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TO THE PUBLIC.

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

BALTIMORE:

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1861.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

We have further details of the news brought by the Niagara which furnish some points of importance in the controversy now pending between Great Britain and the United States. The London *Times*, which rarely does things by halves, has published a mass of evidence in support of its charge that Mr. Seward has long meditated the embroiling of England with this country. That journal warns Mr. Lincoln that unless he makes a speedy peace he may have, not one, but a triangular quarrel to deal with. The impression in financial circles in relation to the return home of General Scott was that he was charged with "the momentous communication from the French Government." The nature of the communication was of course unknown, but it is quite possible that the purports embodied in the despatch which is said to have been sent to M. Mercier by Count Thouvenel. English ship owners are about to form a mutual assurance company to protect each other against war risks. Thurlow Weed, in a letter to the London *Times*, has endeavored to defend Mr. Seward against the charges brought against him. The *Times* responds with the sarcastic remark that Mr. Weed has made the cause of his client worse than he found it. The preparations for war on the part of England are said to be on a scale of almost unprecedented magnitude.

At the dinner to which Commander Williams, R. N., the mail agent on board of the Trent, was invited by the Royal Western Yacht Club, the particulars which he gave of the arrest of Messrs. Mason and Slidell, differed almost wholly from the American version of the affair. He denied that he parted with Lieutenant Fairfax after mutual apologies. To show that the seizure had actually been authorized, he stated that whilst the San Jacinto was at Havana two of her officers, who pretended to be Southerners at heart, lunched with Mr. Slidell and his family, and extracted from them their intended movements. Miss Slidell recognized one of these officers among the party that boarded the Trent, and branded him openly with his infamy.

Mr. Thomas J. Claggett, a member of the Maryland Legislature from Frederick county, who was until recently a prisoner at Fort Warren, is reported to have taken the oath of allegiance and is now at large. Mr. Richard A. Stanton was released at the same time and on the same conditions.

A correspondent of the New York *Evening Post* writing from Annapolis throws some light upon the bill for the better organizing of the militia of the State. Such, says the writer, is its nominal object, but its true design is to enlist soldiers for the Federal service. Some of the details of the the bill are given, which will be found especially interesting and suggestive at this time. An appropriation of two millions five hundred thousand dollars will be called for to carry out the object of the bill. The proposed loan of half a million also to pay the direct tax will, if these schemes are carried out, add three millions of dollars to the indebtedness of the State; and this may be regarded as but the beginning of a taxation which must go on increasing as long as the war shall last.

Mr. Russell's letter to the London *Times* giving an account of the manner in which the first intelligence of the seizure of Messrs. Mason and Slidell was received among us, hits off to a nicety the mingled exultation and perplexity which distinguished that memorable occasion. His description of the subsequent pause among journalists who waited to know what course they were to pursue; the striking of the key note by the *National Intelligencer*; the sudden rush for books on international law; the avalanche of quotations from "the best authorities" which followed, the blunder they made and the dilemma on which they speedily impaled themselves, is an admirable illustration of the keenness with which he seizes upon salient points and of the thoroughly artistic manner in which he is capable of displaying them.

From *Blackwood's Magazine* we reproduce a portion of an article relating the experiences of an eye-witness to the present condition of affairs at the South. The writer's sympathies are strongly in favor of the "rebels" whose unity of sentiment in regard to the war and whose fighting qualities and capacity for endurance appear to have surprised him.

General McClellan, who is said to have been ill for some days past, is now reported to be convalescent.

The members of the joint committee of both houses who were appointed to inquire into the conduct of the war are already at work. They have commenced with an investigation into the Bull Run disaster.—When the testimony in regard to the latter is all in, they propose to take up the deplorable affair at Ball's Bluff. The report upon these matters will be made public some of these days; but it is doubtful whether anybody will be any wiser from the information imparted than he was before. "The smothering process" has not yet become one of "the lost arts."

Correspondents from Washington, on the strength of advices from Kentucky, have ventured to predict—somewhat rashly as we think—that General Buell will fight a battle *and win a victory* before New Year's day.

The choking of the channel to Charleston harbor, by sinking upon the bar six old whaling vessels loaded with stone, has given rise to great exultation at the North; but whether the maritime powers will regard this impediment as a legitimate exercise of the rights of a belligerent remains to be seen. The London *Morning Post*—the Government organ—has already, briefly but ominously, intimated that a stone blockade might lead to something sharper than remonstrances.

The Washington correspondent of the New York *World* continues to predict that a general advance along the whole line of warlike operations will take place shortly. The time originally set for this grand simultaneous movement of all the divisions, has, it appears, again been extended. A little while ago it was understood that it would take place not later than Christmas day. It was subsequently quietly postponed to the Christmas holidays, and now it is rather indefinitely arranged that the attack shall be made before the middle of January. At Washington the signal for advance is said to be the landing of Burnside's division at some point sufficiently near the Capital to be reinforced from there if the landing is made good. The argument for an early advance is strengthened by the alleged necessity of defeating the Confederates in one or two great battles for the purpose of enabling the Federal Government to take a higher tone with England. But will the latter consent to wait until the Southerners are beaten? There's the rub.

HON. GEORGE H. PENDLETON.—The Philadelphia *Press* publishes a tirade of denunciation of the able member of Congress from the First Congressional District of this county, Hon. George H. Pendleton. It is predicated upon the late masterly and unanswerable speech of Mr. Pendleton in favor of personal liberty and of constitutional guaranteed rights. To show the character of the *Press'* article, we make a small extract from it:

"A leader in the Breckinridge conspiracy against Douglas, it was very natural that he should show his allegiance to his favorite candidate for President by defending a conspiracy against the Republic."

Mr. Pendleton was not in the Breckinridge conspiracy against Douglas, but voted for and sustained Douglas at the election. The other charge against him is equally untrue. There is not a more loyal and patriotic man in Congress than Mr. Pendleton. In his late speech he took almost precisely the same grounds that Trumbull, Hale and other Republicans have maintained in the Senate in favor of adhering to constitutional forms and practice.—*Cincinnati Inquirer, Dec. 24.*

A large detachment of marines passed through Augusta, Ga., on the 4th instant. They were from Pensacola, and en route for Norfolk, where they will ship on the Confederate steamer Merrimac.

EUROPE.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

SEIZURE OF THE CONFEDERATE COMMISSIONERS—THE FEELING IN AMERICA.

Mr. W. H. Russell, the special correspondent of the London *Times*, writing from Washington on the 29th ult., says:

Of Mr. Mason and Mr. Slidell and of their mission enough has been said already. They are now in Fort Warren, and the whole country rings with joy at the news that enemies so skilful, so energetic, so accomplished, should by this unexpected stroke of daring be placed in the power of the United States when it seemed that their mission must inevitably have prospered. But they have ceased to be "rebels." Their forms expand in their dungeons. Instead of being the disloyal citizens of the rebellious provinces of the United States, which they were when they entered the British packet, they are the recognized "ambassadors of a belligerent and independent nationality!" For thus is the violence avenged, and thus, at the very moment of its commission, are the authors of the outrage hoisted by their own petard.

Joy at the news, then astonishment, then a general inquiry "What will England say?" Then a few more began to think and count the cost of Slidell and Mason. Some said, "It's all right; we'll make an apology, but we can't give up the prisoners." Others wondered what Lord Lyons would do or Mr. Seward would say. Others abused England in anticipation as a rate measure under all circumstances; a few threatened terrible things—like a writer, an officer of the Congress, who this morning invites all the monarchs of Europe to come on if they like and join the South, in the Jefferson Brick style. The streets buzzed with the talk, and the hotels roared with it, and the bar rooms were full of it. Among the crowd all was delight and excitement, but the cabinet council, which was held immediately, was not so radiant.

Visits were exchanged among the Foreign Ministers. They all called on Lord Lyons. The domestic Ministers, the French Princes, the Generals, were also greatly moved, and some there were who did not conceal their dread of the consequences of an act so violent and so strange. There was a question continually arising, "What will the people say in England? How will they take this, I wonder?" But Sunday intervened, and time was given to the Government to take up a definite line, and to suggest to their organs some form of vindication. The consequence was that all the papers began to speak of it as the most ordinary and natural thing in the world to board a mail steamer and take "ambassadors" out of her. Then Slidell and Mason became at once "ambassadors" of a "belligerent power" onboard a neutral vessel; or sometimes, curiously enough, they were made "contraband of war." Wheaton was consulted; there was a great rush after Vattel and our old friends Puffendorff and Grotius; but these honest gentlemen could not throw much light on the matter, as an act of that sort never entered into their heads.

De Hautefaille and Wheaton were in men's mouths and hands, and a very extraordinary farrago of law and nonsense was the result, as may be seen by looking into most of the American papers which refer to the matter. The base of the argument in justification is to be found in an article of the *National Intelligencer* of Monday, and that article is founded on a misconception of certain passages in Wheaton and ignorance or suppression of others. But there is this singular result from the reasoning—that, if it is good for anything, the United States acknowledges the belligerent character of the Confederate States, and has formally declared that Messrs. Slidell and Mason are ambassadors. "Rebels" out of the jurisdiction of the State against which they revolted are but political offenders, entitled to the protection of the neutral flag under which they sail as fully and indisputably as they are entitled to the protection of the laws and of the flag of England or of the United States in one of their streets.

France, Prussia, Russia, Spain, all are agreed in considering that the blow struck at England is not the accident of a *contretemps*; and the United States, if there was wisdom in her councillors, would really feel some doubts in reference to the policy she has adopted when she sees, as she has done before, that there is no friend left to her in the world. In spite of her abject adulation of France and Russia, the ministers of those empires have acted as though they felt they had a duty to perform to law and civilization which far exceeded the obligations imposed by petty jealousy, or the rivalry of opposed nationalities; nor will it be astonishing to find that, while France on the one hand evinces a desire to join in any legitimate means of putting an end to a contest which causes her so much embarrassment, Spain will not be slow to avail herself of the force which her Mexican intervention and recent prosperity may place at her disposal to vindicate the honor of her flag if it should turn out, as is supposed, that the San Jacinto committed her aggression on the neutral flag of Great Britain in Spanish waters.

Up to this date Lord Lyons has received no communication from the State Department in reference to the arrest of the "Confederate Ambassadors," as we must now call them. Indeed, the correspondence will probably be opened by communication from London, as Mr. Seward may not feel inclined to broach the subject. The agitation created by the event has not subsided, and I am satisfied that there is much secret apprehension of a serious breach with England in consequence of the seizure, notwithstanding the assumption of perfect case, founded on legality and right, which is made for external use. There is popular passion and vengeance to be gratified by the capturing and punishment of Mr. Mason and Mr. Slidell, and I believe the government will retain them at all risks, because it does not give them up, not being strong enough to do what is right in the face of popular sentiment. Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Seward—the members of the Cabinet generally—must feel a certain personal satisfaction in having these gentlemen in custody, whom they can scarcely be induced to part with on easy terms. The national prejudices of the two empires will be appealed to and aroused by this act more forcibly than by anything which could have occurred short of the seizure having been effected by force on board of a British man-of-war. The mob here are at once rendered aggressive and insolent. They say the prisoners must not be given up.

"I have reason to think," writes the New York correspondent of the *Times*, "that the Trent is not the last English vessel that may be stopped and visited by the American men-of-war in these waters. A trade in arms and munition of war, and in military supplies of various kinds, between British subjects and the Confederates has been going on for some time, in violation of her Majesty's proclamation of neutrality, and in spite of the vigilance of the United States cruisers. The Government, in order to prevent this in future, is fitting up steam vessels in the port of New York, which are to be dispatched on the special service of breaking up this trade. The young officers who are to have command of these vessels have been authorized to exercise great latitude in the execution of their instructions, and have received assurances in advance of the support of the Government."

A MONTH WITH THE REBELS.

Blackwood's Magazine for December has a paper entitled as above, which will be read with interest as the testimony of a recent visitor to the Southern theatre of war. The writer's sympathies are evidently with the Southern chivalry, but there is no violence in his style. He begins by admitting that Kentucky is not altogether Secessionist. Her Legislature is still strong for the Union. Whole counties are the same. Distinguished men, opposed to the Government, still adhere to the stars and stripes. The mature and honored judgment of the venerable Crittenden is yet against "the rebels;" but where are Morehead, Buckner, Preston, Breckinridge? The following extracts may not be unacceptable to our readers.—*Willmer and Smith's European Times.*

SPECIMENS OF SOUTHERN SPIRIT.

"Our party at the little inn broke up on the arrival of a train, and we found standing room in a car crowded with soldiers. Few were dressed in uniform, but all were well armed. One beside us, not a bad sample of the rest, had a breach-loading carbine slung over his shoulder, two revolvers in one side of his belt, and a bowie knife in the other. What a contrast these men presented to the soldiers we had hitherto seen! Determination and reckless daring marked every feature and gesture. 'Do you think the Yankees are going to whip us, sir?' inquired our friend, looking like an infernal walking machine. 'Well, they have a fine army, and will do their best, I think.' 'Don't care, sir; they can't do it. If they beat us in the field, we'll take to the woods, and shoot them down like squirrels. Look here, sir; see what they have done to me. I am a shoemaker by trade. They tried to subject me to Lincoln tyranny. I put away, but they took my wife; so by——, I'll take five-and twenty Yankee scalps, or they shall have mine?'

"Being disappointed in finding any of that Union feeling in the south of Kentucky of which we had heard so much in New York, we proceeded to Nashville, in Tennessee. More camps, more soldiers, more drilling. Men, women and children think of nothing but the war. Fathers of large families are frequently seen serving in the ranks as privates, side by side with their sons. Ladies make soldiers coats and trousers, while children knit their stockings. Trade is in a great measure at a stand-still; but the rapidity with which the people, hitherto dependent upon the North for every manufactured article, however simple, are beginning to supply their wants for themselves, receives at Nashville a curious exemplification. A few weeks ago, a boy discovered a method of making percussion caps, which the army was then much in need of. A factory was forthwith established, that now turns out some millions per week.

SOUTHERN CREED ABOUT COTTON.

"The Government have not prohibited the export of cotton, except to the Northern States; but self-constituted authorities have, in more than one instance that we know of, made it impossible for ships to load which had run the blockade, and whose owners were desirous of doing so again. The popular feeling which has dictated these violent acts is caused, first, by the desire that the North should be made to suffer for enforcing the blockade, and the apprehension that, if cotton were to be allowed to leave the country, Massachusetts would manage to obtain it; and secondly, by the impression that in laying a general embargo they would incline European Governments to recognize the Confederacy. Amongst the enlightened this latter motive was always repudiated; but there can be no doubt that the prevalent conviction throughout the South is that England cannot do without the King; that all cotton, except American, is either too short or too long; and that the medium is the only staple which Manchester cares to have.

"In vain we would tell them that our manufacturers would soon change their machinery, and adapt it to the necessities of the times; that our Government was making great exertions to procure cotton from India and Africa; that it was our interest to foster our own colonies, and to produce it there if possible; and that the longer we were deprived of America as a market, the more strenuous would our efforts be to render ourselves independent of it. But it was of no use; they were inexplicably impressed with the conviction that they can command the market at any time; and that the distance from England at which its rival is placed must always give the Confederacy a great advantage.

COMPOSITION AND SUPPLIES OF THE SOUTHERN ARMY.

"Numbers of wealthy planters serve as privates side by side with the professional man, the shopkeeper, the clerk, the laborer; and all go through the ordinary fatigue duties incident to camp life. We saw a poor negro servant actually shedding tears because his master, on being told off to dig a trench round a battery, would not allow him to 'lend a hand.' 'I'd'll nebber do, massa," he said; 'I go 'tarnal mad wid dem darn'd Yankees.' One day we heard a lad boasting to one of a different regiment of the number of gentlemen in his company who had thousands of dollars at their command. The latter replied, 'Oh, of course they fight; but we have some in ours who have not got a cent.' The Washington Artillery, comprising many batteries, is composed of the best blood in New Orleans. The gunners, dressed in light blue uniforms, are all men of independent means. General Beauregard's son, for instance, left his father's staff and entered as a private. The drivers are regularly enlisted into the army, and paid by the regiment; so here is a force which does not cost the country a single farthing. Their efficiency is undoubted, and the execution which they did at Bull Run has led to their material augmentation, and the formation of others on similar principles. From the same city comes a very different regiment, called the New Orleans 'Zouaves,' dressed in red caps, blue braided jackets, and trousers striped with light grey and red. These men look like pirates—bearded, fierce-looking fellows—

Theirs to believe no prey, no plan amiss.

Apparently, at least; for as they marched past the General with a long, swinging step, singing a wild martial air, we thought they were as formidable a body of men as we should care to see. The drill of the army is the same as the French, the step even quicker than the Zouaves, and a deal longer than that of the English infantry. Movements are executed with considerable precision, and as rapidly as in English light infantry. From the reports we had heard in the North, we expected to find ragged and half-clad regiments; instead of which, we failed, during many rides through the various camps, to see one man who was not clad in serviceable attire. It was expected that winter clothing would be served out before the 1st of November, and that dress would then become more uniform. But the point to which the chief attention of officers and men is directed is the arms. Besides the Enfield rifle, most of the privates in the army carry at least one revolver and a bowie knife; these are invariably kept bright and in good condition; and the early training which all these Southerners undergo in shooting squirrels as soon as they are able to handle a gun, gives them a facility of using their weapons and a correctness of aim that renders their fire unusually formidable.

"The commissariat seemed to be most efficiently administered. A large depot of bread-stuffs is placed in a convenient position, whence the different corps are supplied in wagons drawn by four horses, one of which a negro generally rides. The resources of the country produce the fresh meat necessary for the enormous daily consumption, and we frequently saw scores of cattle and sheep driven along the roads, from the condition of which it was evident their journey had not been long. Indeed, a country gentleman informed us that there were animals enough in two counties of Virginia adjacent to the seat of war to last the army for two years."

WHAT A WAR WITH ENGLAND WOULD EFFECT, AND HOW IT MAY BE AVOIDED.

From the London Times, December 30.

Our special correspondent describes to-day with lively irony the persistent labors of the Americans to make a case. They are still at work, turning over the leaves of Wheaton, and garbling the judgments of Lord Stowell. Perhaps Mr. Everett and Mr. George Sumner will, after acquiring a habit of searching their authorities, grow to be conscientious as to historical quotations; for, after experience of detection, will at least grow more cautious in falsifying facts. If we are to be dragged into a war it is now clear that it will be the democracy who will force us into it. It will not be the rich or the educated, but the ignorant and penniless, who will make a war in which they have nothing to lose, and of the events of which they have no power of perception. It would be vain enough to reason with such a multitude as to the justice of the case at issue. The more obvious the unjust the advantage gained the greater would be their admiration of the dexterity which had acquired it, and the greater their triumph over the country which permitted it.

Mr. Lincoln cannot hope to show them that it is honorable to act justly; but it may be hoped that he will use an argument capable of being appreciated by such minds, if he addresses himself directly to their interests. Even that "honest, hard-handed Wisconsin lumberer, who is sitting with his loaded rifle at full cock on the stump of a tree, and reading his newspaper and smoking his tobacco, in the discharge of the highest duties of a citizen and a sentinel," may be made to understand to what unpleasant straits an insolent denial of redress to this country might reduce himself. Since Mr. Lincoln might contrive to make him understand that if any maritime Power, with naval forces greater than those of the United States, were to hold the Chesapeake, to blockade Annapolis, and lend some assistance to the willing hands at Baltimore to break up the communication with Washington, it would go hard with that Wisconsin lumberer during the winter.

Those seventy thousand men whom General McClellan reviewed, and who are most of them shrewdly sending home their pay, cannot be so ignorant as not to appreciate the fact that it is better Messrs. Mason and Slidell should go to England than that all the supplies of the army of the Potomac should be cut off. It can be very little good to them to know that the gentlemen whom they never saw are shut up in a prison at Boston; but it must be of the first importance to them to be secure that, while they are themselves hutted in the snows, they will have fuel and provisions to keep up their patriotism till next spring or next autumn, as the case may be. It may, no doubt, be very pleasant to the members of that expedition now in permanence at Port Royal to read the vaporings of Capt. Wilkes at Boston, and to learn how attentively he qualified himself by examining Kent, Wheaton and the rest," to assume the duties of prize-judge upon the high seas; but the perusal of this lively eloquence would be dearly bought by their being starved into surrender by a hostile blockading squadron.

If Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Seward are really inclined to do justice and to save their country, there is no lack of facts and arguments at hand fit to work upon the minds of those of the multitude who have the naval and military work to do. And why should they care for any others? American public opinion now resides in camps, and lives only by force of arms. There is no *habeas corpus* to prevent the repression of disagreeable opposition sentiments; and a mob, so long as it is unarmed, is as harmless in America as it is in Moscow or Warsaw. What Mr. Lincoln has to do is to convince, not the citizens of America, but the army of the Potomac. Surely, with such persuasive facts at his hand, he can contrive to do this. But if he should fail, he cannot be so much below the level of the occasion, and so unequal to the crisis he himself has brought about, as not to be content to sacrifice popularity in order to save his country from the ruin of a foreign war. We cannot yet believe that the new year will bring with it a war from the West. The influence of the highest and the lowest sentiments that can move mankind must be against such an evil consummation. Honest men and honorable men will abhor a war in an unjust cause; avaricious men will hate a war which must be ruinous, and timid men will dread the blow which such a war must draw down. We yet have hopes, but if those hopes are disappointed, the event will but show how hapless is a nation which, even in its relations with foreign powers, is governed by its own populace.

THE AMERICAN POSITION REVIEWED.

From the London Times, Dec. 11.

It is satisfactory to find from the American journals that there is already a considerable party in the Northern States distinctly anxious to avoid a war with England. It is plain, at any rate, that our demand for reparation in the affair of the Trent will not have the effect of uniting all Americans against us in a spirit of irrational arrogance or blind desperation. Already, before that demand has arrived, there are organs of public opinion advising concession, and it is clear that the refusal of the Federal Government to do justice in the matter would create a very angry feeling in the States themselves. Into the party politics traceable through these manifestations we shall not at present enter. It is sufficient to observe that the differences exist, and that if President Lincoln should have the wisdom to meet our requisitions in a proper and reasonable spirit he will certainly find himself supported by a large body of his countrymen. Judging, indeed, from the tone of the journals before us, we should think it by no means impossible that the New York press may have decided on the abstract propriety of liberating the Confederate envoys before the arrival of the British messenger with the momentous despatch. Blind indeed must be the fury of the Americans if they can voluntarily superadd a war with this country to their present overwhelming embarrassments. It is clear, notwithstanding the sanguine spirit in which small successes are regarded, that the Federal Government is making no material progress in the war. On the Potomac the grand review of some 60,000 men was not the prelude to any active operations against the enemy, and precautions, indeed, were taken lest the spectacle itself should be disturbed by a sortie from the Confederate camp and converted into a battle instead of a parade. In the remoter provinces the dead lock was equally decided. Neither in Virginia, nor Kentucky, nor Missouri, could the Federal forces obtain any important advantage, while the great naval expedition had as yet proved barren of results. Up to the latest advices Beaufort was still unoccupied, and the capture of Port Royal seemed to promise little more than the capture of Hatteras. The Federal Congress, it was said, were retiring from Western Virginia, and the approach of winter would probably keep things in their present position for some months to come.

That position, it cannot now be denied, offers no prospect of any speedy termination of the war. The last six months have shown that, though the resources of the North are indeed great, they are not sufficient for the subjugation of the South, or the establishment of the Federal authority even in the border States. It appears that the Southern States are really unanimous in their resolution to achieve their independence. The Unionists have effected lodgments on the territories of the seceders, and displayed the Federal flag on Southern soil, but with no material results. They have not discovered any "loyal" class of citizens anxious to escape from the tyranny of the Confederate Government, nor have they been joined by any sympathizers or partisans. Even the slaves, it is said, cannot be roused against their masters. The Federal Cabinet is divided on the critical question of emancipation, and what is decreed by one minister is cancelled by another; but, as far as can be yet seen, it appears by no means certain that the slave population would respond to the call of the abolitionists, even if the policy of that party were to prevail.

Reports allege that emancipated slaves are found more ready to act as spies for their former masters than to co-operate with their liberators, and the expectations of the Unionists on this, as on other points, have signally broken down. In the border States the prospect seems equally hopeless, and, indeed, the divisions of the Union itself are reproduced in these distracted provinces. It appears as if the North was resolved upon Union and the South upon Secession, while the border States were divided against themselves. In Missouri and Kentucky the great civil war is represented in miniature. Each Province has its Federal army and its Confederate army, its McClellan and its Beauregard. An officer of the Federal Government declared that it would take 200,000 men to save Kentucky from being carried out of the Union, and perhaps it would require nearly as many to secure it for the seceders. The rebellion, in fact, appears as hopeless, as extensive and as complicated as a rebellion in China.

But, even if the very depth of these embarrassments should be thought suggestive of reckless counsels, it would still be impossible to discover any prospect either of diversion or relief in a war with England. At first, before the States had become actually disunited, it might have been imagined that domestic quarrels would be hushed in the presence of a foreign foe, but that hope is now over. No European war could now be expected to reconcile North and South. The conflict has gone too far for that, and, indeed, it will have been seen from our opening remarks that even the political parties in the North itself are less likely to unite against England on the international question than to make that question an instrument of party strife. There was a time, no doubt, when the prospect of war with this country might have been expected to operate like a charm on the American mind, but that time has passed. A rupture with England would now simply encourage one of the belligerents, embarrass the other, create a strong opposition to the Federal Government within the Federal States, and furnish a powerful party with irresistible arguments against the President and his policy.

In any other point of view the case would suggest exactly similar conclusions. It was intimated at the outbreak of the American quarrel that the North might find compensation in Canada for the loss of the South; but if such an idea as the conquest of the British colony could ever have been really entertained, even by Mr. Seward himself, it can hardly be thought that this is an opportune moment for the execution of the project. It would not have been a light matter at any moment to engage in a struggle with the British empire, but at present it would be madness. The Federals have already on their hands an enemy who finds work for every man they can rake, and who actually keeps at bay an army which they themselves declare is 600,000 strong. Are the States still in the Union prepared to double this force, to take a second war on their hands, and to engage an enemy on each frontier, like a ship fighting both her batteries at the same time? Are they quite confident about the results of such an undertaking? Are they disposed to see the embarrassments of a blockade transferred from their adversaries to themselves, and to find all their expeditionary forces hopelessly cut off? For those consequences, at least, they must be prepared if they force us into war with them. Even if we should stand aloof from their private quarrel, we should certainly command the sea, or, in other words, blockade their ports, and compel them to raise the blockade which they are maintaining against the ports of the South.

We trust they will think better of such a policy. Hitherto it cannot be so much as pretended that they have had any reason to complain of us beyond the sentimental one that we have looked with "coldness" on their efforts to maintain domestic union at the point of the sword. In that respect, however, the very events of the war have justified our neutrality. The attempt which we thought was hopeless has actually proved so; nor has there been a prediction of this kind hazarded which has not been fulfilled. In all material respects we have done as much for them as they could desire. We have not only abstained from interference with a blockade which was paralyzing our manufacturing industry, but we have even carried our recognition of this blockade to the utmost limits of indulgence. Strictly speaking, the blockade has never been legally valid, and a rigorous interpretation of international law would have justified us in treating it as ineffectual. We allowed it, however, to operate as if it had been actually enforced, and we abstained from any attempt to get at the cotton we needed. We cannot be suspected of any sympathies with slavery, or accused of any clandestine dealings with the South. We have been really true and truly neutral, with a very sincere wish that the rupture had never occurred, and a desire that it might be healed at the earliest possible moment. Is this a policy which it would be worth while to convert into one of active hostility? We cannot think so, and we rely on the good sense of the President and people for doing us justice now that we are compelled to ask it.

Correspondence of the London Times.

PARIS, Dec 8.—The tone of the *Moniteur* in the summary it gives of foreign political news, is unobjectionable. True, it does not express any positive opinion on the Anglo-American quarrel—it is neutral; but under a veil of neutrality we may trace the signs of admiration, not far removed from approval, at the energy and unanimity of the English people.

"In proportion as faith is lost in the maintenance of peace," it said yesterday, "the attitude of the English people and of the London Press appears more firm and resolute than ever. They accept without hesitation, a state of things which they have not been able to prevent, and they are resolved to gain, by force of arms, the satisfaction which they no longer hope to obtain by negotiation. All discussion is now laid aside. To the arguments of General Scott they reply with these simple words: 'Surrender the guests of Great Britain whom you have made prisoners, and then we will discuss as much as you please.' The Government acts up energetically to public opinion. Nothing is spoken of but armaments and ships, embarkation of troops and of warlike stores for Canada, where the strength of the English army, very insignificant in time of peace, is to be increased to 10,000 men."

With respect to the official opinion of the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the quarrel between the Washington Government and England nothing can be more precise and positive. The Minister thinks that the violence committed by the Captain of the San Jacinto is indefensible; that by regarding the Confederate Commissioners as "contraband of war" President Lincoln and his Ministers give a flat contradiction to themselves, for they always refused to admit that they were at war. To seize them on board a neutral vessel as contraband of war implies that, after all, the Southern States are entitled to belligerent rights, while, even supposing the Northern States not to be at war, but merely repressing a rebellion, they had no right to seize men who were at that moment in the character of refugees under shelter of the English flag. France, he argues, cannot consistently view the matter in any other light than this, because it is precisely the point she had contended for during more than sixty years. France never would admit the right of searching neutral vessels, and she cannot now belie her own policy by approving the outrage committed on the Trent.

I believe the Emperor does not materially dissent from his Minister. Not only does he not dissent, but not very long ago he had all but made up his mind to take the initiative in recognizing the independence of the Southern States, for it must not be forgotten that France also is suffering severely from the war.

MARRIED.

On the 27th instant, by the Rev. Mr. Cadbury, WILLIAM H. PARSONS, to BERNIE, daughter of the late Hon. Z. Collins Lee.

On the 19th instant, by Rev. Father Slattery, JOHN M. MILLER, of Carlisle, Pa., to HANNAH M. MURPHY, of this city.

At Meadow Farm, near Springville, Carroll county, on the 25th instant, by the Rev. T. W. Simpson, GEORGE W. DAVIS to RACHEL A., daughter of P. W. Shriver.

DIED.

On the morning of Wednesday, December 25th, SUSAN, wife of Joan Williams, in the 54th year of her age. (Philadelphia papers please copy.)

On Thursday morning, 26th instant, ADALINE R. WILKINSON, wife of the late Rev. Wilkinson.

On the 26th instant, RICHARD M. DONALD, in the 44th year of his age.

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OFFICE OF THE WATER BOARD, BALTIMORE, December 27th, 1861.—SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at this office until noon of the 1st day of January, 1862, for all the CAST IRON WATER PIPE which may be required by the Water Board during the year 1862. The right is reserved to reject any and all proposals not readily cut and drill, and to be of uniform thickness; all pipes will be rejected which do not stand a pressure of 300 lbs. to the square inch, to be proved by the superintendent of the works or the Water Board; they will also be rejected for inferiority in the quality of the iron.

No. 1 Pipe to be of the following weight for each of the following lengths and widths:

2 inch	6 in.	6 feet long,	weighing not less than	60 lbs.	
3 "	do.	12 "	"	"	81 "
4 "	do.	12 "	"	"	120 "
6 "	do.	12 "	"	"	350 "
8 "	do.	12 "	"	"	400 "
10 "	do.	12 "	"	"	550 "
12 "	do.	12 "	"	"	700 "
14 "	do.	12 "	"