. It is natural to turn away from the oft-told tale, and even at last to doubt the truth of any story of sorrow, though it may be rehearsed with trembling tongue and bursting heart. "I have nothing for you, I am as poor as you;" as the supplicant turns away—a new bonnet—a new shawl—a new overcoat—a new hat—a jewel or some furs. A few yards from your door you will find shoeless feet—half-naked bodies—hatless heads—destitute homes—want—hunger—death. The poor are troublesome, but "ye have them always with ye."

Suffering, however, is not the greatest grief that flows from poverty. Too frequently it is the mother of shame. Women who have never known want—who have lived fashionable lives, joined in the follies and extravagances of a prosperous community, until their simple natures have changed, their tastes been vitiated and their desires corrupted—now find themselves deprived of the means of indulging their propensities for dress, or gratifying their longings for the excesses which made their past life a fiction. Too weak to resist the corrupting influences by which they are surrounded, and anxious to continue living a life of useless ease, they commence one of shame.

Other women, pressed by want—urged by dire necessity—maddened by a destitute present and a dark, unpromising future—take the fatal step and are lost. Young girls, who are just blushing into womanhood, and who perhaps a week, a month ago, were pure as the chaste Isabella, and who like her, to any impure proposition would have replied: "The impression of keen whips I'll wear as rubies, and strip myself to death as to a bed I'e long been sick for, ere I'll yield my virgin body up to shame"—have listened to the tempter's words, and are now feeling the poignant sorrow felt only by those who take the word of promise which is given to the ear and broken to the heart.

Hundreds of this class walk our streets with the shadows of shame indelibly impressed in their faces, and nightly they are to be seen, objects of the heart's greatest pity, stealthily creeping to the houses of prostitution. Scarcely a day passes but some fond, doting parent is besieging the police authorities, invoking their aid in reclaiming an erring daughter. In some instances the effort is successful, but in a large majority of cases it is "love's labor lost," and the parent—an aged mother—goes to her home with a bleeding heart to live a life of sorrow. Those who are still virtuous and know not of the miseries of life, should have much compassion for this unfortunate class of women.

Idleness is the parent of vice. This truth is demonstrated in the present career of the young men of this city. Hundreds of them have lost their situations, and, to use one of their own expressive terms, "they're adrift." Nothing to do. But why ever knew a young man to live without doing something? If he is not employed in a legitimate business, he will be in an illegitimate one. If not industrious at labor, he will be industrious at vice. Go into a restaurant, a bagatelle room, or a small-fry gambling hell, and you will find throngs of young men, indulging in all the excesses of dissipation. Faces that are yet smooth and beardless are already bloated. Eyes that should be clear as crystals are reddened and swollen with debauchery.—Nightly, when the streets are deserted, they are to be seen reeling to their homes, or perhaps making the silent hours hideous with broils. Never has there been a time when the youth of the city were so thoroughly given up to dissipation; and no feature of all the miseries which are hanging over us as a dark pall, demands more the attention of society, than the present downward course of the young.

This is the month of October, which should be the harvest-time of a commercial community.—Heretofore our city at this season "with buyers and with sellers was humming like a hive." The side-walks were crowded with boxes and barrels, bales and crates, until they were almost impassable. Drays and carts and express wagons jostled against each other, and the ears sickened with the din which pervaded every avenue of trade. Men of business hurried to and fro, in their rivalries, and clerks toiled late and early, until exhausted. How is it now? There is no necessity for enforcing the law relative to keeping the side-walks clear. There is less swearing done by draymen. Merchants are walking leisurely about, or sitting quietly in their counting-rooms. Clerks are standing listlessly at the store doors, or indolently lounging on a bale of goods. Rents are going on, but few are being paid.

The same depression marks every branch of mechanics. The noise of the foundry is stilled, and the tilt-hammer is silent. The ring of the anvil is almost a novelty, and the "sound of hammers closing rivets up" is nowhere heard. The condition of Baltimore is that of all the cities. The same calamities which afflict her people bear with equal weight upon those of all communities. A great prosperous nation is in the dust. An honest people have found out too late that they have been used by base men, and they are now compelled to deplore a state of affairs for which history has no parallel and the present no solution.

From the Alexandria News, Oct. 12 and 15.

What the War Has Done for Alexandria.

THE CORN EXCHANGE.

A day or two since we passed by the Corn Exchange, or the room which was used as such, but what a sad sight it presented! The counters where the merchant exposed his samples of flour and grain, the little sample-boxes lying hither and thither, the desk with the books of sales on it, and the newspaper stand, all as they used to be; but there was no grain scattered round or in the boxes, no entry on the books of the Exchange since May last, and the newspapers bore date of May 23, 1861. And of all the merchants who were accustomed to do business there, some few remain among us; the most are acting in different capacities in other parts of the country.

THE CONCERTS OF THE CITY.

The change which the fortunes of war has brought about in this city is as visible in the churches as elsewhere. Regular services are held in the Baptist Church by the Rev. Mr. Bitting, its pastor, and the services well attended. The Catholic (St. Mary's) Church, in charge of Rev. P. P. Kroes, S. J., is open as usual; the assistant pastor, Rev. Father Bixio, S. J., is, however, absent from the city. Christ Church is used as a place of Divine worship by the United States military, and services are conducted there by clergymen, chaplains to the army. Rev. Mr. Walker, pastor of Christ Church, is absent. St. Paul's Church, which was so handsomely fitted up last spring for the Diocese Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Virginia, is closed, the Rev. Mr. Norton, its pastor, being absent from the city. Grace Church is opened occasionally, services being conducted by the Rev. G. A. Smith or the Rev. Mr. Lippitt, the pastor of this church; Rev. Mr. Spring is also absent. The Washington street Methodist Episcopal Church is open, and services are conducted as usual by the pastors in charge, Rev. Messrs. Phelps and Lemmon. The Methodist Episcopal Church South, as also the Village Chapel, is closed, the Rev. Mr. Blount, the pastor of these congregations, being absent. The First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Elias Harrison, pastor, is yet open; but the Second Presbyterian Church is closed, the pastor, Rev. Mr. Leftwich, being absent.

ALEXANDRIA.

Not six months ago a thrifty growing city, with an energetic, prosperous and happy population, unusually free from the crime and miseries of cities generally—Alexandria—occupied an enviable position, and in a social point of view stood preeminently high. A large number of the oldest and most respected families are no longer "of us," having left their homes at the beginning of the war. Their houses are closed or occupied by others, and their wonted life and cheerfulness have departed. The wharves, too, where once were crowded vessels from foreign and domestic ports, and where all was bustle and activity, are now, save when a transport or pungy arrives, almost bare, and on our river no ships appear, save those used in the service of the Federal Government. But very few warehouses on the wharves are open or occupied, and Union street, next to King, the principal business street of the city, is now, except as a burden train passes, as quiet as on Sundays. Prince, Duke, Cameron and Queen streets have lost their vitality, and King alone resembles what it was wont to be. The city government is no longer administered upon its chartered basis, the Mayor and police, night and day, having been deposed; and the sound of the watchman's horn, heard in town at ten o'clock at night—"since time whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary"—is now silenced, the bugle's signal and drum's tattoo having taken their time-honored place.

PERSONAL.—The following list of Americans in London was registered at the office of Gun & Co., No. 10 Strand, during the week ending October 5:

B. M. Corner and wife, Baltimore; Miss Alice Corner, Baltimore; Miss Jane Gambrill, Baltimore; S. W. Bowles and wife, Boston; D. Paine and family, Providence; H. Watson, Massachusetts; T. V. Mortimer, Houston, Texas; C. E. Gray, St. Louis, Mo; W. Lee, New York city; T. Silver, Philadelphia; F. Sewall, Bath, Me.; E. P. Beebe, Boston; E. J. Lewis, New York; A. F. Walcott, Salem.

THE NATIONAL LOAN.—The New York *Post* says: We learn that the banks have offered to take the third fifty millions of the 7.30 loan, on the condition that interest is allowed from October 1st. This Mr. Chase declines to do, and names Nov. 1st as the date of this installment.

We hear also that Mr. Chase, in answer to a proposition of the banks in regard to the $100,000,000 7 per cent. bonds which he is authorized to issue, informed the agents of the banks that he had an offer from foreign capitalists, equal to 6½ per cent. interest at par, for the entire loan. Mr. Chase, of course, expressed his willingness to entertain offers from the associated banks at anything near the same terms.

INDIAN SCOUTS FOR FREMONT.—The Leavenworth *Conservative* says: We alluded yesterday to the mustering of fifty Delaware Indians into the United States service, for the use of General Fremont. It seems that many of these were with Fremont in his celebrated expeditions across the country, and acted as guides in those perilous journeys. They will be employed as scouts.

FROM THE SOUTH.

From the Richmond Enquirer, October 18.

THE NAVAL ATTACK BELOW NEW ORLEANS.

The Vincennes Sunk.

NEW ORLEANS, October 14.—The expedition under Commander Hollins consisted of the Manassas, the iron-clad marine battering-ram with one 64-pounder Dahlgren gun; the steamer Calhoun (the flag-ship) with one 24-pounder and two 18-pounder Dahlgren guns; the steamer Ivey with an eight-inch 32 pounder, rifled; the steamer Jackson with two eight-inch columbiads; the steamer McRae, with a 64-pounder mounted on a pivot, 4 eight-inch columbiads, and a 24 pounder, rifled; the steamer Tuscarora, one eight-inch columbiad, and a 32 pounder, rifled; and the cutter Pickens, with an eight inch columbiad and four 24-pounder carronades.

The blockaders had the Richmond, Vincennes, Preble, Water Witch, and the schooner Joseph H. Toone—in all 53 guns.

On Friday night last our fleet started from Fort Jackson, the Manassas leading the way. The night was intensely dark, and the Manassas ran into a vessel, striking her near the bow, and cutting into her upwards of twenty feet. Appalling shrieks were heard aboard the doomed ship; signal rockets were fired; the enemy beat to quarters, and a perfect iron hail fell upon and around the Manassas, during which her machinery became deranged. The Tuscarora and the Watson came up with five barges which had been cut loose and set adrift on the stream.

When the morning came our fleet commenced to pursue the retreating enemy, and a heavy cannonading began, which lasted till 8 o'clock. Several shots struck the Richmond. The shots from the Yankees were badly aimed, as they did not touch one of our vessels. When the firing ended the fleet returned to the city, with the prize schooner Joseph H. Toone, loaded with coal, and which had been deserted during the night. A large quantity of lumber, which had been intended for the construction of a fortification at the head of the Passes, was burned.

[SECOND DESPATCH.]

NEW ORLEANS, Oct. 14.—The prizes captured were the Joseph H. Toone and Launch belonging to the Federal steamer Richmond, which latter was laden with cutlasses.

The vessel sunk was not the Preble, but the Vincennes.

Three vessels of our expedition arrived on Saturday night.

From the Pensacola Cor. of the Augusta Constitutionalist.

The Battle of Santa Rosa Island.

CAMP STEVENS, PENSACOLA, FLA., October 9, 1861.

At length we have had an opportunity of being relieved from our state of "masterly inactivity," and of measuring arms with the enemy near this place.

During last night, an expedition composed of detachments of several Confederate companies and regiments, set out for Santa Rosa Island, for the purpose of breaking up the encampment of the notorious Billy Wilson and his celebrated Fire Zouaves, who had taken a position on the island.

Early in the evening, Col. Jackson visited our camp, and informed us that he required 150 from our regiment, (the 5th Georgia,) to perform a very important service—twenty-seven from the Clinch Rifles, and nineteen from the Irish Volunteers.—Every man who was willing to volunteer was requested to shoulder arms—and every man came to a shoulder. The Captains of the companies were then requested to pick out the required number—which was done.

These were taken from the Clinch Rifles, Irish Volunteers, Cuthbert Rifles and McDuffie Rifles; were under command of Lieutenant Hallonquist, formerly of the United States army. Lieutenant Day, of the Clinch Rifles, being the junior officer, was on the left, but that wing arrived too late to take part in the action.

Colonel Jackson accompanied the expedition, and the entire force, which consisted of about twelve hundred men, was under command of General Anderson.

About 2 o'clock this morning we landed on the island, and marched about five miles through the enemy's lines and into his camp, which we completely destroyed, burning up his tents, &c., and killing his sentinels as we proceeded.

The Zouaves were taken almost completely by surprise, but as soon as they recovered, fought desperately; at times, however, they acted rather cowardly, but, upon the whole, gave us some pretty warm work. We finally succeeded in driving them into Fort Pickens, killing quite a number of them, taking some 30 or 40 prisoners and a lot of camp equipage and other trophies.

Some of our men have brought away money, hats, caps, guns, swords, pistols, and pieces of Billy's standard.

Our men acted with great coolness and bravery, and, having accomplished the object of our mission, we returned to the main land. As we did so, we found that the balance of the regiment was advancing to reinforce us, but finding us coming back, they also returned to the camp.

Our loss has been very severe. Among the killed are Lieut. L. A. Nelms, of the McDuffie Rifles, of Warrenton, and aid to Col. Jackson; Joseph H. Adams, and Frederick Cooke, of the Clinch Rifles; and J. Stanton, of the Irish Volunteers.

Among the wounded are the following:—N. Rice, of the Clinch Rifles, shot in the arm; William H. Smith, of the same company, shot in the shoulder; J. H. Harris, of the same company, shot on the right ear.

I will send you the casualties in the Irish Volunteers as soon as I can obtain them. They have one killed and two wounded. The Clinch Rifles, Irish Volunteers, and McDuffie Rifles, faced the front all the time.

James Gorman, of the volunteers, captured one prisoner; J. S. Harris, of the Clinch Rifles, is set down for two of Abe's dead men, and several others for the same, and for burning the enemy's camp and provender. The man who shot Nelms was also made to bite the dust by one of our own men.

Too much cannot be said in praise of the officers and men; and the only regret is, that some of our men were taken prisoners by the enemy. Such is the fate of war, however; and we must expect, while often successful, to have the cup of victory dashed with the bitters of adversity.

We arrived in camp at 10 o'clock this morning. Our wounded will be well taken care of.

Yours truly, GEORGIA.

FURTHER DETAILS FROM PRIVATE LETTERS.

"We killed about 100 of them, and lost heavily in killed and wounded on our side, but I do not know the exact number. We also took some 30 or 40 prisoners.

"One of our men got $340 in cash; Wm. E. McCoy took a gun from one of the enemy; another took the Zouave Major's hat, others took coats, hats, caps, swords, a fine pair of navy pistols; one of our men captured a fine German silver horn.

"Ben Bolt—son of Judge Bolt—is missing; we think he has been taken prisoner.

"The whole regiment was anxious to participate, and were about crossing over to the island this morning, when they met the expedition returning, and all came back together.

M."

"We set out, and before daylight were landed on Santa Rosa Island, among Billy Wilson's Zouaves, away below, and marched five miles, fighting several battles before we got off the Island—losing several men from this regiment. * * *

"I never did see as calm a set of men in my life as last night. We killed the Federal sentinels all the way up, and took the enemy by surprise. I was by General Anderson's side, and fired, by his orders, more than a dozen tents—among them the commissariat; we also burnt up two hundred barrels of flour, several bales of hay, and many other articles. I killed two of Abe's men, and took two prisoners, while burning the camp. Jim Gorman, of the Irish Volunteers, took one. Barney Haney is a bruiser, and Lieut. Joseph Cummings is as good a man as you'll want to fight. General Anderson goes in for destroying rather than killing. By mistake we had some of our men killed by their comrades.

"We laid down to fire, and many times the sand flew in our faces by the balls striking the ground. I claim the honor of killing the man that killed Nelms. Two of us fired at the same time, but I am satisfied that my shot took effect. J. H."

The *Enquirer* gives the following account of the skirmish at Chingoteague Inlet:

We learn that an unsuccessful attempt was made last Friday week by a party of Federals to land a force at Chingoteague, on the Eastern Shore, for the purpose of destroying a vessel on the stocks that was nearly completed. They came up in the steamboat, and a portion of them effected a landing, but they found to their cost that a force had gathered there to give them a welcome.

Capt. Fletcher, a militia officer in that vicinity, had gathered some of his boys, with their duck guns and fowling-pieces, and with these means they attacked the Vandals, who sought shelter in the ship-yard behind the frame of the vessel. But notwithstanding this, they were so roughly handled by the Eastern Shoremen, that 15 of them came in for their allotment of land in Virginia, besides a considerable number carried off from the scene of action wounded. Only one of our men slightly wounded. They were finally driven off, and effected their escape to the steamer amidst a shower of balls from Capt. Fletcher's men, who then determined to burn the vessel themselves, and did so accordingly.

The Nashville Still in Charleston Harbor.

Some of our Southern exchanges announce the sailing from Charleston—and consequently the breaking of the blockade—of the Confederate States steamship Nashville for Europe, having on board Messrs. Mason and Slidell, our Ministers to England and France. We have the very best authority for saying that the Nashville is still in Charleston harbor, and our Ministers did not sail in that vessel.

From Pensacola.

INTERESTING CORRESPONDENCE.

The Pensacola *Observer* was received on the 14th instant, at Augusta, Georgia. A despatch says:

The *Observer* contains the correspondence between Col. Brown, in command at Fort Pickens, and Gen. Bragg, commander of the Confederate forces at Pensacola, relative to the hospital at the Navy Yard. Col. Brown says he notices a large yellow flag on the building in the line of his batteries, and says it may be used as a protection for the Confederate troops; and gives notice to Gen. Bragg to have all the women, children and sick removed.

Gen. Bragg replies that the building now used as a hospital has always been used as such, and he intends to continue to use it for that purpose. In reply to respect Col. Brown's hospital, even though the Federal guns are directed to the destruction of the Confederate hospital. Gen. Bragg says he will hold Col. Brown responsible before the world for any injury to his hospital.

The fleet off Santa Rosa consists of three frigates and a small steamer.

Condition of General Wise.

General Wise, we regret to say, is considered to be growing worse. His condition is now regarded as critical indeed.

Via Louisville—Number Injured at Chicamacomico.

LOUISVILLE, Oct. 18.—Dates from Charleston and New Orleans to the 11th, Savannah 10th, Richmond 10th, Knoxville 12th, and Nashville the 13th are received.

General Twiggs has resigned on account of ill health, General Mansfield Lovell succeeds him.

Travel from New Orleans is under strict surveillance.

General Wise's health is still improving.

Parson Brownlow supports the candidates for the Confederate Congress, but severely satirizes the Confederate authorities.

Messrs. Breckinridge and Preston were at Nashville on the 7th inst.

The Louisville *Courier* was to be revived at Bowling Green on the 14th.

Confederate accounts say that only two Confederates were injured by the Monticello's fire near Chicamacomico, and both but slightly.

Lieutenant Slaughter, of the Mobile Continentals, was taken prisoner while bearing a white flag to Fort Pickens. He has been released.

From the Washington National Republican, Oct. 19.

IMPORTANT CORRESPONDENCE.

LORD LYONS TO MR. SEWARD.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 14.

SIR: Her Majesty's Government were much concerned to find that two British subjects, Mr. Patrick and Mr. Rahming, had been subjected to arbitrary arrest; and although they had learnt from a telegraphic despatch from me that Mr. Patrick had been released, they could not but regard the matter as one requiring their very serious consideration.

Her Majesty's Government perceive that when British subjects as well as American citizens are arrested they are immediately transferred to a military prison, and that the military authorities refuse to pay obedience to a writ of *habeas corpus*.

Her Majesty's Government conceive that this practice is directly opposed to the maxim of the Constitution of the United States, "that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of law."

Her Majesty's Government are willing, however, to make every allowance for the hard necessities of a time of internal trouble; and they would not have been surprised if the ordinary securities of personal liberty had been temporarily suspended, nor would they have complained if British subjects falling under suspicion had suffered from the consequences of that suspension.

But it does not appear that Congress has sanctioned in this respect any departure from the due course of law; and it is in these circumstances that the law officers of the Crown have advised her Majesty's Government that the arbitrary arrests of British subjects are illegal.

So far as appears to her Majesty's Government, the Secretary of State of the United States exercises, upon the reports of spies and informers, the power of depriving British subjects of their liberty, of retaining them in prison, or liberating them, by his own will and pleasure.

Her Majesty's Government cannot but regard this despotic and arbitrary power as inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, as at variance with the treaties of amity subsisting between the two nations, and as tending to prevent the resort of British subjects to the United States for the purposes of trade and industry.

Her Majesty's Government have, therefore, felt bound to instruct me to remonstrate against such irregular proceedings, and to say that, in their opinion, the authority of Congress is necessary in order to justify the arbitrary arrest and imprisonment of British subjects.

I have the honor to be, sir, with the highest consideration, your most obedient, humble servant,

LYONS.

The Hon. William H. Seward, &c.

MR. SEWARD TO LORD LYONS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, October 14, 1861.

MY LORD: I have the honor to acknowledge your Lordship's note of the present date.

In that note you inform me that the British Government is much concerned to find that two British subjects, Mr. Patrick and Mr. Rahming, have been brought under arbitrary arrest, and that although her Majesty's Ministers have been advised by you of the release of Mr. Patrick, yet they cannot but regard the matter as requiring the very serious consideration of this Government.

You further inform me that her Majesty's Government perceive that when British subjects, as well as American citizens, are arrested, they are transferred to a military prison, and that the military authorities refuse to pay obedience to a writ of *habeas corpus*.

You add, that her Majesty's Government conceive that this practice is directly opposed to the maxim of the Constitution of the United States, that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law. You then observe that her Majesty's Government are, nevertheless, willing to make every allowance for the hard necessities of a time of internal trouble, and they would not have been surprised if the ordinary securities of personal liberty had been temporarily suspended, nor would they have complained if British subjects, falling under suspicion, had suffered from the consequences of that suspension. But that it does not appear that Congress has sanctioned, in this respect, any departure from the due course of law, and it is in these circumstances that the law officers of the Crown have advised her Majesty's Government that the arrests of British subjects are illegal.

You remark further, that so far as appears to her Majesty's Government, the Secretary of State for the United States examines, upon the reports of spies, and assumes the power of depriving British subjects of their liberty or liberating them by his own will and pleasure; and you inform me that her Majesty's Government cannot but regard this despotic and arbitrary power as inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, as at variance with the treaties of amity subsisting between the two nations, as tending to prevent the resort of British subjects to the United States for purposes of trade and industry. You conclude with informing me that upon these grounds her Majesty's Government have felt bound to instruct you to remonstrate against such irregular proceedings, and to say that, in their opinion, the authority of Congress is necessary in order to justify the arbitrary arrest and imprisonment of British subjects.

The facts in regard to the two persons named in your note are as follow:

Communications from the regular police of the country to the Executive at Washington showed that disloyal persons in the State of Alabama were conducting treasonable correspondence with Confederates, British subjects and American citizens, in Europe, aimed at the overthrow of the Federal Union by armed forces actually in the field and besieging the Capital of the United States. A portion of this correspondence which was intercepted was addressed to the firm of Smith & Patrick, brokers, long established and doing business in the city of New York. It appeared that this firm had a branch at Mobile, that the partner, Smith, is a disloyal citizen of the United States, and that he was in Europe when the treasonable papers were sent from Mobile, addressed through the house of Smith & Patrick, in New York. On receiving this information, William Patrick was arrested and committed into military custody at Fort Lafayette, by an order of the Secretary of War of the United States, addressed to the police of the city of New York.—These proceedings took place on the 28th of August last.

Representations were thereupon made to the Secretary of State by friends of Mr. Patrick, to the effect that notwithstanding his associations he was personally loyal to this Government, and that he was ignorant of the treasonable nature of the correspondence which was being carried on through the mercantile house of which he was a member. Directions were thereupon given by the Secretary of State to a proper agent to inquire into the correctness of the facts thus presented, and this inquiry resulted in the establishment of their truth. Mr. William Patrick was thereupon promptly released from custody by direction of the Secretary of State. This release occurred on the thirteenth day of September last.

On the second day of September the Superintendent of Police in the city of New York informed the Secretary of State, by telegraph, that he had under arrest J. C. Rahming, who had just arrived from Nassau, where he had attempted to induce the owners of the schooner Arctic to take cannon to Wilmington, in North Carolina, for the use of the Confederates, and inquired what should he do with the prisoner. J. C. Rahming was thereupon committed into military custody at Fort Lafayette, under a mandate from the Secretary of State. This commitment was made on the second day of September. On the seventeenth day of that month this prisoner, after due inquiry, was released from custody, on his executing a bond in the penalty of two thousand five hundred dollars, with a condition that he should thereafter bear true allegiance to the United States, and do no act hostile or injurious to them, while remaining under their protection.

I have to regret that, after so long an official intercourse between the Governments of the United States and Great Britain, it should be necessary now to inform her Majesty's Ministers that all Executive proceedings, whether of the Secretary of War or of the Secretary of State are, unless disavowed or revoked by the President, proceedings of the President of the United States.

Certainly it is not necessary to announce to the British Government now that an insurrection, attended by civil and even social war, was existing in the United States when the proceedings which I have thus related took place. But it does seem necessary to state, for the information of that Government, that Congress is, by the Constitution, invested with no executive power or responsibility whatever, and, on the contrary, that the President of the United States is, by the Constitution and laws, invested with the whole executive power of the Government, and charged with the supreme direction of all municipal or ministerial civil agents, as well as of the whole land and naval forces of the Union, and that, invested with those ample powers, he is charged by the Constitution and laws with the absolute duty of suppressing insurrection as well as of preventing and repelling invasion; and that for these purposes he constitutionally exercises the right of suspending the writ of *habeas corpus*, whenever and wheresoever, and in whatsoever extent the public safety, endangered by treason or invasion in arms, in his judgment requires.

The proceedings of which the British Government complain were taken upon information conveyed to the President by legal police authorities of the country, and they were not instituted until after he had suspended the great writ of freedom in just the extent that in view of the perils of the State he deemed necessary. For the exercise of that discretion he, as well as his advisers, among whom are the Secretary of War and the Secretary of State, is responsible, by law, before the highest judicial tribunal of the Republic, and amenable, also, to the judgment of his countrymen and the enlightened opinion of the civilized world.

A candid admission, contained in your letter, relieves me of any necessity for showing that the two persons named therein were neither known nor supposed to be British subjects when the proceedings occurred, and that, in every case, subjects of her Majesty, residing in the United States, and under their protection, are treated, during the present troubles, in the same manner, and with no greater or less rigor than American citizens.

The military prison which was used for the temporary detention of the suspected parties is a fort constructed and garrisoned for the public defence. The military officer charged with their custody has declined to pay obedience to the writ of *habeas corpus*, but the refusal was made in obedience to an express direction of the President, in the exercise of his functions as Commander-in-Chief of all the land and naval forces of the United States. Although it is not very important, it certainly is not entirely irrelevant to add, that, so far as I am informed, no writ of *habeas corpus* was attempted to be served, or was even sued out or applied for in behalf of either of the persons named; although in a case not dissimilar, the writ of *habeas corpus* was issued out in favor of another British subject, and was disobeyed by direction of the President.

The British Government have candidly conceded, in the remonstrance before me, that even in this country, so remarkable for so long an enjoyment by its people of the highest immunities of personal freedom, war, and especially civil war, cannot be conducted exclusively in the forms and with the dilatory remedies provided by municipal laws which are adequate to the preservation of public order in a time of peace. Treason always operates, if possible, by surprise, and prudence and humanity therefore equally require that violence concocted in secret shall be prevented, if practicable, by unusual and vigorous precaution. I am fully aware of the inconveniences which result from the practice of such precaution, embarrassing communities in social life, and affecting perhaps trade and intercourse with foreign nations. But the American people, after having tried in every way to avert civil war, have accepted it at last as a stern necessity. The chief interest, while it lasts, is not the enjoyments of society, or the profits of trade, but the saving of the national life. That life saved, all the other blessings which attend it will speedily return, with greater assurance of continuance than ever before. The safety of the whole people has become, in the present emergency, the supreme law, and so long as the danger shall exist, all classes of society equally, the denizen and the citizen, cheerfully acquiesce in the measures which that law prescribes.

This Government does not question the learning of the legal advisers of the British Crown, or the justice of the deference which her Majesty pays to them. Nevertheless, the British Government will hardly expect that the President will accept their explanations of the Constitution of the United States, especially when the Constitution, thus expounded, would leave upon him the sole executive responsibility of suppressing the existing insurrection, while it would transfer to Congress the most material and indispensable power to be employed for that purpose. Moreover, these explanations find no real support in the letter, much less in the spirit, of the Constitution itself. He must be allowed, therefore, to prefer and he governed by the view of our organic national law, which, while it will enable him to execute his great trust with complete success, receives the sanction of the highest authorities of our own country, and is sustained by the general consent of the people, for whom alone that Constitution was established.

I avail myself of this opportunity to offer to your Lordship a renewed assurance of my very high consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

The Right Hon. Lord Lyons, &c.

Cor. of the New York Evening Post.

CONDITION OF MEXICO.

DEPLORABLE STATE OF AFFAIRS.

GUADALAJARA, Mexico, September 20.—We are suffering here from the effects of the civil war, which has ended in this part of the country, but is still brisk enough elsewhere