# THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

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### 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.

# BALTIMORE.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1861.

### WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the way of "news," properly so called, there is scarcely anything to record. From none of the points of the compass which are designated on newspaper and other maps as seats of war have we any intelligence that may be classed as important, or that serves to mark progress on the part of either belligerent.

The only operations at Port Royal appear to consist in strengthening the fortifications at that newly-acquired military post, in which work many of the negroes left on the Island are said to be employed. General Sherman will probably await the arrival of reinforcements, which are now on the way, before he ventures to undertake an advance into the interior.

From Missouri we learn that since the evacuation of Springfield by the Federal troops, some 3,000 Confederate cavalry have advanced as far as Sarcoxie, and that foraging parties of Confederates are following closely the retreat of Hunter's divisions. The Unionists of that part of the State, who had compromised themselves by affiliating with the army of Fremont, are now deserting their homesteads, and seeking refuge at other places where Federal garrisons are stationed.

The previous report, which stated that the people of Northampton county on the Eastern Shore of Virginia had laid down their arms, is confirmed by the captain of the steamer Georgeanna, which reached this city yesterday. As the two counties of Accomac and Northampton are completely cut off from the rest of Virginia by the Chesapeake Bay, it was supposed that so small a population would seriously undertake to resist by force of arms the Federal authority.

A singular project is said by letter writers to have been started at Washington. It is nothing less than the incorporation of Maryland and all that part of Virginia lying east of the Blue Ridge into a single State, the territorial boundaries of which are to be fixed by Congress, and to annex the two Eastern Shore counties of Virginia to Delaware. As, however, such legislation is simply foreshadowed as "probable," a reasonable doubt may be expressed as to whether it will be undertaken at all.

The Slidell and Mason affair still continues to attract attention. We give from the Canada papers several articles upon the arrest. The Toronto *Leader* asserts that the arrest of Messrs. Mason and Slidell strikes at the root of British authority, and affirms a right on the part of the Northern States to which the meanest nation in Christendom could not honorably submit. The Toronto *Globe* fears that it will involve the two governments "in very serious complications"—that the action of Commodore Wilkes was "an outrage on the British flag, and an infraction of international law." The matter, according to the *Globe*, does not admit of dispute. "The seizure of Messrs. Slidell and Mason was a gross wrong, which can only be repaired by the offer of ample apologies by the United States Government and the liberation of the captives."—The Montreal *Herald* "cannot but think that Great Britain will be imperatively called upon to demand the delivery of the prisoners." It expects the Federal Government to disavow the act; otherwise it fears that serious trouble is impending.

We publish from the London *Times* an able but intensely sarcastic article on Secretary Seward's circular to the Northern Governors, suggesting the propriety of strengthening the frontier defences of their respective States. The *Times* can only find an explanation of the latent design of the circular, by supposing that, as there was nothing whatever in the relations between the two countries to justify its issue, it was written for the purpose of being used as a means of picking a quarrel with England. "We are," it adds, "very sorry for it; but we honestly confess for a great many years we have been convinced, and that by proofs far too strong to admit of doubt, that we stand very low in the good graces of the multitudinous monarch of the United States." It fears that the ill feeling exhibited at the North towards England at this particular juncture arises from the strictly impartial manner in which she has conducted herself towards both North and South, but more particularly from the fact that the English people "have had the presumption to form an opinion and having formed it to publish it for the general benefit of all who may care to agree with or differ from it." The *Times* slyly suggests that as it is acknowledged that opinions adverse to the war are entertained by the great bulk of the English people, it is just possible that they may be right and the North wrong after all.

Our latest European files give the stipulations of the treaty which has been entered into between France, England and Spain, as preliminary to the naval and military expedition of the three powers against Mexico. The terms of the treaty regulate the mode of intervention, the military and naval forces to be employed by each of the contracting parties, and define the conditions to be observed in the event of an occupation of Mexican territory becoming necessary for the purpose of more effectually enforcing their demand. If the existing government should be deposed, the people of Mexico will be left entirely free to choose in its place whatever form of government they may elect to have in future.

### NEW BOOKS.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE for November.

THE LONDON QUARTERLY for October.

These admirable reprints of standard English periodicals come to us, as usual, filled with well-written articles on a variety of topics. The lighter reading of *Blackwood* for the present month embraces the second part of "The Chronicles of Carlingford," and also a continuation of the capitally-told West Indian reminiscence entitled "Captain Clutterbuck's Champagne." In addition to these the table of contents gives us the following heads of subjects: "How the World Treats Discoverers—Mr. Buckle's Scientific Errors—Sir Cresswell Cresswell—The Stage of Weimar—The Island Sea of Japan—The Cramming System—Mr. Ernest Renan—The Recantation—The Search—The late Earl of Eglinton."

The *London Quarterly* has articles on Shelley, the Poet—Life, Enterprise and Peril in Coal Mines—The Immutability of Nature—Newton as a Scientific Discoverer—The Growth of English Poetry—Plutarch—Education of the Poor—Alexis de Tocqueville—Church Rates.

It is not too much to say that American readers of *Blackwood* and the four leading British reviews obtain a faithful reflex of the English mind, not only in its various political aspects, but as affecting and moulding the social condition of the English people. Thus they have the conservative view of things exhibited through the medium of the *London Quarterly*—the tory in *Blackwood*—the liberal in *The Westminster*, whilst *The Edinburg Review* expounds the doctrines of the whig, and the *North British* those of the Free Church. The opinions of the ablest writers in England find expression in the pages of these periodicals, which for scholarly learning, historical research, statesmanlike breadth of thought, and critical acumen, deserve to find a place in every family that is capable of appreciating their value and desires to keep pace with the social, moral, political and literary questions that the progress of civilization necessarily brings under discussion.

As the subscriptions to all these perodicals commence with the new year, we call special attention to them at this time. The terms are as follows:

| | Per ann. |
|---|---|
| For any one of the four Reviews | $3 |
| For any two of the four Reviews | 5 |
| For any three of the four Reviews | 7 |
| For all four of the Reviews | 8 |
| For Blackwood's Magazine | 3 |
| For Blackwood and three Reviews | 9 |
| For Blackwood and the four Reviews | 10 |

Published by Leonard Scott of New York. For sale by Henry Taylor.

We also acknowledge the receipt of the 37th part of *Chambers' Encyclopedia*, arranged on the basis of the German Conversations-Lexicon; but condensed, elaborated and newly arranged and illustrated, so as to embody within the compass of a single work of reference the most accurate historical information and the latest discoveries in art and science. The part under notice commences with "Digestion" and closes with "Dogliani." Published by Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.

THE CONCERT.—Our readers will bear in mind that the second and last concert of Miss Carlotta Patti will take place to-morrow evening at the New Assembly Rooms. The sale of seats will commence at the music store of Mr. Henry McCaffery this morning. As this will be the last occasion on which this gifted young lady can sing in Baltimore for some time, all those who desire to enjoy a rich musical treat should attend to securing eligible seats in time.

## *EUROPE.*

### THE LONDON TIMES ON AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

*From the London Times, Nov. 7.*

It did not not need the information of our own correspondent in New York to convince us of the fact of which he informs us, not now for the first time, that what is called "the public mind" in the Northern States of America is very ill-disposed towards this country. We might have gathered the fact from Mr. Seward's circular to the Governors of the States, advising them, in substance, to prepare themselves for an attack by Great Britain.—As there was nothing whatever in the relations between the two countries to justify this proceeding, we could only suppose that the thing was done for the purpose of manufacturing capital, and, of course, this manœuvre could only succeed if there existed in "the public mind" a strong wish to pick a quarrel with us. To say the truth, this appalling revelation has not burst upon us with quite as much suddenness as some of our American friends seemed to suppose. Indeed, we cannot fix upon the time when "the public mind"—that is, the mind of the governing class—in America, did not evince symptoms of the same tendency. We are very sorry for it, but we honestly confess for a great many years we have been convinced, and that by proofs far too strong to admit of doubt, that we stand very low in the good graces of the multitudinous monarchs of the United States. The hearty sympathy and assistance lent by American citizens to the rebellion of the French Canadians in Lower Canada, the violent language held with regard to the disputed boundary of Oregon, the refusal to allow the right of search, which has almost defeated our well-meant efforts to repress the slave trade, and the seizure of the Island of San Juan by an armed force while the dispute as to its ownership was pending between the two Governments, have long convinced us that peace between England and the United States is only to be maintained by submission to many violations of the comity and many of the rights of nations. We have borne all these things patiently, and we do not regret it. We have preserved the peace, perhaps, sometimes a little at the expense of our own dignity; but those from whom we have endured all this must not think to take us by surprise when they inform us that they do not like us. They have so long "dissembled their love" there is no occasion to "kick us downstairs" in order to prove that it no longer exists. The fact is, the ill-will of the United States is like the poverty of the Scotch poet:

"They're sae accustom'd wi' the sight,
The view o't gies them little fright."

We have got used to it, and regard it, like our wet summers and foggy autumns, as an evil inseparable from our position. Still, it is desirable to know, in the words of the November number of the *Atlantic Monthly*, "Why has the North felt aggrieved at England?" First, then, we are told that the English press very early announced the hopeless partition of the Union as an event accomplished and irrevocable. Further, this opinion seemed to imply that the division of the Union must take place according to terms dictated by the seceders. Again, England seems to think that the South stands to the North somewhat in the same position as the American colonies did to the Government of George III. These are the grounds to which our correspondent draws our attention, of the ill-will which is felt towards us in the United States, and he remarks truly that such an alienation between Great Britain and the United States, expanding through mutual misapprehension until it has reached a stature to command the action of the Government, is an evil to the cause of liberty and good government. It is an evil, but how are we to help it? It is not alleged—at least in the *Atlantic Monthly*—that we have done any act in our public capacity, or, indeed, that any individual has done any act, evincing the slightest wish to violate the neutrality between North and South.

Statements to this effect have been repeatedly circulated by the American press, but have invariably proved to be utterly void of foundation. No, our fault is of another and a deeper die. In acts we have been neutral and impartial, but we have had the presumption to form an opinion, and, having formed it, to publish it, for the general benefit of all who may care to agree with or differ from it. Now it appears, according to the *Atlantic Monthly*, that the condition of avoiding that amount of ill-feeling in the American mind which will ultimately drive the Government to hostile action against us is, that we should either form no opinion at all on American affairs, or that our opinion should be in exact accord with the views of the dominant party in the Northern States.

We, on the other hand, maintain that the Northern States ought not to hate us, even if they find that we do not sympathize with the views in pursuance of which the great Confederacy is tearing itself to pieces. Were we the enemies they affect to believe us, we should encourage instead of deprecating the work of mutual slaughter and destruction to which the energies of a people born to better things are devoted. There is no misapprehension as to our opinions. We do believe, and shall continue to do so, that the secession of the South has destroyed the Federal Union, and that, to whichever side victory incline, its reconstruction on the old basis is impossible, for the simple reason that the Southern States, if conquered, cannot be treated as equals in political power to the Northern, and that without such equality a return to the former state of things is impossible. We also think that, as revolution is inevitable, it had better come in the form which would most speedily arrest the effusion of blood. We further think—and every word of the *Atlantic Monthly* confirms us in the opinion—that the contest is really for empire on the side of the North, and for independence on that of the South, and in this respect we recognize an exact analogy between the North and the government of George III., and the South and the thirteen revolted Provinces.

These opinions may be wrong, but they are the general opinions of the English nation, a nation speaking the same language as the North, connected with them by many ties, and probably better able than any other to form an estimate of the present situation. Would not the North do more wisely, instead of saying, "Sympathize with us, or we shall hate you; hold opinions in accordance with ours, or we will oblige our government, nothing loth, to make war against you," to look at the matter on the other side? Is it not just possible that, although we do not hate the North for holding an opinion different from our own, nor find their doing so to be at once "humiliating and exasperating," we may be in the right after all? We have some advantages in forming a judgment which are not shared by those who differ from us, but will not allow us to differ from them. We have a long experience of dependencies and alliances of every kind. We are not in a passion, and we are quite able to conceive that those who differ from us may be honest—nay, possibly may be right. The North admits that her war policy has the almost unanimous verdict of England against it. Is not that a better reason for reconsidering their opinion than for burning us at the stake for the heresy of ours?

As we cannot hope to find favor in the eyes of our censors, who will evidently be content with nothing short of recantation or martyrdom—as, in fact, we can hardly make our position worse—we may as well make a clean breast of our opinion on another subject. It is thought a glorious thing that the banks are ready to subscribe at the rate of five millions sterling a month towards a loan of thirty millions—no great sum, after all, for a wealthy community to raise; but we are bound to say that, when we consider the self-congratulation which this wonderful instance of patriotism has called forth, we are also struck by the fact that of all the vast expenditure already incurred on behalf of the war not a single dollar of principal or interest has been raised by increased taxation. It is hoped that the new taxes, when they come into effect, will suffice to keep down the interest; but as for the principal, that, it seems agreed on all hands, is to be borrowed. We should have thought more of the patriotism of the present war had we seen a little more disposition manfully to confront its burdens. Patriotism courts sacrifices for the good of its country, and would scorn to take credit for an expenditure which is wholly laid on posterity.

Equally strange to us is it to find a nation able to persuade itself that it is any richer because it has increased its exports and diminished its imports, or because it has imported more gold and exported less than usual, more especially when a large portion of the revenue of that nation, involved in an expensive war, consists of customs' duties on imports. These are the exploded fallacies of the mercantile theory—the confusion between money and wealth, and the confusion between national prosperity and what is called a favorable balance of trade. A nation is often a gainer by increasing its imports, as the American Government would be if it bought the clothing of its troops cheap and good in Europe, instead of, in obedience to a Protectionist cry, dear and bad in the United States. The strangest thing of all is that, on their own statement, the Americans should suppose that they will long be able to retain any considerable quantity of the precious metals. They are exporting largely, they are importing little—both which things tend to diminish the present stock of commodities.—They have drawn away a vast number of hands from the production and turned them to the destruction of wealth. These things surely tend to diminish the purchasing value of money, and to drive it abroad in search of lower prices. We presume that this also is an opinion that we have no right to form or express.

### THE EXPEDITION TO MEXICO.

THE TRIPLE CONVENTION AND ITS TERMS.

*From the Moniteur Universal.*

The convention between France, England and Spain, declaring that these Powers unite their forces for a common action in Mexico, in order to obtain satisfaction for their grievances, was signed in London on the 31st of October.

THE STIPULATION OF THE TREATY.

*From the Journal des Debats.*

The convention is composed, it is said, of five or six articles at most. The first stipulates for a united action of the three Powers; those which follow regulate the mode of intervention. The three Powers shall each send an equal naval force; two-thirds of the land forces shall be furnished by the Spanish army in the Antilles.

The united forces shall occupy Vera Cruz and all necessary points along the coast. This done, they shall address their demands to the constituted authorities of Mexico. If the Government complies with these, the chiefs of the expeditionary corps shall submit the convention to the ratification of their Governments, retaining possession of the places occupied until the negotiations shall have been entirely concluded.

The occupation will take place in the name of the three Powers, whatever may be the composition of the occupying force. From the commencement an effort will be made to impose a suspension of hostilities on the belligerent parties in Mexico. The three Powers engage themselves not to occupy permanently any portion of territory, nor to obtain from Mexico any exclusive advantages.

They engage to leave Mexico entirely free to choose the form of her government. England renounces the condition which she wished to insert in the treaty, namely, that the three nations should engage themselves not to accept the throne of Mexico for any of the princes of the reigning families. If the monarchical form of government should triumph, the three Powers engage themselves not to employ their intervention to the profit of any particular prince.

*From the Presse.*

The treaty is to take effect next month, (December,) after a return shall be had from the announcement officially made to President Lincoln.

### A LESS PACIFIC INDICATION.

*From the Dublin Freeman's Journal.*

It is positively stated that at the last meeting of the Cabinet the question of the propriety of forcing the American blockade was under consideration, and gave rise to a prolonged discussion, in which we are told a variety of opinions was expressed. It was, however, ultimately agreed that, for the present at least, "non-intervention" should be the policy of England.

### THE OPINION OF ANOTHER M. P.

Mr. J. Locke, one of the members for Southwark, met his constituents on the 4th, and addressed them on current political topics. Referring to the American imbroglio, he observed:

"The foreign questions of which he had spoken were momentous; but they were nothing in importance to us as compared with the American question. [Hear, hear.] It was a most difficult one for even the Americans themselves, and it would not become us to presume to judge it. [Hear, hear.] We must, as Anglo-Saxons, feel a deep interest in all that concerned America, and we must, of course, hope that all would yet go well with the American people; but to take one side or the other in the quarrel, would be a very unadvisable step for this country." [Hear, hear.]

### THE DERBY ORGAN ON MR. SEWARD'S COMMUNICATIONS.

*From the London Herald, Nov. 5.*

Earl Russell is likely to have many opportunities, to judge from the tone of Mr. Seward's despatch, or renewing this unpleasant correspondence; and we are sorry that he has not selected other and more pressing grounds for remonstrance. He has suffered a paper blockade to destry our commerce with the South. He overlooks the capture and condemnation of British vessels at a time when American ships, guilty of exactly similar breaches of the blockade regulations, are released. But he takes the American government warmly to task on the illegality of its action in making arbitrary arrests at a time when civil war is raging, and a million of men in arms, and when, in the ordinary course of things, the roar of cannon must be expected to silence the voice of the law. Earl Russell's blunder does not, however, justify Mr. Seward's impertinence. This gentleman has not disappointed the anticipations that every one who was acquainted with him on this side of the Atlantic had formed of him; and we are only sorry that our Foreign Secretary and his law officers should have done so much to provide an excuse for his vulgarity.

### THE MASON AND SLIDELL CAPTURE IN CANADA.

*From the Toronto Leader, Nov. 18.*

The arrest of Messrs. Mason and Slidell, under the circumstances recited in the telegraphic despatches, is in many respects the most important incident of the war.

The information furnished upon the subject is characteristically indefinite. We gather, however, that the Confederate Ministers to France and England had passed from Cuba, where they had landed from Charleston, to Bermuda, with the view of taking passage in a British steamer for England.—Commodore Wilkes, of the Federal service, commanding a vessel-of-war, demanded their surrender, and was met by the British captain with a declaration that "there was not force enough to take them." Another American vessel was then placed in position, and under the threat of American guns the captain of the unarmed British vessel delivered up his passengers, at the same time protesting against the course of the American officer. And Messrs. Mason and Slidell are now prisoners in the hands of the Federal authorities. It is admitted that the parties proceeded on board the British steamer as ordinary passengers, in reliance upon the inviolability of the British flag, and they were received in good faith by the captain commanding. Accepting the statements which come to us from Northern sources, there is not room for any suspicion of collusion between the Southern Ministers, as passengers, and the officers of the British steamer. They were secure under the protection of the Union Jack on land; they remained under the same protection when they transferred themselves to a British deck.

The action of the American Commodore, then, constitutes the most offensive outrage which Brother Jonathan has dared to perpetrate upon the British flag. If Messrs. Mason and Slidell may be seized on board of a British steamer, and carried off prisoners, they might with equal propriety have been seized during their stay in Bermuda. In regard to the British flag, the Yankee Commodore has no right at sea which he does not possess on land; and the fact that he did not make any attempt to effect an arrest in Bermuda is equivalent to a concession that he had no lawful authority in the premises. Avowedly, he waited until Messrs. Mason and Slidell had landed, and then, sustained by an overpowering naval force, he exacted their surrender under protest. As the case stands, there is not a feature to modify its offensiveness. *It is a wanton, unprovoked and indefensible insult to the British flag.*

The proceeding is rendered worse by the tone which the Americans have uniformly maintained in relation to the right of search. They have held that the flag of a country is an inviolable shelter to the persons who sail beneath it; and they went to war with Britain rather than submit to the right which our government claimed of taking British sailors from American ships. They perilled everything rather than acknowledge foreign authority in American vessels; and, tacitly, their position has been acquiesced in. Now, however, they venture to do what they treated as a cause of war when done by another power. They have asserted their right to search British vessels, and to take from them parties whose whole offence is political in its character. Clearly, if such an act be tolerated in this instance, it may be multiplied indefinitely, and the proud boast of England, that her flag guards all beneath it, will be heard no more.

If an American man-of-war may coerce a British vessel in the channel of the Bahamas, American officers may stop and search the Cunarders, the Canadian steamers, or any other British steamer, when and where they please. If they may outrage the British flag at sea, they may defy it on land, and they may drag from Canada the refugees who are here seeking shelter from Federal despotism. The pretention cannot, will not be tolerated; and this arrest of Messrs. Mason and Slidell will probably bring the question to an issue. It is not the first attempt which the Northerners have made, since the commencement of the war, to do as they will towards British authority. The incursion of armed ruffians into Essex, to capture British subjects who had left the Federal army, was a sample of what we might expect if Mr. Seward's agents were allowed to tamper with the loyalty of our people; but that occurrence, though gross, was trivial compared to the proceedings of Commodore Wilkes. *The arrest of Messrs. Mason and Slidell strikes at the root of British authority, and affirms a right on the part of the Northern States to which the meanest nation in Christendom could not honorably submit.*

We assume that Lord Lyons will at once demand from the Washington government a disavowal of the act of their Commodore, and the release of Messrs. Mason and Slidell. Not to assume this would be to suppose that Britain is indifferent to the rights and honor of her flag. Of these contingencies we need not say which is the more probable.

*From the Toronto Globe, Nov. 18.*

An event has just occurred which might, if handled intemperately, involve the United States and Britain in very serious complications. An American steam frigate, the San Jacinto, has stopped a British mail steamer on the high seas, and compelled the surrender of Messrs. Mason and Slidell, diplomatic representatives of the revolted States, on their way to Europe. Had the British commander been one grain less patriotic, had he risked the loss of his vessel to secure the liberty of his passengers, and had the San Jacinto captain ventured to fire upon her, the aspect of the matter would have been much more serious than what is now presented. Possibly the American officer would not have proceeded to extremities, but the British commander, whoever he was, acted rightly in yielding for the moment, well aware as he must have been that his government would rectify any error or injustice which might be committed.

There can be no doubt that the action of the San Jacinto commander was an outrage on the British flag and an infraction of international law. There can be no possible justification for it. The individuals arrested were voyaging in a vessel of a neutral power, under the protection of its flag, engaged in no act of war, violating no law which could possibly be applied to their case. Yet the vessel conveying them was stopped upon her course, and by threats their surrender was secured. If such acts were permitted there would be no possibility of acting a neutral part in any war. If a subject of one of the belligerent powers were found on board of any ship, that ship would be liable to seizure by the other belligerent till the passengers were given up. And if neutral ships could be searched, so could neutral territory. There are many Southerners in Canada at this moment, and if the action of the San Jacinto were legal, there would be no hindrance to Americans coming over here and carrying them off to Fort Lafayette or Fort Warren. The matter does not admit of dispute. The seizure of Messrs. Slidell and Mason was a gross wrong, which can only be repaired by the offer of ample apologies by the United States Government and the liberation of the captives.

In the year 1804 Sir George Rumbold, a British Charge d'Affaires in Saxony, was seized at his country house near Hamburg, by a party of French troops, and conveyed to Paris. The Senate of Hamburg appealed to the courts of Berlin, Vienna and St. Petersburg to protect the neutrality of their territory, and, in obedience to the remonstrances of Prussia, Napoleon, then almost at the zenith of his greatness, liberated the captive. This is almost a parallel case, the difference between land and water not affecting it. The case of the Leopard and the Chesapeake will occur to many as a parallel. The British frigate Leopard demanded the privilege of searching the American frigate Chesapeake for deserters. It was refused, the British ship fired a broadside in o the other, which, being unprepared for action, was compelled to haul down her colors, and the deserters were taken from her. For this highly reprehensible act, Mr. Canning offered ample apologies, which were accepted by the United States Government. Still later, in the year 1849, a Hungarian refugee, Koszta, sought refuge on board an American ship of-war in the Mediterranean. His surrender was demanded by the Austrian authorities, but the American commander refused to give him up, and was highly commended for so doing by his Government and the public at large.

We imagine that the course taken by Napoleon I., when he was almost undisputed master of Europe, that also of Mr. Canning, acting for the powerful government of Britain, will not be rejected by President Lincoln at the present crisis. Neither will he disregard the precedent laid down by his predecessor in the Koszta case.

The seizure of Slidell and Mason was wrong, but it was also one of the most absurd and stupid acts which history records. These diplomatists were going to Europe to stir up feeling against the North, and secure the acknowledgment of the Southern Confederacy. In seizing them the American officer did more to accomplish their errand than anything they could possibly have done themselves.—We have no expectation that the British government will deal with the matter otherwise than temperately, but the collision will strengthen the hands of the not uninfluential parties in Britain who are striving to induce the government to interfere in the American quarrel. Better have had ten Slidells and Masons in Europe than permit such a cause of quarrel to arise. We know not what may be the character of the captain of the San Jacinto for loyalty, but if he intended to help the insurgents he could not have gone about the work better. The American vessels have been vainly chasing the Sumter from port to port, they have allowed the Bermuda to enter Savannah and to leave it; they have permitted the Huntsville to reach the Bermudas and receive the cargo of the Fingal; they have reserved all their courage and activity to stop an unarmed neutral vessel on the seas and take from her two venerable non-combatants. But for the Port Royal bombardment the whole American naval service would sink beneath contempt.

The extreme anxiety of the Washington Government to prevent the Southern diplomatists reaching Europe, is a curious piece of weakness in men who profess to be careless as to the action of foreign Powers. The United States have nothing to fear from Europe, if they go on with the war vigorously and succeed in the desired object of preserving the Union; and it is altogether a very small business to hunt a couple of men over the ocean, to prevent them using their tongues to persuade the shrewd rulers of England and France to do violence to their own interests, by entering upon a great war. It was bad enough to send four vessels after them when their departure by the Huntsville was announced, but to run the risk of a war with England for such an object is an act of midsummer madness. It will add infinitely to the strength and dignity of the American Government if, without waiting for remonstrance from Britain, they at once set free the captives, and send them on their road to Europe. It will be right, which is infinitely better than being expedient, but will also show that the North has confidence in the goodness of its cause, and does not fear the tongues of traitors, well poised though they may be.

*From the Montreal Herald, Nov 18.*

Whatever rejoicing there may be in the United States over the capture of these two commissioners, we cannot but think that Great Britain will be imperatively called upon to demand their delivery. It is true that the old British doctrine which led to the war of 1811 was, that a State had the right to take possession of its subjects wherever it found them, and acting on that doctrine pressed seamen serving on board British ships. Nor do we believe that by the treaty that right was given up; but, on the other hand, the United States have always contended against it, and if their own doctrine is to prevail, they had as much right to arrest these gentlemen in her Majesty's palace as on a British deck covered by a British flag. We believe that this doctrine is now the recognized law of nations. The commodore has, however, in this high-handed measure, acted on his own responsibility, and we expect to see his Government disavow him; otherwise, there is reason to fear serious trouble between the two nations, which hitherto we have seen no grounds for apprehending.

*From the Montreal Gazette, Nov. 18.*

The telegram from Fortress Monroe is highly important. It appears that the Southern Ministers, Messrs. Slidell and Mason, on their way to Europe, have been seized on board a British steamer, by the United States steamer San Jacinto. It is not clear from the telegram whether the vessel on which they were seized was a mail steamer. This act may lead to serious complications. It is clear that if they have been forcibly taken from a British steamer, Britain must demand redress, and demand that they be again immediately placed under the protection of her flag. We abstain from further comments until we have more precise particulars.

*From the New York Times, Nov. 21.*

### THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRESS.

Arrangements have been made between the heads of Departments in Washington and the representatives of the New York press by which, it is hoped, much of the inconvenience and dissatisfaction hitherto connected with the publication of official documents may be avoided. Up to the present time, there has been nothing like system introduced into this matter; it has been left to take care of itself. Every leading newspaper has kept three or four reporters in Washington, mainly to watch the Departments, and get hold first of such official documents as might be in their possession. The business thus became a mere scramble, entailing infinite annoyance upon the secretaries and heads of bureaus, and leading to practices in the highest degree derogatory to the character and position of the press.

It became dangerous to leave a public document upon any secretary's desk, lest it should mysteriously disappear and make its first appearance in the columns of some enterprising newspaper. Some journals, much more zealous for news than for the preservation of their self respect, devoted themselves to the purchase of special favors in this way, by filling their columns with fulsome flattery of special members of the Government who had them to bestow, and unscrupulous abuse of others who might decline thus to traffic for their own advantage in documents belonging to the Government and the people at large. The whole thing was becoming a nuisance to the secretaries, fatal to the independence and self-respect of the Press, and degrading to the gentlemen employed as reporters at Washington.

The matter was finally taken in hand by the Secretary of War, and put upon a better footing, with the hearty concurrence of every branch of the Government. It has been agreed that all *official* documents, of whatever kind, emanating from the Departments, shall be delivered to the general agent of the Associated Press at Washington—and to him alone—for prompt and simultaneous transmission to such papers as may desire to receive them by telegraph. This will put an end at once to complaint or suspicions of favoritism on the one side, and of bad faith or the betrayal of confidence on the other. It will relieve the secretaries from the annoyance of being dogged every day by an army of reporters, eager to get sight of some official document in their possession, and will enable reporters and correspondents to devote their attention to some more intellectual department of their profession, than that which has hitherto engrossed the larger share of their attention.

GRAIN CROP OF OHIO.—The total wheat crop of Ohio, for the past year is 23,610,356 bushels, an increase of 10,294,512 over the previous year. The corn crop for the same time is 91,588,701 bushels, an increase of 22,291,361 over the previous year.

The old Foreign Office in Downing street, London, has been sold as materials, to be carted away. A similar fate awaits the old India House—Charles Lamb's India House.

A woman was recently crushed to death at the gallery door of the Adelphi Theatre in London, in the crowd waiting for admission to the *Colleen Bawn.*

The reported death of General Sam Houston, of Texas, is untrue. By the last accounts of him, in the Galveston *Civilian*, he had recovered so far as to be out of danger.

MARRIED.

In this city, on Wednesday morning, at Christ Church, by Rev. Mr. Addison, CHARLES F. COCKEY and Miss FANNY LEGG both of Queen Anne's county.

On the 19th instant, by Rev. Geo. A. Leakin, HENRY NOYES, of Conn., to MARY JANE, daughter of John N. Ely, of this city.

DIED.

On Wednesday, the 20th instant, B. M. HEIGHE, in the 72d year of his age.

The friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, on this (Friday) morning, at ten o'clock, from his late residence, No. 44 Mulberry street.

On the 20th instant, SAMUEL JAMES, in the 78th year of his age, formerly of Darlington, Harford county, but for the last forty years a resident of this city.


S. T. CHURCH, M. D., DENTIST, having no longer any connection with the Baltimore Dental College, is prepared to devote his whole time to his profession. Office No. 20 N. Charles street, Marble Building. n22 2w*

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