THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

PUBLISHED BY

CARTER & NEILSON.

TERMS

Served to the city, and paid weekly to the carriers, TWELVE AND A HALF CENTS WEEKLY.

Mailed to subscribers out of the city at SIX DOLLARS A YEAR, or for a shorter period at proportionate rates, payable invariably in advance.

☞ A liberal reduction to Clubs and News Agents.

THE TRI-WEEKLY NEWS SHEET.

Mailed to subscribers:

1 copy, one year	$4
Do. six months	2
Do. three months	1

ADVERTISING RATES.

One square, six lines	one insertion	50
"	two insertions	75
"	three "	$1 00
"	one week	1 25
"	two weeks	2 25
"	three "	3 00
"	one month	3 50
"	three months	10 00

* Longer advertisements at proportionate rates. Yearly contracts to be matters of special agreement.

TO THE PUBLIC.

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

BALTIMORE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1861.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the United States Senate, the bill to raise an additional force of volunteers, for service in Kentucky, was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs. A motion was also adopted, asking the President to appoint a committee of the Senate, to act with a similar committee of the House, to investigate the conduct of the war. The Military Committee were directed to inquire concerning the surrender of fugitive slaves by military officers. A bill to adjust the claims of American citizens for French spoliation prior to 1800, was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

In the House of Representatives, a bill was passed authorizing the Provost Court of Alexandria to retain, for safe-keeping, whatever property may now be in its possession belonging to persons in arms against the United States. Mr. Elliot's resolution confiscating the property of persons in the seceded States was further discussed, and on motion of Mr. Kellogg, of Illinois, referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. Resolutions were passed instructing the Secretary of the Treasury not to make any further payments to the parties interested in the steamer Catalinc; to adjust the claims of Simon Stevens against the Government for one thousand carbines purchased by General Fremont, and denouncing the practice of employing irresponsible persons having no connection with the Government, and also of contracting for supplies without competition.

In the State Senate a Committee was appointed to urge upon President Lincoln the reopening of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. A bill was passed repealing those sections of the militia law, which relate to the giving bond for the safe delivery of arms belonging to the State, and providing for a suspension of proceedings on bonds for the recovery of arms.

In the House of Delegates Mr. Donaldson offered a series of resolutions sustaining the war policy of the Government; pledging the faith of the State to furnish men and means in aid of its prosecution so long as her rights are respected, and endorsing the resolution of Mr. Crittenden. Mr. Matthews offered a preamble and resolution expressing confidence in the President and thanking the Government for respecting the rights of Maryland. A bill was passed assuming for the State her quota of the direct tax.

The proclamation of Gen. Phelps, now in command at Ship Island, is one of the most extraordinary documents to which this war has given birth. After declaring his intention to make known to the people of the Southwest the motives and principles by which his command will be governed, he states that the creed of himself and that of the troops under him is that every slave State admitted into the Union since the adoption of the Constitution has been so admitted in direct violation of the Constitution, and that the original slave States in becoming parties to the Federal compact were bound in honor to abolish slavery. He assumes that slave labor is a monopoly which excludes the free labor of the North from entering into competition with it, and that the purpose for which the Federal troops were sent South is to revolutionize slavery out of existence. The New York *Times* denies that General Phelps has any authority for the line of policy he prescribes for himself, and alleges that he "misrepresents the aims of the Government precisely as the more malignant Secessionists of the South misrepresent them—a coincidence," says the *Times*, "which cannot but be productive of mischievous and embarrassing results." Even the *Tribune* sneeringly speaks of the proclamation in question "as another illustration of the infelicity of our commanders in this species of composition.

The comments of the American Press on the Mason and Slidell affair indicate that there exists a good deal of doubt and hesitation as to the proper course to pursue. The *Times* and *Tribune* are for getting out of the difficulty by submitting the question at issue, between the Federal Government and Great Britain, to the arbitration of a neutral Power. There are, however, a few journals which valiantly assume that the Southern Envoys will not be surrendered, even though war should ensue as a consequence. Among those who have thus dared to dictate to the Government the policy it shall pursue is—strange to say—the Baltimore *American*.

Governor Andrew, of Massachusetts, is a true descendant of the Puritans. He inherits all their narrowness and bigotry, and more than all their vindictiveness. He has written a letter to a correspondent in New York, in which he speaks with intense indignation of "the numerous manifestations of misplaced sympathy exhibited by certain citizens of Boston towards the rebel prisoners in Fort Warren;" and, singling out Mr. Mason as an especial object of denunciation, exults, with the old Puritanic fervour, that "his power for future mischief is forever abridged." If, after all, the release of the Southern Commissioners and their secretaries should be ordered by the Cabinet at Washington, will Governor Andrew turn his fierce anger upon the Federal authorities? In a striking contrast to the letter of Governor Andrew, we publish, from the Boston *Courier* of Saturday last, a noble and manly article, in defence of an estimable citizen of Boston, who, for offering the hospitalities of his house to Mayor Brown, of this city, had been stigmatized in the *Transcript* for "barboring a traitor." The *Courier* characterizes the attack of the *Transcript* as "the basest sort of prying into the privacy of domestic life, and a gross assault upon all the sympathies and affections of human nature."

By telegraph received from New York yesterday, we learn that the Banks of that city have suspended specie payments with a view to prevent the export of gold from the country, which was already becoming active under an apprehension of a war with England. We learn also that the Presidents of the various banks in this city held a meeting yesterday to take into consideration such measures as might be deemed necessary in consequence of the suspension of specie payments in New York. The meeting was adjourned until official notification of the fact of suspension was received from the New York Banks.

We have already published an account of a battle which took place recently at Valley Mountain, on the borders of Pocahontas county, Western Virginia, wherein the Federal troops were reported to have repulsed the Confederates with considerable loss. A second account of the same battle, and to the same purport, reaches us by way of Cincinnati. From the South we have also the Confederate version of the fight which is said to have been a most desperate one. The Confederates claim to have put the Federal troops to utter rout after a severe conflict which lasted for several hours. The same facts reach us by way of Washington, where the rumor is that the conduct of the Federal troops at Valley Mountain was disgraceful.

The conflagration at Charleston, of which further particulars have been received, was without doubt a most disastrous one. As many as one thousand people are said to be houseless, and the loss is estimated at from five to seven millions of dollars. The Confederate Congress has appropriated a quarter of million of dollars for the relief of the sufferers and liberal contributions were by the last accounts coming in from other States.

The Lynchburg *Virginian* tells a strange story of the desertion, to the Confederates, of a Maryland regiment in the Federal service, with all their officers, arms and equipments. There is, we are inclined to believe, as little truth in the statement as is to be found in the telegram received from Cincinnati yesterday announcing that a battle was being fought in the vicinity of New Orleans, and that the city was threatened with demolition by the Federal forces.

Part of General Sherman's division advanced to the mainland, near Port Royal Ferry, on Tuesday last, and destroyed some Confederate rifle pits. The Charleston *Courier*, which published the fact as a report from Beaufort, does not state whether the Federal troops continued to hold the position on the mainland or whether they subsequently returned to the islands.

The most active preparations are said to be making at Columbus, Kentucky, for the defence of that place against the naval and military expedition which is about to descend the Mississippi.

LATEST FROM THE SOUTH.

The Conflagration at Charleston.

By the boat from Norfolk yesterday, further particulars of the recent conflagration at Charleston were received. Capt. Millward went to Craney Island on Monday with a flag of truce, and was met by Lieut. Smith off Craney Island. No passengers came down. Norfolk and Richmond papers received through the flag of truce give full and interesting particulars of the extensive conflagration at Charleston, South Carolina:

The fire, as before stated, broke out about nine o'clock on the evening of Wednesday, the 11th instant, in Messrs. Russell & Old's sash and blind factory, at the foot of Hazel street. Crossing Hazel street, the flames rapidly communicated to the extensive machine shop of Messrs. Cameron & Co., which was soon burnt. From this point the fire rapidly spread, and before midnight the conflagration had assumed the most appalling magnitude, spreading consternation throughout the entire city.

Meeting street, from Market to Queen street, was by this hour one mass of flames. As tenement after tenement became enveloped in the devouring fire the panic became awful beyond description. Thousands of families evacuated their houses and crowded the streets where the fire had not yet spread. The buildings in the lower part of the city, where the fire broke out, were principally of wood, and extremely inflammable, which accounts for the remarkably rapid progress of the fire. At midnight the Circular Church and the Institute Hall were all burning, and the proximity of the flames to the Charleston Hotel and the Mills House caused them to be evacuated by their inmates. At one o'clock the fire tended more southward towards the corner of Archdale and Queen streets, to the rear of the Charleston Hotel, and to the end of the Havne street range. Crossing Market street, the flames spread down East Bay street to Cumberland street and crossed to the Mills House, including in its destruction both the Circular Church, Institute Hall and the Charleston Hotel. All the buildings in King street, from Clifford street nearly to Broad street, were destroyed before three o'clock Thursday morning.

General Ripley, who superintended the movements of the troops, who had arrived at the scene about this time, ordered several buildings on the route of the conflagration to be blown up and after some delay the order was executed, but not before the Theatre, Lloyd's coach factory, (opposite the Express office,) the old Executive buildings, and all the houses from this point to Queen street, had caught fire and been destroyed.

At about four o'clock, A. M., the wind changed the direction of the progress of the flames towards Broad street, and soon after St. Andrew's Hall took fire, and subsequently the Cathedral became wrapt in flames, and shortly after five o'clock the steeple fell in with a great crash. The fire made a clean sweep through the city, making a track from East Bay to King street.

A despatch dated Charleston, December 12, 5 P. M., says:

"The fire has been raging all day, and one thousand houseless people are huddled together in groups about the city. The Mills House is now in flames. There has been great destruction to day. The raging fire still continues its desolating sway."

The Charleston *Courier* of the 13th gives a list of between two and three hundred sufferers, and says the loss is estimated at from five to seven millions of dollars! Mr. Russell, at whose factory the fire originated, thinks it must have been occasioned by an incendiary, or by the negligence of the negroes employed there.

A despatch from Charleston of the 13th says:

"The Mills House, although threatened and several times on fire, eventually escaped, and is only slightly damaged."

A message was sent to the Confederate Congress on Friday by President Davis in relation to the conflagration at Charleston, recommending an appropriation in aid of the sufferers. A resolution was accordingly unanimously adopted appropriating $250,000 as an advance on account of the claims of South Carolina upon the Confederate States. Four churches were destroyed by the Charleston fire—the Roman Catholic cathedral, St. Peter's Episcopal church, the Cumberland Street Methodist, and the Circular Presbyterian church. The *Mercury* says that five hundred and seventy-six buildings were burnt.

Reported Desertion of a Maryland Regiment.

The Lynchburg *Virginian*, of Monday, says that a Maryland regiment had deserted from Lincoln's army with their arms and equipments.—They were sent out as a picket from Alexandria, and when they reached the front of our lines they hoisted the Confederate flag and marched into Centreville, accompanied by the Colonel and all the other officers.

Advance of the Federal Troops to Port Royal Ferry.

The Charleston *Courier* of Friday has a report from Beaufort stating that the Yankees advanced their position to near Port Royal Ferry on Tuesday, and crossed the Ferry, under cover of their artillery, to the mainland, and destroyed several Confederate rifle pits.

Indemnity for Losses by the War.

The Richmond *Examiner* says that the Court of Commissioners to determine the claims to indemnity for losses by the war is to be organized at once. The President has appointed, and Congress in secret session has confirmed, the following Commissioners: George P. Scarborough, of Virginia, Thos. C. Reynolds, of Missouri, and Walter Brooke, of Mississippi.

Clothing for the United States Prisoners.

The Richmond *Enquirer* of the 15th acknowledges the receipt of the balance of the clothing from Massachusetts for the prisoners of war. It is consigned to General C. Winder, and will be distributed by Lieutenant Pierson, of the Twentieth Massachusetts regiment, who was taken prisoner at Leesburg.

The Battle in Western Virginia Claimed as a Confederate Victory.

RICHMOND, Dec. 14.—Official information has been received here that the Federals, five thousand strong, attacked Col. Edward Johnson's command, at Valley Mountain, on the 13th, but were repulsed with great loss, after an engagement of several hours' length.

Miscellaneous Items.

The Norfolk *Day Book* is printed on a small half sheet, and the price is to be raised to five cents on Thursday.

The victorious Ben McCulloch has arrived at Richmond.

Col. T. H. Smith has relinquished the command of Craney Island, and will take charge of the Virginia Military Institute.

The steamer Spaulding has not yet arrived at Fortress Monroe from Port Royal.

The Mobile *Advertiser* enjoys the opinion that it is now in the power of General Bragg to reduce Fort Pickens whenever he may deem it expedient.

The Norfolk *Day Book* of the 12th inst., states, on its own authority, that five hundred Federal prisoners have taken the oath of allegiance to the Confederate States.

From the Boston Courier, Dec. 14th.

MAYOR BROWN—A REMARKABLE ADMISSION BY MR. SEWARD.

A most vulgar and shameful attack is made in the *Evening Transcript* of yesterday, upon one of our most estimable and inoffensive citizens. It comes under the head of "sneaks and cowards." It seems that Mayor Brown, of Baltimore, is out of Fort Warren on parole, not to leave the State. Naturally enough, he repairs to the house of the citizen aforesaid, that house being the dwelling of his own sister, who is the wife of the citizen in question. This is called by the *Transcript* "harboring a traitor." Of course, on this theory, the Government are "sneaks and traitors," for letting Mayor Brown be at large.

The gentleman who has thus, according to the *Transcript*, been guilty of "harboring a traitor," is a physician highly respected in his profession, and so well known for charitable deeds, that one can hardly conceive of the malignant spirit which could prompt such an attack upon him. It can only be characterized as the basest sort of prying into the privacy of domestic life, and a gross assault upon all the sympathies and affections of human nature.

We have heard, by the way, that a deputation of respectable and loyal Baltimore people waited on the Secretary, in regard to Mayor Brown, to learn why he was confined. It was asked—"Has Mr. Brown been guilty of any treason?" The answer was "None, that I know of." "Do you suspect him of disloyalty?" "I have no reason to do so." "Then, pray, why do you imprison him?" "Because he happens to be an obstacle in our way." We give the statement as we heard it; and his release on parole, to remain in Massachusetts, seems to confirm the story.

GOVERNOR ANDREW ON THE PRISONERS AT FORT WARREN.—A recent article in the New York *Evening Post*, referring to the too tender treatment of the prisoners at Fort Warren, was brought to the notice of Governor Andrew, and has elicited the following private letter, which is published by the *Evening Post*:

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
BOSTON, Dec. 11, 1861.

Edward Russell, Esq., New York:

MY DEAR SIR: I thank you for your note of the 7th, enclosing a slip from the *Evening Post* condemning the numerous manifestations of misplaced sympathy by some citizens of Boston with rebel prisoners confined at Fort Warren. I fully appreciate your feelings in this matter, and share with the writer of the *Post* in his condemnation of that sympathy with traitors which makes men, in comparison with whom Benedict Arnold was a saint, comfortable in their confinement, while our own brave defenders of liberty and Union and the rights of man are cut off from all such sympathy by the rigorous despotism of the Southern oligarchy—but I do not know of anything that I can do to prevent it. I very well remember Mason's insolent, overbearing demeanor, in that memorable interview between himself and old John Brown, and can truly rejoice with you that, if he does not, in all respects, receive all the compensation for his baseness through a long public career in the few days which yet remain to him in this life, his power for future mischief is forever abridged, and that all the luxuries which Boston sympathizers with treason and with traitors can bestow cannot defeat the purposes and the plans of infinite justice.

Very truly and faithfully yours,
JOHN A. ANDREW.

COTTON AND COTTON FABRICS.—The extraordinary price to which cotton has advanced here is bringing it from Liverpool. There are shipped and on the way 10,000 bales of cotton for account of Liverpool firms, and 6,000 bales for American spinners. It is difficult to realize the enormous increase in the prices of cotton fabrics without the comparisons placed before us.—*N. Y. World.*

Correspondence Maryland News Sheet.

CHARLOTTE HALL, Md., Dec. 16, 1861.

MESSRS. EDITORS: Among the special Washington despatches to the New York *World* of Friday last, is the following:

"A physician living at Charlotte Hall, in Southern Maryland, and who had gained the respect of our troops for his supposed loyalty, has been arrested for forwarding intelligence to the Confederates in Virginia."

The above is false in every particular. A citizen of Charlotte Hall, not a physician, was arrested on Wednesday last, and taken to General Hooker's headquarters, by a squad of the Indiana Cavalry, acting by order of the Major of that regiment, on the supposition that a treasonable letter had been discovered directed to a citizen of Maryland now in Virginia.

On examination of the letter by General Hooker, it proved to be a letter introducing the bearer to a clergyman in Richmond, and hoping the acquaintance would be mutually agreeable. Not a word of "information" was conveyed, or any reference to "aid or comfort." The date of the letter also showed it was written before there had been any prohibition of correspondence with the now seceded States.

The letter, for some reason, had been left behind and never used.

On the ground of this startling discovery the Major hurries off a detachment of his men forty miles to Charlotte Hall, to make the arrest, to carry the prisoner forty miles more to be delivered into the hands of the General.

It is unnecessary to add that General Hooker ordered the prisoner to be immediately released.

VERITAS.

THE MASON-SLIDELL CASE.

OPINIONS OF THE AMERICAN PRESS.

From the New York Herald.

The surrender of those notorious traitors, Mason and Slidell, into the hands of England, is absolutely out of the question. It is difficult to believe that England will disgrace herself by a demand so utterly impossible of fulfillment as this, and, as an ultimatum, so extremely offensive. Limited as are our ideas of the dignity and honesty of the British Government, it seems to be absurd to suppose that upon a shallow pretext she can be prepared to plunge into a wasting, profitless and dangerous war, as the ally of the most scandalous rebellion in the history of mankind.

From the Money Article, N. Y. Times.

The English news, besides affecting the market, creates much discussion on the street. The prevailing impression is, that no war will grow out of the Trent affair; certainly not unless England really desires to make the question the pretext for hostilities, in which event no backing down will be manifested in Wall street, either on the Merchants' or the Stock Exchange, however great the cost and sacrifices of the war. On the other hand, no objection is made to an honorable explanation, and it our Government be found in the wrong, all proper apology, *but under no compulsion.*

From the N. Y. Tribune.

It seems that the law officers of the Crown have had the matter under advisement, and have come to some decision which is either in part or in whole a justification of the seizure of Mason and Slidell. We must set aside the menaces of some of the overzealous English journals, and look at the real facts of the case. The first report was that the law officers had justified the release of Mason and Slidell absolutely as contraband of war; the second is, that the proper course would have been to take the ship herself into port and submit the question of what was contraband of war to the prize-courts. It seems to be taken for granted that we had some right in the premises. Precisely what it is is the question. Our own Secretary of the Navy has publicly said, in a letter to Captain Wilkes, that while he was thankful for what was done, the neglect to take the ship also must not be construed into a precedent.

Here, then, is a question for diplomacy, not for war. It is a subject to submit to the arbitration of a court of international publicists, and not to settlement by hostile declarations. The case is a good one for such an arbitration, and should not be lost. The question has vexed the nations for more than half a century; let it be settled now and forever. With this view of the case we see no possible difficulty to grow out of this affair. Great Britain asks for an explanation. Why should not our Government, in making it, declare, as is unquestionably true, that it disclaims any intentional offence, and that while it thinks its act perfectly justifiable by the law of nations and the circumstances of the case, yet that it will cheerfully submit it to arbitration and abide by the result.

From the New York Tribune, Second Article.

Let us again assure the timid that we shall have no war with Great Britain. We do not wish war with her, and presume her equally unwilling to make war on us. If she proposes to submit the questions of international law raised between us to some able and impartial umpire, we trust her proposition will be promptly and cordially accepted. If she prefers to argue the matter directly with us, that resort will also be welcomed. That she should insist on going to war with us merely because we have taken four traitors, engaged on an errand of public hostility to us, out of one of her vessels, when she has taken at least four thousand of our unoffending seamen out of our vessels without reparation or apology, is not within the limits of probability.

From the New York World.

We conceive that the question of peace or war between England and the United States depends mainly upon the precise shape of the demand which Lord Lyons is instructed to make of our Government. If that demand is limited to a claim for an apology, or expression of regret, that Commodore Wilkes did not do otherwise, *the right use of language* can easily remove the difficulty. But if that demand is made to comprehend the surrender of Mason and Slidell to British protection, it can be met with nothing short of a point-blank refusal; and, *if England insists*, the settlement must be made at the cannon's mouth.

* * *

An apology and an engagement for the future, couched in courteous terms, would cover the whole ground of complaint, as we now understand it; and England could not avoid accepting such an *amende honorable*, unless she is bent on forcing a war upon us. Such an attitude would cost us no sacrifice of dignity, would relieve our naval officers of an invidious discretionary power, and, by the rich prizes it might secure would be an advantage to both our gallant sailors and the finances of the nation.

* * *

But if the British Government, not content with this, demands the restoration of Mason and Slidell to the shadow of the British flag, there must be an absolute refusal, let the consequence be what they may. This nation can submit to no such humiliation as surrender up her own citizens, even though they be rebels, to foreign authority. We can no more make such a surrender that guilty citizens may be screened, than we could that innocent citizens might be oppressed. For no purpose can we allow a foreign Government to stand for an instant between our own Government and its citizens on its own soil.

From the Baltimore American.

The Government has no other alternative than to adhere to the position it has already assumed. In numerous ways Government and people have fully endorsed the act of Captain Wilkes, and the verdict will *never be reversed*, although all Europe, with England at its head, demand it. What may be done to qualify, or soften the matter, is yet to be seen. But to offer any humble apology, or to give up the two traitors who have done so much to imperil us at home and abroad, need not be expected; and if that is the only condition on which the nation can be permitted to remain at peace with England, why the sooner we enlarge our preparations for conflict the better.

OPINIONS IN WASHINGTON ON THE MASON-SLIDELL AFFAIR.

Special Washington Correspondence N. Y. Tribune.

The news from England continues to be the one topic of conversation. The general feeling among Americans is that the United States can never give up Mason and Slidell. Among Englishmen here, the belief is universal that the Europe's intelligence is correct, and that war is inevitable if our Government sustains Captain Wilkes. They say that there are more grievances than once that Great Britain has endured from the United States more than from any other Power; and that not to take high grounds on this last transaction would be to degrade herself in the estimation of European Powers. They add that there is additional cause for offence in some of the earlier despatches of our Secretary of State, which are not included in the recently printed volume.

It is known that the Diplomatic Body regards the crisis as a grave one, and looks upon war with England as imminent, believing that John Bull will demand the return of Mason and Slidell in terms so peremptory as to preclude negotiation and prevent our Government from offsetting the treatment of the Nashville against that of the Trent.

MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR IN CANAL STREET.—A most singular and mysterious affair occurred at No. 146 Canal street on Saturday morning, in the death of a young man named Bernard Levy, of the firm of L. B. Levy & Co., doing business at the above place. Young Levy left his home as usual upon the morning of Saturday, appearing pleasant and cheerful as usual. At 10 o'clock, he was discovered behind the counter, lying on the floor, with his throat cut from ear to ear. The money and valuables in the office were undisturbed. A clasp-knife covered with blood, was upon the counter, and a large pair of shears lay close to his head. Captain Dowling, of the Sixth ward precinct, immediately took charge of the premises, and notified the coroner. The body was removed to the Sixth ward station house, where Coroner Jackson held an inquest during the afternoon. An investigation into the case threw but very little light upon the affair. It was shown in evidence that deceased was a man of temperate habits, cheerful disposition, but that a woman styling herself Mrs. Louisa Briedsback had charged him with an improper intimacy with herself, and that, in endeavoring to extort money from him, had threatened that her husband would kill him. She had, in fact, brought a man to the office on one occasion, and had pointed deceased out to him as the person who had wronged her. There was but little other evidence and the jury returned a verdict "that deceased came to his death by a wound in his neck, but in what manner inflicted the jury are unable to determine." The case has been given into the hands of skillful officers, who will use every exertion to clear up the mystery that now hangs over it.—*N. Y. World.*

The New Albany (Ind.) *Ledger*, one of the staunchest and ablest advocates of the war policy of the Administration, thus alludes to the abolition movements in Congress, and especially to its rejection of the Crittenden resolution. It says:

"Men who gave their support to the war on account of the assurances of the Crittenden resolution will feel that they are the victims of a mistaken confidence—that they placed faith in men who have proved themselves faithless to high and solemn obligations. We need not repeat, what every intelligent man knows, that this war cannot be carried to a successful termination without the zealous co-operation of all the people of the loyal States. This must be apparent to all by this time. Nor is it useless to conceal the fact that there are thousands in the army and out of it who will not stand listlessly by and see the object of the war changed from its originally declared purpose to uphold the Constitution and restore the Union to one which will subvert the Constitution and render the reconstruction of the Union impossible. No visionary schemes of 'voluntary colonization' will reconcile the conservative element of the country to wholesale emancipation. Let the majority in Congress pause before they commit a great and irreparable error."

RELATIONS WITH ENGLAND—THE AFFAIR OF THE TRENT.

The following remarkable article appeared in the New York *Times* of yesterday:

We have called attention to the fact that the complaint of the British Government does not rest upon any denial of our right to visit and search her ships for contraband of war, but upon the fact that Capt. Wilkes chose to execute on the spot what he believed to be the law, instead of taking the vessel into port and submitting the case to the action of duly authorized courts of law. The London *Times* gives this as the opinion of the law-officers of the Crown, 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." If this be so, then the demand of the British Government will be confined to this irregularity in the mode of proceeding which Capt. Wilkes adopted. Our Government will not be required to disavow the act of visitation and search, but only the neglect of Capt. Wilkes to bring the Trent into port and to submit the question to the Prize Court. We are free to confess that this view of the case seems to us essentially just. The duty of the commander of a war-vessel at sea is analogous to that of a police-officer on shore. It is simply to detect and arrest suspected offenders against the law of nations, and hand them over to the appointed tribunals. A police-officer arrests a suspected thief,—but he does not try the question of his guilt,—still less does he execute sentence on the spot. He hands him over to the Courts of law, and there his responsibility ends. A naval officer at sea is in a position precisely similar. He may visit and search a vessel suspected of carrying contraband of war, and if he sees reason for so doing, he may arrest her and hold her for trial. But he cannot try the case on the spot. Nice questions frequently arise in such cases as to what is contraband, &c., and these belong exclusively to the Courts of law. If Captain Wilkes had found the Trent filled with guns and ammunition destined for the Confederate States, he would have had no right to take out her cargo and let her go. His duty would have been to arrest her and hand her over to the Prize Courts, which are created expressly for such a purpose. And in the actual case of the Trent, his duty was doubtless precisely the same. There were some very delicate questions connected with it—both of law and of fact—and it was scarcely com no objection is made to an honorable explanation, and it our Government be found in the wrong, all proper apology, *but under no compulsion.*

From the N. Y. Tribune.

It seems that the law officers of the Crown have had the matter under advisement, and have come to some decision which is either in part or in whole a justification of the seizure of Mason and Slidell. We must set aside the menaces of some of the overzealous English journals, and look at the real facts of the case. The first report was that the law officers had justified the release of Mason and Slidell absolutely as contraband of war; the second is, that the proper course would have been to take the ship herself into port and submit the question of what was contraband of war to the prize-courts. It seems to be taken for granted that we had some right in the premises. Precisely what it is is the question. Our own Secretary of the Navy has publicly said, in a letter to Captain Wilkes, that while he was thankful for what was done, the neglect to take the ship also must not be construed into a precedent.

Here, then, is a question for diplomacy, not for war. It is a subject to submit to the arbitration of a court of international publicists, and not to settlement by hostile declarations. The case is a good one for such an arbitration, and should not be lost. The question has vexed the nations for more than half a century; let it be settled now and forever. With this view of the case we see no possible difficulty to grow out of this affair. Great Britain asks for an explanation. Why should not our Government, in making it, declare, as is unquestionably true, that it disclaims any intentional offence, and that while it thinks its act perfectly justifiable by the law of nations and the circumstances of the case, yet that it will cheerfully submit it to arbitration and abide by the result.

From the New York Tribune, Second Article.

Let us again assure the timid that we shall have no war with Great Britain. We do not wish war with her, and presume her equally unwilling to make war on us. If she proposes to submit the questions of international law raised between us to some able and impartial umpire, we trust her proposition will be promptly and cordially accepted. If she prefers to argue the matter directly with us, that resort will also be welcomed. That she should insist on going to war with us merely because we have taken four traitors, engaged on an errand of public hostility to us, out of one of her vessels, when she has taken at least four thousand of our unoffending seamen out of our vessels without reparation or apology, is not within the limits of probability.

From the New York World.

We conceive that the question of peace or war between England and the United States depends mainly upon the precise shape of the demand which Lord Lyons is instructed to make of our Government. If that demand is limited to a claim for an apology, or expression of regret, that Commodore Wilkes did not do otherwise, *the right use of language* can easily remove the difficulty. But if that demand is made to comprehend the surrender of Mason and Slidell to British protection, it can be met with nothing short of a point-blank refusal; and, *if England insists*, the settlement must be made at the cannon's mouth.

* * *

An apology and an engagement for the future, couched in courteous terms, would cover the whole ground of complaint, as we now understand it; and England could not avoid accepting such an *amende honorable*, unless she is bent on forcing a war upon us. Such an attitude would cost us no sacrifice of dignity, would relieve our naval officers of an invidious discretionary power, and, by the rich prizes it might secure would be an advantage to both our gallant sailors and the finances of the nation.

* * *

But if the British Government, not content with this, demands the restoration of Mason and Slidell to the shadow of the British flag, there must be an absolute refusal, let the consequence be what they may. This nation can submit to no such humiliation as surrender up her own citizens, even though they be rebels, to foreign authority. We can no more make such a surrender that guilty citizens may be screened, than we could that innocent citizens might be oppressed. For no purpose can we allow a foreign Government to stand for an instant between our own Government and its citizens on its own soil.

From the Baltimore American.

The Government has no other alternative than to adhere to the position it has already assumed. In numerous ways Government and people have fully endorsed the act of Captain Wilkes, and the verdict will *never be reversed*, although all Europe, with England at its head, demand it. What may be done to qualify, or soften the matter, is yet to be seen. But to offer any humble apology, or to give up the two traitors who have done so much to imperil us at home and abroad, need not be expected; and if that is the only condition on which the nation can be permitted to remain at peace with England, why the sooner we enlarge our preparations for conflict the better.

OPINIONS IN WASHINGTON ON THE MASON-SLIDELL AFFAIR.

Special Washington Correspondence N. Y. Tribune.

The news from England continues to be the one topic of conversation. The general feeling among Americans is that the United States can never give up Mason and Slidell. Among Englishmen here, the belief is universal that the Europe's intelligence is correct, and that war is inevitable if our Government sustains Captain Wilkes. They say that there are more grievances than once that Great Britain has endured from the United States more than from any other Power; and that not to take high grounds on this last transaction would be to degrade herself in the estimation of European Powers. They add that there is additional cause for offence in some of the earlier despatches of our Secretary of State, which are not included in the recently printed volume.

It is known that the Diplomatic Body regards the crisis as a grave one, and looks upon war with England as imminent, believing that John Bull will demand the return of Mason and Slidell in terms so peremptory as to preclude negotiation and prevent our Government from offsetting the treatment of the Nashville against that of the Trent.

MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR IN CANAL STREET.—A most singular and mysterious affair occurred at No. 146 Canal street on Saturday morning, in the death of a young man named Bernard Levy, of the firm of L. B. Levy & Co., doing business at the above place. Young Levy left his home as usual upon the morning of Saturday, appearing pleasant and cheerful as usual. At 10 o'clock, he was discovered behind the counter, lying on the floor, with his throat cut from ear to ear. The money and valuables in the office were undisturbed. A clasp-knife covered with blood, was upon the counter, and a large pair of shears lay close to his head. Captain Dowling, of the Sixth ward precinct, immediately took charge of the premises, and notified the coroner. The body was removed to the Sixth ward station house, where Coroner Jackson held an inquest during the afternoon. An investigation into the case threw but very little light upon the affair. It was shown in evidence that deceased was a man of temperate habits, cheerful disposition, but that a woman styling herself Mrs. Louisa Briedsback had charged him with an improper intimacy with herself, and that, in endeavoring to extort money from him, had threatened that her husband would kill him. She had, in fact, brought a man to the office on one occasion, and had pointed deceased out to him as the person who had wronged her. There was but little other evidence and the jury returned a verdict "that deceased came to his death by a wound in his neck, but in what manner inflicted the jury are unable to determine." The case has been given into the hands of skillful officers, who will use every exertion to clear up the mystery that now hangs over it.—*N. Y. World.*

The New Albany (Ind.) *Ledger*, one of the staunchest and ablest advocates of the war policy of the Administration, thus alludes to the abolition movements in Congress, and especially to its rejection of the Crittenden resolution. It says:

"Men who gave their support to the war on account of the assurances of the Crittenden resolution will feel that they are the victims of a mistaken confidence—that they placed faith in men who have proved themselves faithless to high and solemn obligations. We need not repeat, what every intelligent man knows, that this war cannot be carried to a successful termination without the zealous co-operation of all the people of the loyal States. This must be apparent to all by this time. Nor is it useless to conceal the fact that there are thousands in the army and out of it who will not stand listlessly by and see the object of the war changed from its originally declared purpose to uphold the Constitution and restore the Union to one which will subvert the Constitution and render the reconstruction of the Union impossible. No

ANTIQUARIAN BOOK STORE,
12 LIGHT STREET.
Libraries or small quantities of BOOKS, also OLD COINS purchased by JOHN P. DES FORGES, Numismatist.
o17 tf

MALAGA GRAPES,
HAVANA SWEET ORANGES,
At vessel price ($2 50) by the hundred.
GROCERIES:
LARD OIL $1 per gallon.
PARAFFINE CANDLES 33 cents per lb.
SUPERIOR FLOUR $7.25 per bbl.
BAKE $4 and $4.16 for BEST FLOUR.
HAMS down to 11 cents.
BUCKWHEAT 75 and 88 cents.
For sale by
WILLIAM H. McLEAN,
52 North Charles st.
d12-tfr

JENNINGS' IMPROVED GLYCERINE CREAM.—The best preparation ever offered to the public for the cure and prevention of Chapped Hands, Lips, &c. One or two applications of this Cream will render the skin soft, smooth, and delicately white. Prepared only by
N. HYNSON JENNINGS & CO.,
Pharmaceutists, 88 N. Charles street.
d11 tf

ECONOMY! ECONOMY!!
A DOLLAR SAVED IS TWO DOLLARS MADE.
This can be done by purchasing Wood already Sawed an Split, at Office of City Steam Fire Wood Mill,
No. 3 NORTH STREET.
JAMES H. JOHNSON
d19-t

HOLIDAY PRESENTS.—The well filled show cases of LARBOUR & CO., No. 10 Light street, attract considerable attention. We are gratified to learn that their apartment never was better, and that every article is embraced thereby, worn by a lady or gentleman. Their Watches, Jewelry, Silver and Plated Ware, Table Cutlery, Spectacles, Eye-Glasses, &c., cannot be surpassed in Baltimore.

ISRAEL & CO.
IVORYTYPES.
WATER-COLORED AND MEZZOTINT PHOTOGRAPHS,
125 BALTIMORE STREET.

IMPORTANT TO HOUSEKEEPERS.
To know that they can save money by purchasing Wood already Sawed and Split, at office of City Steam Fire Wood Mill,
No. 3 NORTH STREET
JAMES H. JOHNSON
s10-tf

YEDDO TEA—A delightful article, part of the FIRST IMPORTATION FROM JAPAN, just received and for sale by GREEN & YOE,
s31-tf 43 W. Baltimore street

DR. A. A. BLANDY,
SUCCESSOR TO DR. C. A. HARRIS,
51 NORTH CHARLES STREET!
s28-tfr

KINDLING WOOD! KINDLING WOOD!!
SAWED AND SPLIT WOOD OF ANY SIZE.
At Office of City Steam Fire Wood Mill,
No. 3 NORTH STREET.
JAS. H. JOHNSON
s19

WILLIAM F. OWENS,
205 BALTIMORE STREET,
Has just received a NEW, CHOICE, and COMPLETE assortment of
FALL AND WINTER
FURNISHING GOODS
FOR
GENTLEMEN.
Cartwright & Warner's celebrated English Merino
UNDER-SHIRTS AND DRAWERS.
Scotch Wool, Red and Shaker Flannel Goods of every size and quality.
SHIRTS MADE TO ORDER
by our improved pattern, and warranted to fit. o17-tfr

ROOFING! ROOFING!! ROOFING!!!
ECONOMY, DURABILITY AND SECURITY
WARRANTED
FIRE AND WATER PROOF
FELT AND COMPOSITION ROOFING
Unrivalled by anything yet discovered for Roofing purposes;
PERFECTLY FIRE PROOF,
PERFECTLY WATER PROOF,
UNEQUALLED FOR ECONOMY,
UNRIVALLED FOR DURABILITY,
ADAPTED TO EVERY CLIMATE.
For further information address or call on
JAS. H. JOHNSON,
No. 2 Jarvis Building, cor. North and Baltimore sts.,
Baltimore.
jy18-tf

EMPORI