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BALTIMORE:

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1861.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

The very full account which we furnish to-day of the state of feeling in England, with respect to the Mason-Slidell seizure, carries with it its own testimony to the gravity of the crisis that has been so suddenly sprung upon us. The complimentary resolutions of the House of Representatives, endorsing and eulogizing the act of Captain Wilkes, the high sanction which is given to that act in the report of the Secretary of the Navy, and the popular honours with which the Commander of the San Jacinto has been greeted, during his subsequent sojourn at Boston and New York—all the applause that has been bestowed upon him by the administration journals, and all the legal acumen that has been enlisted in defence of his right to board the Trent and to take from her four of her passengers, are but so many difficulties in the way of an amicable adjustment. Either Messrs. Mason and Slidell, and their Secretaries, must now be restored to the deck of a British ship and an apology tendered for the offence alleged to have been committed, or war with England will inevitably follow. The Secretary of the Navy and the House of Representatives must consent to stand stultified in the eyes of the world, if the Federal Government yield to the demand which Lord Lyons has been instructed to make upon it. Nevertheless, there are indications which would lead one to imagine that the proceeding of Captain Wilkes will be disavowed. The New York *Times* which but a few days ago emphatically declared that the Confederate emissaries would never be surrendered, now concludes that a war with England would be disastrous in the extreme, and that should the Federal Government discover that the course pursued by Capt. Wilkes, was not exactly *en regle*, the "emissaries" will be surrendered with the best possible grace. The *Tribune*, which has carefully avoided expressing any opinion on the subject, now simply urges that the war with the South shall be at once pushed forward with energy, and intimates, as usual, that the most effectual way of conducting it is to emancipate the slaves, and even arm them if the necessity of the case should require it. The *Herald* covertly favors the rejection of the English ultimatum. The *World* carries water on both shoulders, and balances its "ifs" and "buts" with all the practised skill of an Editorial Blondin. "If," says the *World*, substantially, "Lord Palmerston is for war, why war will come of it. If our Government is satisfied that the arrest was legally justifiable, why the country will face the consequences. But the consequences being grave, if an apology is due, the President must make one. If no apology is due, England has no right to demand one." The redoubtable Captain Cuttle could not have argued the question in better style. The Philadelphia *Press*, in rather melo-dramatic language, asserts that the Southern Envoys will never be surrendered; and the Philadelphia *Ledger* also declares that the Federal Government must sustain Capt. Wilkes, even though war should ensue. What the other Northern journals have said, or will say, we have not yet had time to learn. After all, the issues of peace or war rest with the Cabinet at Washington, and upon the members of that Cabinet—divided in opinion on the question though they are said to be—the final decision must depend.

Intense excitement prevailed in the New York market yesterday, on account of the news from Europe. Breadstuffs were favorably affected.—Saltpetre advanced from 11 to 15 cents. Chemicals advanced. Coffee, tea, brimstone, and many lots of cotton were withdrawn from the market, and sugars were sold sparingly. Foreign exchange went up to 110 and all classes of securities declined heavily.

In the United States Senate, a resolution was introduced by Mr. Sumner, to allow negroes to take out Patents, which was appropriately referred. Mr. Wilkinson brought forward a resolution providing for the expulsion of Mr. Bright, of Indiana, on the ground of having written a certain letter to Jefferson Davis. Mr. Bright rose, and stated that he courted an investigation of the charges against him, explained the nature and object of the letter which he had written, and frankly declared his entire opposition to the coercive policy of the Government. The subject was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.—The resolution previously introduced by Mr. Trumbull, enquiring of the Secretary of State whether he had ordered the arrest of any persons in the loyal States, and under what law, came up for consideration, and was discussed at length.—Messrs. Dixon and Wilson deprecated the introduction of the resolution. Mr. Trumbull defended it as just and necessary. He denied the right of any officer of the Government to assume despotic powers at will, and denounced arrests, at the whim and caprice of a Cabinet Minister, as "a gross abuse," which ought to be corrected by law. "It was at such times as these," he said, "that the foundations of tyranny were laid." The discussion was continued by Messrs. Kennedy, Pearce, Wilson, Fessenden and Doolittle, and, finally, the resolution was referred by a vote of 25 yeas to 17 nays.

In the House of Representatives the first part of the session was taken up with the quarrel that has sprung up between Mr. Conway, of Kansas, and Mr. Fouke, of Illinois, in relation to the battle of Belmont. Mr. Conway rose to a personal explanation in which he denounced Mr. Fouke as "a blackguard and a scoundrel." r. Fouke retorted by calling Mr. Conway "a disgrace to his State, to his nature, and to humanity." Mr. Vallandigham offered a resolution declaring it to be the duty of the President to sustain Captain Wilkes in spite of any menace or demand on the part of the British Government and pledging the President the full support of the House in vindicating the honor of the Government and people of the United States against a foreign power. It was referred, by a vote of 106 to 16, to the Committee on Federal Relations. A bill to raise an additional force to defend the borders of Kentucky was then called up. It led to a desultory discussion in which Mr. Blair stated that in every instance that the Federal troops had met the enemy they had been met by a superior force, and that the Confederates had not been driven back one foot. Mr. Lovejoy asserted the same fact and attributed the reverses of the Federal arms to the want of competent generals. The bill was passed.

A call of the House for the official documents in relation to the Ball's Bluff disaster has led to the interposition of General McClellan, who states that it would be injurious to the service to allow the documents to be made public at this time.

By the arrival at this Port of the bark Agnes, we learn that a severe engagement had taken place between the United States steamer Iroquois and the Confederate Privateer Sumter. It appears to have been a drawn battle as one of the vessels—which of them was not known—had put into Martinique to repair damages.

Southern papers of dates as late as the 11th of December have reached New York, extracts from which are given elsewhere. They state that among the bills passed by the Confederate Congress in secret session was an act admitting Kentucky as a member of the Confederate States.

The Richmond *Despatch*, states as a rumor generally believed, that on the 8th of this month a skirmish took place across the Potomac, between a foraging party of Federal troops, and a party of Confederates under Col. Ashby, which resulted in killing fifteen of the former, and the capture of eighty prisoners and twenty wagons. The Confederate loss is set down at five killed.

President Lincoln is said to have decided upon removing General Sherman from his command at Port Royal, at the request of influential members of Congress. Hints are thrown out by the *National Intelligencer*, that the army of the Potomac will not much longer remain inactive.

From Fortress Monroe we have tidings of the landing of part of the troops attached to the expedition of General Butler on Ship Island. Brigadier General Phelps soon afterwards issued a proclamation to loyal citizens on the mainland, which is said to have been strongly anti-slavery in tone.

It has been decided to purchase no new arms in Europe, the government having recently become convinced that American made guns are far superior to those purchased abroad.

The Governor of Mississippi calls on the citizens for all the necessary weapons they have, for the use of the Confederate army.

EUROPE.

THE AFFAIR OF THE TRENT—ENGLAND REGARDS THE ACT AS A CAUSE FOR WAR.

The New York papers of yesterday contain full details of the European intelligence by the Europa and City of Washington, received from Cape Race and Halifax by telegraph:

The *Times*, of the 30th ult., makes the important announcement that the Cabinet has come to the conclusion that the act of the Captain of the San Jacinto, in seizing passengers on a British vessel, and carrying them forcibly away, is a clear violation of the law of nations, and one for which reparation must be at once demanded. In all probability the first steamer will carry out instructions to Lord Lyons to demand reparation for the ill-advised act of seizing Mason and Slidell while under the protection of the British flag. Should this just demand not be complied with, we cannot doubt that Lord Lyons will, under the instructions of his Government, withdraw with the British delegation from Washington.

The *Times* expresses the belief that the Cabinet has taken a view of the matter which will be satisfactory alike to the patriotism and reason of the country. The *Times* says the principle on which the Government rests its demand is that a British ship must, until her violation of neutral rights is fully proved, be held to be British ground as much as if she were an actual piece of British soil, and the right of protection to all persons on board is as valid as on British territory. Now, no such violation has been proved or sought to be proved against the Trent, consequently the seizure of four persons, dragged from her decks, was entirely illegal. Referring to the report that the seizure was the act of the American commander, not expressly directed by the Government, the *Times* says it means that the Nationals had deliberately determined to seize the Southern Commissioners, and it is understood that General Scott has declared, since his arrival at Paris, that the seizure had been the subject of Cabinet discussion at Washington long before he left.

The American authorities might have warned the English steamer at Havana, that if they took on board the Southern Envoys they would subject the vessel to seizure and forfeiture in a prize court. They made no remonstrance against taking them on board, as they were bound to do, but secretly planned the outrage, for which we now ask reparation. Messrs. Slidell and Mason were at the most civil servants to a hostile Power, and were traveling from one neutral port to another, in a neutral vessel. If the Government at Washington declares them rebels, then the right of asylum has been clearly violated. The *Times* concludes by adjuring the Government and Northern people to do justice in the matter. The *Post* confirms these statements of the *Times*, and adds: "The demand of Lord Lyons will be plain and brief, and if not complied with, the diplomatic relations will be at once suspended."

According to the *Times*, on Friday, the Cabinet directed Lord Russell to prepare his despatch for Lord Lyons on Saturday. The Ministers met again to revise and finally settle the terms, and it was sent off the same evening. A despatch from Liverpool, dated Dec. 2, states that the later advices from America by the Persia had caused the Government to detain the Europa, in order that the despatch might be modified. The *Times* understood that this communication, though couched in the firmest language, presumes that the Federal Government will not refuse to make honorable reparation for an illegal act. The *Times* confesses it has but small hope of such disavowal. At the date of the last despatches the act of the Captain of the San Jacinto had been accepted by the Northern public. The New York journals were urging his promotion; that a naval officer had the spirit to board a British vessel and carry off Confederates is enough to insure a storm of popularity. By the time Earl Russell's despatches arrive the multitude may have already declared to the Government the treatment which Capt. Wilkes is to receive. It becomes us to be prepared for an unfortunate issue in Canada in case of a war with the Northern States.

THE OPINION OF THE LAW OFFICERS OF THE CROWN.

The *Observer* says: "The Queen's Advocate, Sir John Harding, Attorney-General Sir Wm. Atherstone, and the Solicitor-General, Mr. Rowndell Palmer, have been in frequent personal communication with the Government during the last few days.

The *Times*, of the 28th, says the depositions of the officers of the Trent have been submitted to the law officers of the Crown, and their opinion has been given that the proceedings of the American frigate are not justified by the law of nations. It is, we understand, the opinion of these jurists that the right of the Federal Government, acting by its officers, was confined to the visiting and the searching of the mail packet; that if any men or things believed to be contraband of war had been found on board of her, the proper course was to take her into port, and submit the question to the Prize Court, which would hear evidence and argument on both sides, and would have decided the case according to precedent and authorities. The *Times* observes that this proposition seems so clear that it requires only to be stated to obtain universal assent. The Cabinet meets on Friday, to consider what action shall be taken on the opinion of the law officers. We do not wish to speculate as to what steps they may consider necessary. If Mason and Slidell were wrongly taken, they must be restored, with sufficient apology.

THE DEFENCES OF CANADA.

The *Times* adverts to Mr. Seward's recent instructions to the people near the Canadian frontier. The only inference was that he was about to force a quarrel with England. The *Times* says the wisest course for Canada will be to prepare; let her at once discipline her militia and emulate the mother country by drilling a volunteer army. Montreal only wants stout hearts and zealous hands to be safe until the spring returns, when we can make it secure. The danger to Montreal or to any other point of the frontier is less. Canada should not rely too much on us and too little upon herself.

THE ENGLISH NAVAL FORCE AVAILABLE.

The three classes of reserve comprise eight lines-of-battle ships, six frigates, five corvettes and twelve sloops, mounting a grand total of 1,861 guns. The steam gunboats attached are not included, which are 21 in number, with 42 guns.—This, however, does not include the gunboats and mortar vessels laid up. The list is confined entirely to effective vessels at present, or could be rendered so with little delay. The ships in commission for service at Portsmouth mount 342 guns. The total number of guns in the ships enumerated before is 225, while Admiral Milne's fleet, on the North American station, amounts to 873 guns.

THE MAIL PACKETS TO BE CONVOYED BY MEN-OF-WAR.

The Paris *Patrie* says that Admiral Milne, commander of the British East India squadron, on hearing of the San Jacinto affair, forthwith detailed three war vessels to escort the steamers between Havana and St. Thomas, for the protection of Southerners traveling by that route.

OPINIONS OF THE LONDON PRESS.

The seizure of Mason and Slidell monopolizes the columns of the press, which continues to denounce the act as an insult in the strongest terms.

Nearly all the London weekly papers treat the question in the same energetic spirit as the daily papers. Agitation increases.

The *Post* (Ministerial) says that it has been decided by the law officers of the Crown that the action of Captain Wilkes, of the San Jacinto, was unjustifiable. He had no right to arrest peaceful passengers sailing under the British flag, and the deed he has committed amounts to a flagrant violation of the code of nations and a direct insult to this country. Under these circumstances we need hardly point out that the Government will lose no time in seeking for a prompt and complete reparation, which it is its duty to require. In this case it will assuredly receive the unanimous approbation of public opinion. We are unwilling to place the worst construction on the outrage committed by Captain Wilkes, and to look on it as an intentional affront on the part of the Government of the United States.

We hope that Government will at once disavow the act of their officer, and make suitable apologies and restore the persons of the gentlemen arrested; and, in fact, make every compensation in their power. Wild as are the words written and spoken by Secretary Seward, and reckless as the American policy not unfrequently is, we can hardly suppose that the Northern States are seriously disposed to accept a war with England.

We have in the American waters, including the Mexican expedition, and ships already there, a force amounting to not far short of one thousand guns, which we could largely increase with the greatest ease and rapidity. In one month we could sweep all the San Jacintos from the seas, blockade the Northern ports, and turn to a direct and steady issue the tide of war now raging. This is so obvious that we find it almost impossible to suppose that the Cabinet of Washington can commit an act so madly suicidal as to reject our earnest and positive demands.

The *News* says: "Beneath everything there exists an undercurrent of apprehension lest the American Government really contemplates the desperate policy of seeking to fasten a quarrel on Great Britain in order to gain a standing-ground for abandoning its design of subjugating herself."

The *Times'* City Article says: "The universal impression seems to be that the present unhappy position in the eyes of the world that the United States Government can scarcely command themselves so as to regulate their course by the light of law, reason or courtesy, and that although this opens a wide field of danger, it should also stimulate all other nations to exercise the utmost forbearance."

The *Shipping Gazette* believes there is a possibility, but a remote one, that the National Government may disavow the acts of Captain Wilkes, and even go to the length of releasing the Southern Commissioners; but if the demand is not complied with, a declaration of war on the part of England is inevitable. If the National Government is resolved at all hazards to force a quarrel upon England, they have certainly a good opportunity, but they must be actuated by something little short of madness to avail themselves of it.

THE NEWS AT PARIS.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ACCORDS WITH THAT OF ENGLAND.

Letters from France state that the news of the American difficulty caused immense sensation in Paris, and the first general impression was that ample reparation must be made to prevent a collision.

Communications have taken place between the English and French Governments, and a good understanding on the subject was believed to exist, as already does the question of policy to be carried with reference to the American question generally.

THE JUDGMENT OF THE PARIS PRESS.

The French journals look at the Trent affair in the interest of England.

The Paris *Pays* and *Constitutionnel* censure the action of the San Jacinto.

The Paris *Patrie* maintains that the American Government had no right to arrest the Southern Commissioners while on a British mail-steamer, and asserts that the British Government should be immediately prepared to send reinforcements to Canada.

GENERAL EUROPEAN NEWS.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The ship Lady Franklin, from London for New York, put into Plymouth on the 3d instant, and took fire the same night. She was scuttled. There were Southerners among the crew, who were suspected of firing her.

The Queen has appointed Lord Canning Ranger of Greenwich Park, with a residence, in the room of the late Earl of Aberdeen.

FRANCE.

The *Moniteur* publishes a letter from the stock brokers of Paris, thanking the Emperor for the suppression of the entrance fee to the Bourse, and asking permission to erect a statue of the Emperor within the building. The Emperor thanked them, but declined the proposed honor. He was deeply touched by their offer.

SPAIN.

BARCELONA, November 29.—The Italian Minister, Tacco, has arrived here, and was received by many of the Italian, French and Spanish Democrats.—Tacco delivered a speech, and expressed the hope that Italy would triumph over all her enemies, and that the Italian flag would wave over Venice and Rome. Immense crowds accompanied Tacco to the quay, whence he embarked for France.

AUSTRIA.

PESTH, December 1.—New functionaries have already been appointed in all the commitats.

Another "Obengesian" has been appointed to the Committat of Grau, in the place of the Archbishop of Grau.

LATEST BY THE CITY OF WASHINGTON.

The Excitement Unabated—France Reported Ready to Recognize the Southern Confederacy.

EFFECT OF THE PERSIA'S NEWS.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 4.—The partial effect of the Persia's news was sent per Europa. It was then regarded hopefully, and consols and cotton slightly improved, but after carefully digesting the sentiments of the American Press on the San Jacinto affair, a reaction set in, and fears were entertained that the Washington Government would seek to justify the act.

TONE OF THE BRITISH JOURNALS.

The English journals generally were very bitter and hostile in their remarks, and continue to treat the matter as an insult, which cannot be tolerated. Lord Lyons' instructions, on which the Cabinet were unanimous, are explicit and determined.

The *Morning Post* says the acknowledgment of the error, and surrender of the prisoners, will be received with great joy; but if the Federal Government fails, no man in England will blind his eyes to the alternative that England must do her duty. Her rights and duties were never more completely blended than in the present case.

The *Times* continues to assert that it has been Mr. Seward's policy to force a quarrel with Great Britain. Both it and the *Post* call for energetic military preparations in Canada.

The *Times* says it may reasonably predict that three things will immediately follow an outbreak, viz: the destruction of the Southern blockade; complete blockade of the Northern ports, and the recognition of the Southern Confederacy by France and England.

THE TOPIC AT PARIS.

Great interest is excited in Paris. Appearances indicate that the Government papers are instructed to write in an anti-American tone. An article in the *Patrie* attracts considerable attention, as it argues pretty clearly that France will side with England and recognize the Southern Confederacy, and also take a decisive attitude on the international question.

LONDON, Thursday, Dec. 5.—The tone of the French Press is changing. The *Moniteur* considers a peaceful solution not impossible, and says that public opinion in the United States is very powerful, but is also very fickle, and it is best to await a solution of the question.

The German Press generally takes the part of England. The Augsburg *Gazette* says the Charleston blockade is ineffectual; otherwise the escape of the Theodora would have been impossible. The Southern Commissioners, having reached a neutral Spanish port, embarked on a neutral English steamer, and could not be lawfully seized by the North.

THE ENGLISH NEWS.

OPINIONS OF THE AMERICAN PRESS.

From the New York Tribune.

In this emergency we do not presume to say what the Government should or should not do. Whatever course it may adopt will be determined by mature and careful consideration of all the rights and duties of the case. Meanwhile, the first and most pressing of our duties is to finish the rebellion and the blockade at once, by employing the promptest and most efficacious means.

From the New York Herald.

If England is determined, in spite of her own code and long practice, to make demands upon this government such as indicated in the London *Observer*, she must of course assume all the responsibilities of a war between the two nations. It will not probably enter the mind of a single American, for a moment, even after reading the news in our columns to-day, that Mason and Slidell will be surrendered to the English Government.

From the New York Times.

In our opinion, England and the World may rely upon it, that in this matter, as in every other, the public peace will not be disturbed or hazarded by any persistence of the American Government in an unjust or unwarranted public act. If the act of Capt. Wilkes was not in conformity with public law, it will be disavowed. And in deciding this point our Government will not be affected, either by the unworthy sentiments so lavishly imputed to it by the English press, or by the more ignoble apprehension lest doing right should be imputed to a wrong motive.

Not more than four days ago the *Times* said editorially:

One can easily see how the matter may be so handled as to make infinite mischief. But it can hardly be expected that our actions are to be influenced by any such factitious consequences. On the other hand, there will undoubtedly be a good deal of genuine smarting under what may be looked upon as an insult and an injury. Let us allow something for this. It is just to leave a margin for feeling natural to a proud and imperious nation.—Local sentiments and associations are always more potent than general convictions. But, making due allowance for this, we take final stand on the acknowledged rectitude of our position. If popular passion is to be allowed to contravene a right in the law of nations, we accept any issue that may result. Of course, the *status* cannot be restored—the Confederate emissaries can never be surrendered.

From the New York World.

If Lord Palmerston has already determined to interfere in behalf of the South, the intense feeling which this occurrence has aroused will enable him to do so with the support of the nation. If our government is of opinion that the arrest was legally justifiable, the country will stand by it with perfect unanimity and immoveable strength of determination in its decision to face new consequences that may arise. But, on the other hand, these consequences may be so grave that the nation expects the President to be as careful not to refuse any just apology (if any be due) as he is firm in his refusal to make one that England has no right to demand.

From the Philadelphia Press.

On this subject, one sentence is as good as a hundred. If we know the feeling of the President, the Cabinet, and the people, the required apology and "reparation" will be made—NEVER! What Captain Wilkes did was justified by the law of nations, by the law of England, as laid down by Lord Stowell, and other of her eminent jurists; and, more than all, by the practice of England. Under such circumstances, we hesitate not to say that, sooner than humble the nation by yielding to the insolent demand of imperious and faithless England, we shall yield to the last necessity, and battle with her on the question.

From the Philadelphia Ledger.

If the British Government makes any such demand it is positive proof that war is its purpose, for it well knows from the character of the nation that it is dealing with, that the demand will be peremptorily refused. Indeed, under the circumstances that we were exercising a lawful belligerent right, and that the practice of England herself has been invariably in accordance with the principle embraced in this international right, a demand such as she is now reported to make, would be an outrage itself meant to be insulting to the Government, and a pretext only for hostilities.

THE FIRE AT CHARLESTON.

We have no further particulars by the boat from Fortress Monroe of the great conflagration at Charleston. The following are, however, the despatches as published in the Norfolk *Day Book* of Friday morning:

BRANCHVILLE, S. C. (86 MILES FROM CHARLESTON), December 12.—Passengers who have just arrived here report a destructive fire last night at Charleston.

The fire commenced in Charleston last night (December 11), at nine o'clock, in Ruzel & Co.'s sash factory, at the foot of Hazel street, and communicated to the opposite side of Hazel, to Cameron & Co.'s machine shops.

Under the impulse thus given and a stiff breeze, with a small supply of water, the conflagration assumed a formidable character, nearly equalling the most extensive conflagration on the American continent.

The Theatre, Floyd's coach factory, opposite the Express office, the old Executive Building, and all the houses between that point and Queen street, are burned. The whole of one side of Broad street is destroyed, from Colonel Gadsden's residence to Marvck street. A considerable portion of the city, from East Bay to King street, is destroyed. Among the prominent buildings burned are the Institute and St. Andrew's Halls, Theatre, Catholic Cathedral and the Circular Church.

At last accounts from Charleston, up to five this morning (December 12), the fire had crossed Broad street, and was sweeping furiously on. The telegraph lines to Charleston are down, consequently we are not able to state whether the fire has ceased or not.

BRANCHVILLE, December 12, 5 P. M.—The fire is still raging. A thousand houseless persons are huddled in the streets. The express train left Augusta this afternoon with provisions to supply the wants of the sufferers, and men to assist in controlling the fire. The fire was the work of an incendiary.

THE CHARLESTON FIRE IN NEW YORK.

The New York *World* of yesterday says:

The news of the fire in Charleston created an unwonted excitement in this city. The Trent affair was for a time forgotten in the news from the South. Soon after the intelligence reached this city, a call was posted at the corner of William street and Exchange Place, for a meeting at the Merchants' Exchange, at 3 o'clock, to raise funds for the relief of the sufferers. Whether it was a treasonable attempt to excite sympathy for rebels, or originated in a strained charity, opinion was divided. In either case, it entirely failed of its object. No meeting was held. The feeling of those who heard of the call, was that of sorrow that the people of Charleston had brought this calamity upon them, but that it was no more than just.

The herring fisheries of England will prove an almost total failure this season. During the recent gales off the coast two hundred boats lost their nets, being obliged to cut them loose or be capsized.

LATEST FROM THE SOUTH.

Proceedings of Congress.

ADMISSION OF KENTUCKY—CONFEDERATE STATES NAVY—THE WAR DEPARTMENT, &C.

From the Richmond Examiner, December 11.

We have obtained copies of a number of bills passed by Congress, in secret session, and returned approved by the President. We referred yesterday to the fact we had ascertained of the passage of a bill to admit Kentucky into the Confederacy. The following is a copy of the bill, as returned with the approval of the President:—

AN ACT FOR THE ADMISSION OF THE STATE OF KENTUCKY INTO THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA, AS A MEMBER THEREOF.

Section 1. The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, that the State of Kentucky be, and is hereby admitted, a member of the Confederate States of America on an equal footing with the other States of the Confederacy.

A bill was reported yesterday, with the approval of the President, looking to an increase of our naval force for the protection of the sea coast. We annex a copy of the bill:

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ENLISTMENT OF ADDITIONAL SEAMEN.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, that the President be authorized to enlist for the war any additional number of seamen, not to exceed two thousand, that the exigencies of the naval service and the defence of the sea coast and of rivers and harbors, may in his judgment be necessary.

The following bills have also been passed in secret session:

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF WAR TO APPOINT AN ASSISTANT.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, that the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby authorized and empowered to appoint an assistant, who shall be known as the Assistant Secretary of War, who shall perform such duties as may be assigned him by the Secretary, and receive as compensation for his services, three thousand dollars per annum.

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF BUGLER AND PRINCIPAL MUSICIANS TO REGIMENTS IN THE PROVISIONAL ARMY.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, that the President be, and he is hereby authorized to appoint a Chief Bugler or Principal Musician, according to corps, to each regiment in the Provisional army.

Reported Capture of Yankees.

From the Richmond Dispatch, Dec. 11

Passengers who arrived yesterday from Manassas brought a report that Colonel Ashby's command had a sharp skirmish with a foraging party of the enemy, on Sunday last, and killed fifteen, took eighty prisoners, and captured twenty wagons well filled with plunder. Our loss is reported at five killed. We have no means of ascertaining whether the story is correct or otherwise, but it seemed to be generally believed last evening.

Confiscations in Virginia.

Late Richmond papers state that the cashier of the Farmers' Bank at Richmond gives notice that the payment of $24,543.01, which the bank holds as the property of Captain R. H. Ramsey, has been "enjoined" by the District Court of the Confederate States, as being liable to sequestration. The Confederate States Court, in Richmond, have confiscated $15,000 in the hands of the bankers Purcell, in that city, the property of Ashmead *et al.*, of Philadelphia.

A British Man-of-War off Charleston, South Carolina.

From the Charleston Courier, Dec. 9.

The English steam ship-of-war Racer, of eleven guns, Captain Algernon Lyons, arrived off this harbor on Friday afternoon last. She left New York on Tuesday, and has brought despatches to her Britannic Majesty's Consul. The latter visited her on Saturday morning in the steamer Carolina, and the Racer soon after left for Port Royal, from which place she is expected to return this day and will soon after sail for New York.

A Splendid Trophy.

We had the opportunity yesterday of examining a regimental stand of United States colors, taken from the enemy at the battle of Oak Hills. It was the banner of the 3d Missouri (Hessian) regiment, commanded by Colonel, now General Siegel, and was presented to them by Mrs. Frank Blair and other Lincolnite ladies of St. Louis. It is made of heavy silk, trimmed and lettered with gold, and cost, as was represented at the time of its presentation, (over which there was a grand parade, and many vows to die sooner than surrender it,) $700. The bullet holes through it bear testimony to the severity of the conflict over which it waved. It was captured by the gallant Captain (now Major) Staples, to whom it was entrusted to be brought to this city, to be deposited among the trophies of the war.—*Richmond Whig.*

From Arkansas.

The Jacksonport (Arkansas) *Herald* says that Col. Borland has just returned from Pocahontas, and reports the Arkansas border still in danger. He says the Federals at Popular Bluff are 6,000 to 7,000 strong, and the scouts of the two armies have frequent skirmishes. Col. Borland wants all the men he can promptly get.

The Checot (Ark.) *Press* says quite a number of letters have been opened and their contents abstracted, on the mail route between Lake Village and Memphis.

Mr. Lanieras was killed at Columbus, Ark., by T. Young. Young was subsequently hung by a mob.

Gen. Buckner Refused Permission to Bury his Child.

The Confederate Gen. Buckner recently sent a flag of truce from his camp at Bowling Green, Kentucky, to the Union lines, asking permission for his wife to pass on to Louisville with the mortal remains of their infant daughter, which they wished to inter in their family vault in that city. General Buell *courteously* denied the request.

The Despotism at Washington.

From the Richmond Whig, Dec. 3.

Through the instrumentality of one of Seward's confidential agents, we have come in possession of the following letter, addressed by a brave and noble woman, to Lincoln's vizier. We are given to understand that the perusal of it was not without visible effect upon that impersonation of all human villainy. The twitchings of the muscles, and his agitated manner betrayed, not, perhaps, any compunction, but a sense of personal insecurity at the hands of the avenging Nemesis.

This letter is the most graphic sketch yet given to the world, of the cruel and dastardly tyranny which the Yankee government has established at Washington. Russell, in one of his letters to the London *Times*, mentions the expedient of "arrest by telegraph," which has been introduced by Seward, as something new and appalling, and outstripping all the ingenious contrivances of all the despotisms that ever existed. But the incarceration and torture of helpless women, and the outrages heaped upon them, as detailed in this letter, will more shock manly natures, and stamp the Lincoln dynasty everywhere with undying infamy. The letter tells its own tale, and may be relied on as a true copy of the original, in the hands of William H. Seward:

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17, 1861,
398 Sixteenth street.

To the Hon. Wm. H. Seward, Secretary of State:

SIR:—For nearly three months I have been confined a close prisoner, shut out from air and exercise, and denied all communion with family and friends.

Patience is said to be a great virtue, and I have practised it to my utmost capacity of endurance.

I am told, sir, that upon your *ipse dixit* the fate of citizens depends, and that the sign manual of the ministers of Louis the Fourteenth and Fifteenth was not more potential in their day than that of the Secretary of State in 1861. I therefore most respectfully submit that on Friday, August 23d, without warrant or other show of authority, I was arrested by the detective police and my house taken in charge by them; that all my private letters and papers of a lifetime were read and examined by them; that every law of decency was violated in the search of my house and person, and by the surveillance over me.

We read in history that the poor Maria Antoinette had a paper torn from her bosom by lawless hands, and that even a change of linen had to be effected in sight of her brutal captors. It is my sad experience to record even more revolting outrages than that, for during the first days of my imprisonment, whenever necessity forced me to seek my chamber, a detective stood sentinel at the open door. And thus, for a period of seven days I, with my little child, was placed absolutely at the mercy of men without character or responsibility; that during the first evening, a portion of these men became brutally drunk, and boasted in my hearing of the "nice times" they expected to have with the female prisoners; and that rude violence was used towards a colored servant girl during that evening, the extent of which I have not been able to learn. For any show of decorum afterwards practised towards me, I was indebted to the detective called Captain Dennis.

In the careful analysis of my papers I deny the existence of a line I had not perfect right to have written, or to have received. Freedom of speech and of opinion is the birthright of Americans, guaranteed to us by our charter of liberty—the Constitution of the United States. I have exercised my prerogative, and have openly avowed my sentiments. During the political struggle I opposed your Republican party with every instinct of self-preservation. I believed your success a virtual nullification of the Constitution, and that it would entail upon us all the direful consequences which have ensued. These sentiments have doubtless been found recorded among my papers, and I hold them as rather a proud record of my sagacity.

I must be permitted to quote from a letter of yours, in regard to Russell, of the London *Times*, which you conclude with these admirable words: "Individual errors of opinion may be tolerated, so long as good sense is left to combat them." By way of illustrating theory and practice—here am I, a prisoner in sight of the Executive mansion, in sight of the Capitol, where the proud statesmen of our land have sung their pæans to the blessings of our free institutions. Comment is idle. Freedom of speech, freedom of thought, every right pertaining to the citizen has been suspended by what, I suppose, the President calls a "military necessity." A blow has been struck, by this total disregard of all civil rights, against the present system of government, far greater in its effects than the severance of the Southern States. Our people have been taught to contemn the supremacy of the law, to which all have hitherto bowed, and to look to the military power for protection against its decrees. A military spirit has been developed, which will only be subordinate to a military dictatorship. Read history, and you will find that the causes which bring about a revolution rarely predominate at its close, and no people have ever returned to the point from which they started. Even should the Southern States be subdued and forced back into the Union (which I regard as impossible, with a full knowledge of their resources), a different form of government will be found needful to meet the new developments of national character. There is no class of society, no branch of industry, which this change has not reached, and the dull, plodding, methodical habits of the poor can never be resumed.

You have held me, sir, to a man's accountability, and I therefore claim the right to speak on subjects usually considered beyond a woman's ken, and which you may class as "errors of opinion." I offer no excuse for this long digression, as a three months' imprisonment, without formula of law, gives me authority for occupying even the precious moments of a Secretary of State.

My object is to call your attention to the fact that, during this long imprisonment, I am yet ignorant of the causes of my arrest, that my house has been seized and converted into a prison by the Government; that the valuable furniture it contained has been abused and destroyed; that during some period of my imprisonment I have suffered greatly for want of proper and sufficient food.—Also, I have to complain that, more recently, a woman of bad character, recognized as having been seen on the streets of Chicago as such by several of the guard, calling herself Mrs. Onderdonk, was placed here in my house, in a room adjoining mine.

In making this exposition, I have no object of appeal to your sympathies. If the justice of my complaint, and a decent regard for the world's opinion do not move you, I should but waste time to claim your attention on any other score. I may, however, recall to your mind, that but a little while since, you were quite as much proscribed by public sentiment here for the opinions and principles you hold, as I am now for mine.

I could easily have escaped arrest, having had timely warning. I thought it possible that your statesmanship might present such a proclamation of weakness to the world, as even the fragment of a once great government turning its arms against the breasts of women and children. You have the power, sir, and may still further abuse it. You may prostrate the physical strength, by confinement in close rooms, and insufficient food—you may subject me to harsher, ruder treatment than I have already received, but you cannot imprison the soul. Every cause worthy of success has had its martyrs. The words of the heroine Corday are applicable here: "*C'est le crime qui fait la honte et non pas l'echafaude.*" My sufferings will afford a significant lesson to the women of the South, that sex or condition is no bulwark against the surging billows of the "irrepressible conflict."

The "iron heel of power" may keep down, but it cannot crush out, the spirit of resistance of a people armed for the defence of their rights; and I tell you now, sir, that you are standing over a crater whose smothered fires in a moment may burst forth.

It is your boast that thirty-three bristling fortifications now surround Washington. The fortifications of Paris did not protect Louis Philippe when his hour had come.

In conclusion, I respectfully ask your attention to this my protest, and I have the honor to be, &c., &c., &c.,

ROSE O. N. GREENHOW.

MARRIED,

On the 8th December, 1861, by the Rev. Wesley Brown, CHARLES HOWARD to ELLENOR LANEY, both of Baltimore city.

On the 5th December, 1861, by Rev. Wesley Brown, NICKSON NICHOLSON to LYDIA ANN WILLIAMS, both of Baltimore city.

DIED,

On the 15th inst., JOHN W. WILMER, aged 74 years. The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend his funeral, on Tuesday morning, at 10 o'clock, from his late residence, 211 Madison avenue, near Biddle, on Wednesday afternoon, at half-past three o'clock.

On the 14th instant, JACOB SCHROEDER, aged 65 years, 1 month and 12 days.

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