THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

PUBLISHED BY

CARTER & NEILSON.

TERMS

Issued in the city and delivered only to the carriers FIFTEEN AND A HALF CENTS WEEKLY.

Mailed to subscribers at the rate of TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR, or for a shorter period in proportion to the time, invariably in advance.

☞ Advertisements inserted at the usual rates.

THE TRI-WEEKLY NEWS SHEET.

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1 copy, one year		$3
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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 column to such extracts from other journals as may be deemed of interest to the public.

BALTIMORE:

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1861.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the Senate Mr. Sumner presented a petition from citizens of Haverhill, Massachusetts, asking that the slaves of Confederates be liberated unconditionally, and those of Union men also on fair payment. An effort was made by Mr. Chandler to obtain the appointment of a committee to inquire into the disasters of Bull Run and Edwards' Ferry, but on motion of Mr. Fessenden, the subject was postponed. A bill was introduced by Mr. Trumbull confiscating the property of rebels, and giving freedom to the slaves. It was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. The proceedings in the House were not of special importance. Both Houses have adjourned over till Monday next.

Nothing occurred in the State Senate yesterday that is worthy of special notice. In the House a discussion sprang up on Secretary Cameron's recent proposition for the division and partition of the States of Maryland, Delaware and Virginia. The scheme evidently found no supporters, and the House unanimously agreed to lay the subject on the table.

An order has been issued from the Treasury Department notifying the Federal Commanders of military posts within the limits of the Confederate States of the appointment of agents to take charge of and secure and prepare for market the cotton and such other products and property as may be found within the lines of the Federal authorities. Military protection is to be given to these agents in the discharge of the duties devolved upon them, and the slaves found within such limits may be employed by the agent, who is authorized to pay them a fixed sum for their services. The cotton and other products thus secured are to be consigned to a designated agent in New York.

The extracts from Mr. Russell's letter of October 31, to the London *Times*, although relating to matters almost wholly speculative, will nevertheless attract attention. Mr. Russell intimates, and recent disclosures have confirmed the fact, that "there are anxious and distracted councils in the Cabinet." He states explicitly, that an offer of mediation on the part of a great European Power, would not be unfavorably received, and that the propriety of soliciting such an intervention has been, it is said, already discussed in Cabinet council. In reviewing "the situation," military and political, he discovers across the whole breadth of the field of controversy, nothing but a blockade which European Powers consent to recognize by courtesy; an army held at bay by "rebels;" a capital almost beleaguered, and the Monroe doctrine nullified. He asserts that this state of things is having its effect upon the public mind, and that "there are signs of a disposition growing every day, to find victims in the Cabinet," who may be held responsible for the ill success of the measures which have been taken to reduce the South to submission. The breaking out of a serious feud between the Abolitionists and anti-Abolitionists is foreshadowed. The position of General McClellan as "controller of the vast armies of the Republic" is, in Mr. Russell's opinion, beset with difficulties. "His Fabian policy may prove distasteful to the Country; he asks for patience and confidence, and as long as the money lasts, he may have both; but if the tub of the Danaids runs dry, he will be found at the bottom." We gather, at the close of Mr. Russell's letter, that the army will, in all probability, go into winter quarters, but that rumors point to a forward movement in January.

We give the official text of the Convention entered into between England, Spain and France, with regard to the proposed demonstration on Mexico. Without stating the extent of the combined force to be employed by the parties to the treaty, they mutually engage that it "shall be sufficient to seize and occupy the several fortresses and positions" on the Mexican coast. It is further agreed that no territorial acquisition shall be made, but that on the cessation of hostilities, the Mexican people shall be left free to choose their own form of government. An invitation has been extended to the Government at Washington, to co-operate with England, Spain and France, but the latter will not wait for the accession of the former, beyond the period of the assembling of the combined fleet in the waters of the Mexican Gulf.

The Canadians appear to be seriously apprehensive of trouble with the United States. The Toronto *Leader* in referring to the arrangements now making for putting Canada in a state of defence, assumes that such proceedings as fortifying exposed points, and re-organizing the militia are not for pastime, but "indicate more plainly than words the light in which Lord Palmerston and his colleagues, view the relations of England towards the Northern States." Mr. Seward's circular to the Northern Governors, and the vague intimations of diplomatic trouble with foreign Powers, with which Mr. Lincoln opened his recent Message to Congress, are equally ominous of "breakers ahead." The Campaign in Western Virginia having been closed for the winter, General Rosecrans has returned to Wheeling, where he proposes to establish his headquarters.

The Country west of Sedalia, Missouri, appears to be again overrun with armed bands of Confederates.

From Washington we learn that an important movement in advance has been made by the Confederates. A large body of their cavalry on Wednesday evening took possession of the village of Annandale, on the Little River turnpike, and threw out pickets to a considerable distance in the direction of Alexandria. Some few of the pickets were subsequently driven in, and one of them was captured; but the Confederates continued to occupy the village, and the Federal troops were ordered to fall back.

Ex-Minister Faulkner has been released from Fort Warren for thirty days, on his parole. He will be permitted, in the meantime, to go to Richmond, and endeavor to secure the release of Mr. Ely in exchange for his own permanent liberation.

An abstract of the report of the Secretary of the Interior will be found elsewhere. He states that the sales of public lands have been almost entirely suspended in consequence of the war. The propriety of issuing bounty land warrants to the volunteers now enrolled is questioned. It is suggested that the mineral lands of California shall be made hereafter a source of revenue by levying a tax for the privilege of working them. The sum of fifty-seven thousand dollars is said to have been squandered by the Commission appointed to run the boundary line between the territories of the United States and the State of California, the work having only commenced. Indian affairs are reported to be in a very unsatisfactory state. The expenditures of the Patent Office for the year ending September 30, have exceeded its receipts by more than eighty thousand dollars. The number of pensioners remaining on the roll at the close of June last was 10,709.

An abstract of the report of the Commissioner of the Land Office is also given in another column. It shows that the aggregate cash receipts from the sale of public lands during the five quarters ending September 30th, 1861, were rather less than one million of dollars, the larger portion of which was absorbed by the expenses.

HOW THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The correspondent of the New York *Tribune* thus curtly and irreverently describes the effect produced upon the House by the reading of the President's Message:

Of the Message, now being read to the House. The heavy silence with which it is received was just broken by that quiet laughter with which respect struggling with derision greets ill-timed jesting.

EUROPE.

THE EXPEDITION AGAINST MEXICO—THE SPANISH CONVENTION BETWEEN ENGLAND, FRANCE AND SPAIN.

From the Supplement to the London Gazette of the 29th of November—Saturday, Nov. 16.

CONVENTION BETWEEN HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN OF SPAIN, AND THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH, RELATIVE TO CERTAIN OPERATIONS AGAINST MEXICO.

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, her Majesty the Queen of Spain and her Majesty the Emperor of the French, feeling themselves compelled, by the arbitrary and vexatious conduct of the authorities of the republic of Mexico, to demand from those authorities more efficacious protection for the persons and property of their subjects, as well as a fulfilment of the obligations contracted towards their Majesties by the republic of Mexico, have agreed to conclude a convention, with a view to combine their common action, and, for this purpose, have named as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say:—

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Right Hon. John Earl Russell, Viscount Amberly of Amberly and Ardscalla, a Peer of the United Kingdom, a Member of her Britannic Majesty's Privy Council, her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs;

Her Majesty the Queen of Spain, Don Xavier de Isturiz y Montero, Knight of the Illustrious Order of the Golden Fleece, Grand Cross of the Royal and Distinguished Order of Charles III., of the Imperial Order of the Legion of Honor of France, of the Orders of the Conception of Villa Viciosa and Christ of Portugal, Senator of the Kingdom, late President of the Council of Ministers, and First Secretary of State of her Catholic Majesty, and her Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to her Britannic Majesty;

And his Majesty the Emperor of the French, his Excellency the Count de Flahault de la Billarderie, Senator, General of Division, Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor, his Imperial Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary to her Britannic Majesty;

Who, after having reciprocally communicated their respective full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following articles:

Article 1. Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, her Majesty the Queen of Spain, and his Majesty the Emperor of the French, engage to make, immediately after the signature of the present convention, the necessary arrangements for despatching to the coasts of Mexico combined naval and military forces, the strength of which shall be determined by a further interchange of communications between their Governments, but of which the total shall be sufficient to seize and occupy the several fortresses and military positions on the Mexican coast.

The commanders of the allied forces shall be, moreover, authorized to execute the other operations which may be considered, on the spot, most suitable to effect the object specified in the preamble of the present convention, and specifically to insure the security of foreign residents.

All the measures contemplated in this article shall be taken in the name and on account of the high contracting parties, without reference to the particular nationality of the forces employed to execute them.

Art. 2. The high contracting parties engaged not to seek for themselves, in the employment of the coercive measures contemplated by the present convention, any acquisition of territory nor any special advantage, and not to exercise in the internal affairs of Mexico any influence of a nature to prejudice the right of the Mexican nation to choose and to constitute freely the form of its government.

Art. 3. A commission, composed of three commissioners, one to be named by each of the contracting Powers, shall be established, with full authority to determine all questions that may arise as to the application or distribution of the sums of money which may be recovered from Mexico, having regard to the respective rights of the three contracting parties.

Art. 4. The high contracting parties desiring, moreover, that the measures which they intend to adopt should not bear an exclusive character, and being aware that the Government of the United States, on its part, has, like them, claims to enforce upon the Mexican republic, agree that immediately after the signature of the present convention, a copy thereof shall be communicated to the Government of the United States; that that Government shall be invited to accede to it, and that in anticipation of that accession their respective Ministers at Washington shall beat once furnished with full powers for the purpose of concluding and signing, conjointly or separately, with the plenipotentiary designated by the President of the United States, a convention identic, save the suppression of the present article, with that which they sign this day. But as by delaying to put into execution articles 1 and 2 of the present convention, the high contracting parties would incur a risk of failing in the object which they desire to attain, they have agreed not to defer, with the view of obtaining the accession of the Government of the United States, the commencement of the above mentioned operations beyond the time at which their combined forces can be assembled in the neighborhood of Vera Cruz.

Art. 5. The present convention shall be ratified, and the ratifications thereof shall be exchanged at London within fifteen days.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed it, and have affixed thereto the seal of their arms.

Done at London, in triplicate, the 31st day of the month of October, in the year of our Lord, 1861.

RUSSELL.
XAVIER DE ISTURIZ.
FLAHAULT.

THE MEXICAN AND NORTH AMERICAN FLEET OF ENGLAND.

From the London Times, Nov. 18.

The force under the command of Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Milne, K. C. B., in the West Indies, has been very much increased since we last made allusion to it. Allowing the Medea to take the place of the Driver (lost), and letting the crews of the Donegal, Conqueror and Sanspareil, and the battalion of marines which these ships are now taking to the Gulf of Mexico, Sir Alexander will have very nearly 9,500 seamen and marines at his disposal, and 750 guns. The Plumper and Emerald (or the Shannon, if the latter cannot be got ready in time) will also proceed to the scene of action, carrying with them 102 guns and 1,140 seamen and marines—making a grand total of, in round numbers, 850 guns and 10,600 seamen and marines. Other reinforcements, which are ready at hand, will follow if necessary; but of course it will be understood that the whole of the above are not intended to act against the Mexicans, as the ordinary requirements of the service will demand the presence of some of the vessels at different parts of the Admiral's station.

EVACUATION OF FRENCH TROOPS FOR THE GULF.

From the Paris Patrie, Nov. 16.

The steam transport L'Aube, coming from Toulon, entered the port of Mers el-Kebir at two P. M., on the 16th inst., where the Massena steam line-of-battle ship had arrived the evening before. The embarkation of the troops destined to form part of the Mexican expedition commenced immediately. These troops, which had arrived from different parts of Algeria at Oran, of which Mers el Kebir is the port, comprise a battalion of the Second regiment of Zouaves, a mounted squadron of the Second regiment Chasseurs d'Afrique, detachments of engineers, artillery, &c. The Messena and L'Aube were to sail on the 17th for Martinique. The steam corvette Berthollet, from Rochefort, on her way to Martinique to join the squadron under Rear Admiral Jurien de la Gravière, put into Lisbon on the 15th.

ADMIRAL MILNE A VICE-ADMIRAL OF THE BLUE

From the London Gazette, Nov. 16.

Rear Admiral of the White Sir Alexander Milne, K. C. B., to be Vice-Admiral of the Blue, until further orders, and while employed as Commander-in-Chief of her Majesty's ships and vessels within the limits of the North American and West India stations.

GEN. MIRAMON AT THE SPANISH COURT.

The Madrid journals of the 11th ultimo state that the preceding day, General Miramon, ex-President of the Republic of Mexico, was received by the Queen.

MOVEMENTS OF THE SPANISH FORCE.

From the London Times, Nov. 20.

The Spanish expedition, which is being organized at the Havana, destined for Mexico, is to be composed of twelve war vessels, and among them eight of the first class, with government and merchant transports sufficient to convey the *personnel* and *materiel* following:—6,000 men of infantry, 300 artillery, 200 engineers, 150 horses and three batteries; together with military and civil employees, hospital and other stores attached to the division. The screw frigates Lealtad and Concepcion arrived at Santa Cruz de Tenerife on the 16th of October, and left for Havana on the 19th. The steam sloop Patino also arrived at Santa Cruz on the 23d. The steam transport Alava left Cadiz for Havana on the 4th inst., with the 3d battalion of marines; and the steamer Alicante, with the 4th battalion, left Malaga for Cadiz on the 6th.

HOW THE EXPEDITION MAY AFFECT OUR BLOCKADE.

From the London Shipping Gazette, Nov. 19.

The extraordinary force which will shortly be assembled in Mexican waters, under the flags of England, France and Spain, has naturally attracted great attention, especially in the Northern States, and has furnished the occasion for suspicions and surmises which have found expression in language by no means complimentary to the Powers engaged. The British contingent amounts already to 850 guns and 10,000 seamen and marines. The Spanish Admiral, Rubalcaba, commands twelve steamers, mounting 300 guns, and the French admiral Jurien de la Gravière, possibly a squadron of ten sail and 310 guns. The assemblage of this force in the Gulf of Mexico, while the Federal squadron is labouring to effect a blockade, the inefficiency of which has been demonstrated in numberless instances, and the recognition of which is solely due to the courtesy of the maritime States of Europe, is not an agreeable subject of contemplation for the Cabinet of Washington, or their supporters in the press.

It has been designated as a movement uncalled for, "and justly open to suspicion." "We are free," says the New York *Herald*, "to conjecture that these superfluous, heavily-armed squadrons of Spain, England and France have other objects in view than the settlement of their outstanding accounts with Mexico, and the protection of their commerce against our Confederate privateers, and against the accidents of our Southern blockade." It was not to be supposed that this Mexican expedition could have been organized and set on foot without exciting the suspicions of the North, and yet there is no prospect whatever that the triple alliance just concluded will be directed towards an interference between the American belligerents. If France or England, or both powers combined, have determined on raising the Southern blockade, they need only have united their forces on the West India stations, and ordered them upon that service. It was surely not necessary to take the roundabout course of concluding a convention with Spain, and enlisting the aid of that country in an undertaking in which she could have no direct concern.

The closing of the Southern ports is of no great consequence to Spain. Her commerce is but slightly affected by the blockade, and the Cabinet of Madrid would most assuredly never incur the cost and trouble of equipping an expedition to give a coloring to the designs of France and England. The Mexican expedition is obviously not directed against the Southern blockade, though we can understand why the Northern press should assert that it is. If the blockade was really efficient, if the Federal Government had at their command a force sufficient to interdict commerce, in conformity with the received maxims of international law, we should hear nothing of the Mexican expedition as a movement justly open to suspicion. It is because the Federal Government well know that they are maintaining a blockade on sufferance, and embarrassing commerce through the forbearance of the neutral Powers, that they fear the presence in the Gulf of Mexico of a combined fleet belonging to those Powers.

The Federal Government may rest satisfied on this point. Whatever the want of this country, or of France, of the raw material, which is stored in abundance at the present moment in the Southern States, there is no intention of resorting to force to open the Southern ports, or even to coerce the Federal Government into a respect for the obligations imposed by the laws of maritime warfare. It is quite possible for the Cabinet of Washington to commit the Northern States to a collision with this country. The decisions of the Northern Prize Courts, the imprisonment of British subjects on frivolous and groundless pretences, but above all, the constant threat of an invasion of Canada, may induce the British Government to take a very prompt and resolute course for the protection of British interests in the Northern continent. But without some such provocation, we are quite satisfied no action will be taken by our Government in reference to the existing struggle, nor would any such action be sanctioned by the British public.

The New York *Herald*, and the other journals who think it necessary to stimulate the Northern feeling against this country, may spare the threats of the extinction of "England and her Confederates," of which they are so lavish. If England or France, separate or united, find it necessary to take steps to uphold their interests in the West, they will do so, notwithstanding the warning, that when "the South-ern rebellion is suppressed, an end will be put in a brief campaign to British dominion in the North, or to Spanish intervention in the South." This, however, is perfectly consistent with the inocuous presence of the combined fleets in the Gulf of Mexico, and with the solution of the question to which the expeditionary force is subordinate. That question has nothing whatever to do with the existing troubles in the States; and the Powers engaged, especially England and France, are superior to making it the pretence for the assembling of a force with another and a very different object.

THE MONROE DOCTRINE AS REGARDED BY ENGLAND AND SPAIN.

From the London Times, Nov. 19.

Since the struggle between Spain and her rebellious colonies finally died out, no attempt has been made to assert by force of arms the supremacy of the Old World over the New. We were all of us, to say the truth, more or less converted to the doctrine of "manifest destiny." A new world had been called into existence to redress the balance of the old, and so the old had, not unnaturally, felt itself dispensed from any attempt to redress the balance of the new. The colossal power of the United States, overshadowing Canada on the north and the States of the Gulf on the south, so clearly arrogated to itself the disposition of all matters on the continent of America that it seemed useless to interfere with the affairs of communities all destined, sooner or later, to absorption in the vast and growing republic.

If we wanted a convincing proof that the tide has turned, and that we are entering on a course of new and unforeseen events, we find it in the fact that the three Powers who possess the coast of Europe immediately opposite to America have entered into a convention which binds them to fit out and send a joint expedition for the purpose of demanding from the republic of Mexico more efficacious protection for the persons and properties of their subjects, as well as the fulfilment of all obligations contracted towards them. Knowing the very limited resources of which the authorities of the republic of Mexico can dispose, the chronic anarchy which has so long wasted that unhappy country, the alternations of plunder which have wasted its wealth, and the exceedingly precarious position of whichever faction may for the moment be predominant, we do not believe that these forces go to meet any very formidable or obstinate opposition.

We do not expect that the Allies are about to act over again the exploits of Hernan Cortes, for they have no vast and consolidated empire to confront them, and the Mexican authorities well know that in case of resistance they are but the precursors of a force which would render assistance insure. We cannot doubt that the troops of the three nations go to dictate their own terms, and that whatever those terms may be they must of necessity be complied with. The main difficulty may very possibly be found to consist in finding a government with which to negotiate, and which will remain in power long enough to perform the articles of the treaty.

If, indeed, we were to apply the principle which is urged on behalf of the United States, that we have no right to claim that Mexico should treat us better than she treats herself, we should be without excuse for our expedition, for each Government has uniformly repudiated the acts of its predecessor, and the peaceful citizen has been alternately the victim of both. The case, however, is so extreme that we cannot consent to be judged by such a criterion. Mexico has treated us ill as she treats her own citizens, and what worse can possibly be said of her? We want in this case something more than the privileges of citizens, something more than the privileges of the most favored nation, for in Mexico all who come in contact with her bands of honorless robbers are plundered and murdered alike.

There are two nations which will regard this expedition with very different feelings. Spain will naturally see in it a sub-tantial proof that she is rapidly regaining the place which the once great and proud Spain had held in the first rank among the Powers of Europe. She is admitted as a confederate by two States which aspire to control the destinies of the world. She must also feel a peculiar pleasure in beholding the position of the colony which flung off its allegiance to her forty years ago, and comparing it with her own. The Spanish nation seems about to retrieve it youth, while the apparently vigorous and prosperous colony has fallen into more than decrepitude. The States of the Spanish Main, on the other hand, cannot but view the presence of the troops of France, England and Spain, on the continent of North America, with feelings of mortification and distrust.

England, so long lectured with the Monroe doctrine, and Spain, which has lost possession in the New World America has so long looked on as about to become her own, have announced their intention of doing themselves justice by an armed intervention, without seeking the approbation of the United States. It is true that the convention reserves to the United States the liberty of joining with the three European Powers, and that a sort of apology is offered for this course by the suggestion that if the convention were not immediately concluded its objects might fail through delay.—Still it can hardly be concealed that, torn by intestine disorders, and wasting in mutual destruction that strength which once was consolidated in support of their foreign policy, the United States occupy a less important position than in the days of their union and of their strength. No ungenerous advantage has been or will be taken of this, but it is impossible not to feel that a great nation is seeking to efface itself, and that, considering the shortness of the time which has elapsed and the small amount of bloodshed which it has undergone, its endeavors have been crowned with a very considerable amount of success.

THE PASSPORT SYSTEM.

The London *Times* of the 20th of November reports:

The steamship Africa, Captain Shannon, has arrived at Liverpool, with advices from New York to the 6th. Among her passengers is Archbishop Hughes, of New York, who comes to England, it is reported, on a diplomatic mission. General Scott and Mr. Thurlow Weed, who were expected to leave by the Africa, did not do so. Some circumstances occurred on the departure of the Africa which are worthy of mention, as showing the irregular manner in which the passport system is carried out. No official intimation had been given to the British Consul at New York respecting the necessity of persons embarking for England being provided with passports, but previously to the departure of the Africa, a policeman was sent up to the Consular office to request that an official should be sent to the quay. The Vice Consul proceeded there and found a body of police drawn up, in whose presence the passports were made out. As the Africa was just getting under way, two police officers boarded the vessel, and attempted to arrest an English lady from Georgia, who had a passport. The lady resisted the capture, and Captain Shannon, finding they had no warrant for her arrest, declined to allow the officers to remove her. They therefore departed without the lady, but intimated that the Africa would be stopped at the Narrows by the federal vessel on guard there. The steamer, however, passed the vessel unmolested. The passengers by the City of Baltimore, which arrived here on Saturday last, had their passports served out in the same loose manner.

The London *Times* of the 18th of November says:

The Canada, from Liverpool on Saturday, for Halifax and Boston, besides the usual mails, took out about sixty passengers, among whom were the Hon. William Stuart and Mr. Jenner, who go to join the British Legation in Washington.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT OF THE DIFFICULTY IN THE CABINET.

The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia *Inquirer* telegraphs to that paper as follows:

Last Thursday, General Cameron completed his report and sent it to the printers without submitting it to the inspection of any one. On Sunday last it was completed, and proofs fell into the hands of Gov. Seward. He became very much alarmed, and on Monday morning a Cabinet council was called, and the President's Message, which had been completed on Sunday night, was also brought up. After a lengthy discussion it was concluded to keep the Message back until Tuesday, and further consider the question. At another meeting on Monday night, Mr. Seward secured an interpolation of his ideas in the President's Message, *verbatim*, and the President's matter was cut out. Arranged in this way it was sent in to Congress on Tuesday.—In the meantime, General Cameron was asked to change or moderate his report. He refused, and up to eleven o'clock P. M., Tuesday, it was thought to be probable that either General Cameron or Governor Seward must leave the Cabinet and an entire recast be made. The President finally settled it by going to General Cameron and insisted upon his confining his report to a statement of the past, and not dictate to Congress what they should do! Cameron insisted that his policy was correct, and must be carried out at once. *The President assured him that it did not follow, if he changed his report or left out any of it, that he must necessarily change his policy, but that he could carry it out; only let Congress take hold of the matter first.* With this understanding, General Cameron made an alteration, which we telegraphed you after midnight. It was requested of us that we would not publish the original copy, but as it has been made public in other sources we append the original.

The Island of St. Michaels was visited by a tremendous hurricane on the 12th of October, destroying upwards of 40,000 boxes of oranges, and injuring a great number of buildings. The damage was estimated at $400,000.

THE LETTERS OF MR. RUSSELL.

Correspondence of the London Times from the Seat of War in America.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31, 1861.

THE CABINET DISPOSED TO COMPROMISE.

There are anxious, if not distracted, councils in the Cabinet. The attitude of foreign Powers is regarded with apprehension, but so thoroughly determined is the Northern spirit in prosecuting this war that I sincerely believe the men and money of the States would be expended to the last to resist intervention by force. It is, however, not the less certain that the President and his Cabinet are not indisposed to a peaceful arbitration; and, from what I hear, it is not unlikely that at this moment the propriety of accepting or asking for the intervention of a great European potentate may be under consideration. The conditions of such a settlement will be difficult; but, meantime, success in warlike operations will give the North a broader basis and a more commanding attitude. All the world sighs for such a peace as may secure a continuance of friendly relations and prosperity to both sections. May it come—*quo felix faustumque sit.* But come as it may, or how it may, the arbitrament can never re-unite the fragments of the shattered mirror in which the goddess of American Liberty loved to survey her charms. A standing army, the suspension of the *habeas corpus*, the infringement of the liberty of the Press, confiscations and proscriptions—these stand between, and break the shining surface.

THE EXPEDITION TO SOUTH CAROLINA.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2.—If the awful tempest which has been raging over land and sea here has extended itself to the latitudes in which the flotilla is laboring towards its working point, the Confederates may have to strike a medal for their armada, and they will, at any rate, have fair reason to declare *Gaibert Deus et hostes dissipantur.* This is a moment of great anxiety. The North has sent out a considerable fleet to strike at a centre of rebellion, and if the waves defeat it there will be deep dejection, if not despair through the land.—They say the expedition is bound to Charleston. From the moment Beauregard began to throw up batteries against Fort Sumter there was a clear *casus belli* against the people of that city, and any cause for the expedition now which did not exist then, is not to be readily discovered and vindicated. The city is the nursing mother of secession, and it has not an agreeable reputation with us, because of its peculiar regulations respecting British sailors with a *pale nascentem.* But, nevertheless, without being an neutral, I should be sorry to see Charleston treated as Arlington Mills or the houses in front of the Federal lines here have been dealt with. It is, in spite of mosquitoes, dust, sand and heat, a pleasant and hospitable place, except for colored people, although not easily accessible by a hostile force from the seaside. Our news here must come from the South by way of Fortress Monroe and flags of truce from Norfolk, or round about by Louisville. Never will electric wire on this continent have throbbed with bigger words for good or evil. But, after all said, it will not be concerning Armageddon itself, nor will it be of such an issue to the human race as was involved in the fate of Armada the Great and first.

FOREIGN MEDIATION.

A victory of the kind which can be achieved by the expedition will do more good than harm, it will enable the North to be magnanimous; it will show the South that they have sent places not far from the vitals, where they can be hit pretty hard, it will afford a basis for negotiators and mediators to work upon. The notion of seeking or accepting the Emperor of Russia to do some intercession is dying away; it was, indeed, the offspring of the belief that the Czar meant his letter to be taken as an offer of good natured arbitration in the quarrel. Now we hear of a sort of deputation going to Europe to agitate public opinion, principally in England, and to stir up the depths in the political, commercial and religious world, respecting the troubles and the future of the United States. The path of any such pilgrims will be smoothed, no doubt, by a victory, but there will also be a thorn growing in it, which must prove painful and embarrassing to their progress.

THE HERALD AND ITS INFLAMMATORY LEADERS.

The American people cannot fail to pay the penalty of permitting—nay, patronizing and encouraging in the only way in which their favors are appreciable—certain organs, as they are termed, at once a disgrace to the Press, to the citizens of the United States, and to civilization, to insult and outrage the national sentiment of every people in Europe with whom they are brought in contact. They have had to endure, in a want of active sympathy in their efforts against an armed rebellion, some of the fruits of the political action of past Governments and Administrations, which has left them without a friend in Europe who can give them the least assistance; but there is a larger and deeper neutral sea to be crossed before they can overcome the neutral indignation and contempt which continual falsehoods and vile slanders and windy menaces have excited in the minds of large masses of the people abroad, who suppose that these one or two journals (conducted by men who, having sold their birthright for a citizenship they debase, would barter their souls for the sale of a second edition of their diurnal flood of falsehoods) really exercise the eminent influence over the public opinion of the United States.

When Mr. Lincoln allows it to be thought that he is represented by a paper which speaks of the present English Government as "a Puritan and blackleg Cabinet," the gentleman who may approach the ear of Great Britain with arguments in behalf of the cause which the Cabinet of Washington has so deeply at heart must not be surprised to find a cold audience; nor will it tend to pave the way to a favorable understanding if the same vehicle, which assumes to be the representative of popular or vulgar sentiment in America, is found to indulge in continual threats—ludicrous though they be, for their very impotence—that the first use and consequences of victory on the part of the United States will be a war of aggression against the territories of the British Crown. It may be as well, in the interests of truth, to say that there is not a respectable citizen of the United States who does not utterly disavow such doctrines, and who does not repudiate the idea that the smallest weight should be attached to the words of the paltry creatures whose frantic cries and feigned passion attract crowds around them, just as a begging fakir assembles the multitude in an Indian fair by his yells and contortions, in order to get their halfpence. The policy of those who thought they could reunite the Union by a war against England has been completely baffled by the honesty, moderation and absolute neutrality of the Government of Lord Palmerston, and their insane rage now knows no bounds, except their complete imbecility and folly.

THE SITUATION.

A blockade which owes its recognition to courtesy—an army held at bay by "rebels"—a Capital all but beleaguered, and cut off from supplies by sea, where it is mistress of sailors and fleets—the Monroe doctrine nullified—these are bitter draughts for a people which, without offence, we may describe as the most haughty and boastful on the face of the earth. Perhaps there are other nations not less so, but they have no way of making it known. There are signs of a disposition growing every day to find victims among the Cabinet, and to hold them responsible for this state of things, and the forthcoming session of Congress is regarded with anxiety, although the Unionist ranks will present a front almost unbroken, and the massive form of Breckinridge has gone out from among them. It is felt that honesty in the Executive must be reinforced by vigor in council and by original ideas in policy, nor will the Anti Abolitionists be at all disposed to permit Mr. Cameron's recent instructions respecting slave property to pass without censure or resistance.

THE QUESTION OF NEGRO EMANCIPATION.

The North may profess whatever it pleases, its statesmen and generals may write or say what they like; one thing is quite certain—the inhabitants of the Confederate States to a man believe the object of the war is emancipation and the destruction of their peculiar institution. The common name for a slave is now changed; he is no longer a "nigger," he is termed a "contraband." No one can think that the difficulty of discriminating between slaves employed by their masters against the Government of the United States and slaves the passive property of Confederates will not be found insuperable. The process of concentrating the slaves from the neighborhood of hostile armies, must produce considerable evils before it reaches its limits in the South; it will derange labor in the districts where it has been adopted, it will cause inquiry and agitations among the slaves themselves. The concentration inside the armies of the South will diminish their numerical strength compared with that of their masters. As yet, indeed, the North has not been able to pierce the shell; but, if the Federalist columns advance, will the men who burn and destroy the property of their enemies, who lay waste the houses and farms within their lines, respect the orders of their Generals in reference to a chattle property which can move itself, and which, in the eyes of the soldiers of the volunteer regiments of three-fourths of the States is the sole cause of this pitiable strife?

MISTAKE AS TO THE ATTITUDE OF ENGLAND.

Already there is talk of raising a foreign loan to make up the difference between the sum authorized by Congress and the loan of the banks plus the Treasury Notes—an amount of some seventy or eighty millions of dollars. Squeaks of distress also come from Mr. Memminger down South. King Cotton has no Midas gift, unless he can get out of prison. When I was down South I ventured to assure gentlemen at Charleston, Savannah, Mobile, Montgomery and New Orleans that the British Empire did not exist by and for cotton, and that England would not break the blockade, no matter how great her necessities, so long as it was maintained in accordance with international law; and I remember well the air of compassion with which these statements were received, and the "Oh, I'm sure you believe it. But *we*—we know John Bull well—a very good fellow, but he must have his cotton by fair means or foul; without it your whole system will break to pieces. We have the cotton, and we can just dictate terms." The delusion was equally strong in the North. But the scales are beginning to fall from their eyes.

Still, if to-morrow the Government of Great Britain were to remonstrate against the pleasant practice of carrying off British sailors to prison because they were attempting to run the blockade, an act which should only lead to the confiscation of vessel and cargo, or the firing round shot across the bows of our men-of-war to bring them to, or the imprisonment of our fellow subjects, it would be said we were trying to pick a quarrel in order to get cotton, even though it is admitted the article would be profitless at the price. Lord Lyons, who is obnoxious to many Southern politicians because of his supposed "abolition sentiment"—that is, an abstract dislike to Slavery *per se* which most Englishmen of this age entertain—is the subject of attacks in the North because of his "Southern proclivities;" but it is superfluous to add that he preserves the strictest neutrality consistent with his relations with the Government to which he is accredited, and that the utmost pains are taken by the Legation and its members to observe in honor and good faith the policy of our Government. It is forbidden to any member of it to send any communication South, or even to write a private letter to a friend; but what of that? The work of malice and hate, rendered a passion by the contempt which it excites, must be done, and so it is.

THE RETIREMENT OF GEN. SCOTT.

The retirement of Gen. Scott, which I announced some weeks back as certain to take place in October, was deferred to the last day of the month. On the 9th of November the late commander of the United States Army will, if sufficiently recovered from his fatigues, sail in the Arago for Europe. "*Rude jam dinatus*," he seeks the society of his family in Paris and the skill of European physicians to restore his spirits and his strength. It could not be said "Superfluous lags the veteran on the stage," if the Secretary of War really meant he would continue to seek the counsel and advice of the old soldier; but it was well for the General to escape from defamatory insinuations, and from a position which he could not continue to hold with advantage to his country or honor to himself. The former manager of the Central Illinois Railway has now taken his degree *per saltem*, and is controller of the vast levies of the Northern Republic.

The increase of responsibilities thus assumed is large, as is the increase of his actual pleasant pay, for it cannot be longer intimated or said that Gen. McClellan is thwarted or opposed by his superior. At the same time it becomes his lot to resist the pressure of popular opinion, and to bear the brunt of popular indignation, should his Fabian policy prove distasteful to the country. He asks for patience and confidence, and the demand is reasonable enough. As long as the money lasts he may have both; but if the tub of the Danaids runs dry he will be found drowned at the bottom. He has surrounded himself with an efficient staff—devoted personal friends, attached to him by family ties or by old associations and connections—and he will be well and faithfully served; still, if he should meet with one repulse, or make one false step in person, you will find hosts of detractors start up against him whom now all men delight to honor.

WINTER QUARTERS FOR THE ARMY.

The gale abated last night, and long before midnight the stars shone out of a blue sky, which was, however, scarred now and then by streaks of flying scud, and the wind died away altogether before morning. All the rivers are flooded, and the Potomac is carrying down past the streets of Georgetown the ghastly tokens of the repulse at Edwards' Ferry, for the dead are floating on its turbid waters. The Long Bridge could not be passed part of the day, the causeway being under water at the Virginia side—a warning, perhaps, of what is to come, but no one will take it. No; the rains cease to fall, the mud dries up, and all is well. Splendid roads, just the same that we saw in front of Balaklava till an unusual exhibition of bad weather in winter caused some inconveniences. Carts could not pass into Virginia to-day. Well, they can go to-morrow. General McClellan's order for Sabbath observance is gradually giving way before works of necessity, and the streets have been thronged with wagons near the bridge for the last two Sundays. I see quarries of planking going out to camp, and I have a shrewd suspicion that a large part of the army, in spite of denials, will go into winter quarters. The storm and rain of yesterday have made some of the camps untenable. Lines of sheds for horses meet the eye at the other side of the river, and in out-of-the-way suburbs here.—There is a proof of thoughtfulness, at all events—a look in advance for the horses. There are rumors going that no movement will be made till January. There are plenty of recruits coming in for the volunteer army, for the regulars they have ceased to be.

WAR ITEMS.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Wash. Despatches to the Philadelphia Inquirer.

ADVANCE OF THE CONFEDERATES UPON ANNANDALE—THEY TAKE POSSESSION OF THE VILLAGE.

We learn at such a late hour to night that we cannot go out to investigate, that the Confederates advanced upon Annandale with a large force of cavalry this evening. Major Adams, of the Lincoln cavalry, made a reconnoissance to that point, and deployed his skirmishers out and drove them over half a mile beyond Annandale, capturing one of their pickets. General Kearney then ordered them to fall back, and the Confederates are now in Annandale, which is on the turnpike, half way between Alexandria and Fairfax Court House, and about