THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

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TO THE PUBLIC.

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

BALTIMORE.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1861.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the United States Senate the Chaplain to that body introduced into his prayer a sarcastic allusion to the surrender of Mason and Slidell, by expressing a hope "that Providence would sustain the nation at the moment *when it was forced to succumb, under the plastic forms of soft diplomacy.*" Various petitions for the abolition of slavery were presented, after which a communication was received from the Secretary of War, stating that it was incompatible with the public interests, to furnish the correspondence between Generals Scott and Patterson.

In the House Mr. Potter, from the Investigating Committee on disloyal persons, reported a resolution calling upon the Secretaries of the Treasury and the Interior, for information in regard to certain clerks employed by them whose loyalty had been impeached. The resolutions were laid over under the rule.

Of news properly so called, there is very little that calls for special remark. The chief topic of discursion with the journals is the conclusion which has been reached in the Trent affair. The contrasts which we have reproduced between the brave utterances of two weeks ago and the complacent backing down of to-day, are not among the least humiliating of the spectacles that have been witnessed during the present war.

The suspension of specie payments by the Banks to the Eastward will not take anybody by surprise. One effect of the measure, according to the New York *Times*, will be to force the Government to suspend payments in coin also. As a natural consequence of this step on the part of the latter, Treasury notes will be at a discount, and already in apprehension of this decline from the par value of the notes, we learn that two of our city Banks have refused to take them on deposit.

Lord Lyons has directed the British mail steamer Niagara to proceed to Boston harbor, for the purpose of taking Messrs. Mason and Slidell, with their Secretaries, on board, and of conveying them to England. Whilst the Niagara is engaged in this specific duty, the Persia will take the place of the latter in the regular mail line from New York.

The Confederate steamers Isabel and Gordon, were at Nassau, New Providence, on the 23rd, closely watched by the United States steamer Flambeau.

The boat from Fortress Monroe, brings an account of a daring exploit which was performed by a Confederate tugboat off Sewall's Point, on Sunday morning last. The steamer Express, whilst towing a schooner laden with water for the fleet, was chased and fired into by the little Confederate steamer, and to save herself was obliged to cut loose from the schooner, which was immediately taken possession of by the Confederates.

General Hallleck has given notice that the legal condition of the negroes discharged from confinement in St. Louis, is in no wise changed by their release. Their masters may yet enforce their rights to the services of the liberated negroes, before the civil tribunals.

From the New York Times, Dec. 30.

SUSPENSION OF SPECIE PAYMENT BY THE BANKS.

A committee representing the banks of this city met on Saturday evening, and after a prolonged sitting, determined to suspend specie payment, to take effect to day. It was voted to make a further payment of $3,500,000 on the last $50,000,000 loan, for the purpose of enabling the Secretary of the Treasury to meet his January interest, and to pay a requisition in favor of the State of New York, for advances made the National Government. The associate banks of Philadelphia and Boston have undoubtedly taken a similar step, which will be followed by all the banks of the country.

It has for some time past been seen that the step now taken was inevitable. It should unquestionably have been anticipated some weeks ago. It was postponed, probably, only for the reason that it could hardly have been justified to the public till a serious inroad had been made upon the specie reserves held by the banks. Up to the present time the money with which the war has been carried on has been furnished by the cities of New York, Boston and Philadelphia. The country supplied the men and filled the commissariat. But the balance-of indebtedness, when matters are in a normal condition, is always in favor of the cities. The money advanced by these immediately returned to them, till such balance turned in favor of the country, which was the case before the second $50,000,000 was fully paid.

All the advance on the third $50,000,000 was drawn in specie, and distributed throughout the country to parties who, by the extraordinary state of affairs, were creditors of—not debtors to—the great centres of trade. For the banks, consequently, to go on with their payments would be to part with their last dollar in coin—a result which was for the interest of Government as well as the public to avoid. It is not a function of a bank to convert any considerable portion of its capital into Government bonds, however valuable these may be. It is created to lend money, and, as a part of the machinery of business, should always hold its capital in the shape of money. The banks did well to stop their advances to Government while they had a sufficient amount of capital remaining to extend every needful accommodation to the business public.

A suspension was inevitable, because the flow of money was all in one direction—from the cities to the country. A well-devised system of taxation would have corrected this. Had it existed, it would, very probably, have left the specie in the vaults of the banks, in effect undisturbed. So far the expenses of the war have been almost solely met by borrowing. The ordinary revenues of Government had fallen off nearly two-thirds their usual amounts. The tax bills passed at the extra session of Congress were not to take effect within the current year. These will soon cause a return flow from the extremes to the centres. To these bills we presume Congress will immediately add others, increasing at the same time the rates already imposed, so that the internal taxes will produce, say $150,000,000 or $200,000,000.

The levying and collection of such taxes will tend to restore the exchanges of the country to their normal condition, and will at the same time become the basis for the circulation of Treasury notes to an equal amount, and in which Government does will be made payable. In this way the whole strength of the country can be immediately utilized, and ample means placed in the hands of Government for its present necessities, while the adoption of a sound system of finance will give such a credit to its bonds as will enable it to realize from the sale of these what cannot be raised by direct taxation, to meet a present emergency.

There is no doubt whatever that the steps taken by the banks will be regarded as a measure of relief both to the Government and the public. It has absolved both the former and the banks from a standard which neither could maintain, while it will lead to measures by which the capital of the country can be more effectually reached, at the same time relieving the business-man of all apprehension as to the future. We can be mainly indifferent as to the effect of the measure abroad. As the balance of exchanges is largely in our favor, foreigners must continue to add to our stocks of specie, instead of drawing upon them. Specie is not likely to be really any less abundant after, than before suspension.

There is, at the lowest estimate, $250,000,000 in the loyal States—probably a much larger sum. We doubt whether gold, to-morrow, will command a premium, even if wanted for shipment abroad. There is enough in the country for every commercial want that can arise. Suspension resulted not from a scarcity of it, but from a disturbance in the internal exchanges for the want of a law to make the burdens of the war uniform upon all parts of the country. This evil, which will undoubtedly be speedily corrected, will return to the banks all the specie they have parted with, and cause it to move throughout the country in harmony with the ordinary laws of trade.

The Bremen ship Admiral has arrived at Philadelphia, a prize to a Federal gunboat, having been seized off the coast of South Carolina. She has a large cargo of coal and salt on board.

The Norwegian steam corvette Nonen, Com. Smith, arrived at New York on Saturday. She is 240 horse power, mounts 20 guns, and has a crew of 190 men.

The Hon. W. B. McClure, for many years presiding judge of the Quarter Sessions at Pittsburg, Pa., died on Thursday. He was highly esteemed by the whole community as an upright Judge.

THE AMERICAN JOURNALS ON THE TRENT AFFAIR.

The "Ground and Lofty Tumbling" of the Baltimore American on the Mason and Slidell Affair.

THE ACT ENDORSED—THE VERDICT "NEVER TO BE REVERSED."

From the Baltimore American, Dec. 17.

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.

THE DEMAND IMPOSSIBLE TO BE COMPLIED WITH, AND THE REASON WHY.

From the American, Dec. 18

That there is occasion for good temper and wise forbearance—for the most steadfast firmness and calm courage—none can doubt. But when the Government has exhausted every honorable endeavor to avoid a foreign war, should it come as the only alternative to recede from the position taken in the affair of the Trent, by giving up the Rebel Ambassadors, not a man, woman or child, loyal to the Union, but would stand by the Government to the end. And this fact England may as well learn first as last. *What power her representative near this Government may have to control matters to a friendly and peaceful issue remains to be seen. He, at least, should know the inutility of making a demand impossible to be complied with, under the extraordinary circumstances prevailing here at present;* because the demand made and submitted to would deprive the Government of the confidence of the people in its contest with a rebellion deadly and destructive in all its purposes, or made and refused, leaves to England but the last alternative, unless something should occur which could hardly be reckoned upon, to prevent hostile results.

CANNOT SUCCUMB TO INSOLENT DICTATION.

From the American, Dec. 19.

The United States has long been treated to a course of bullying by her such as would not be tolerated for a moment from Spain or any inferior power, and the time may have arrived to teach her that the attempt now to take advantage of our misfortunes is particularly ill chosen. *We cannot succumb to her insolent dictation in this instance without surrendering all claim to be considered a first class power.*

PACKING DOWN—A BOOMERANG FLUNG AT THE "NEVER-SURRENDER" NEWSPAPERS.

From the American, Dec. 21.

We shall no doubt receive soon an exhaustive opinion from *our* jurists; and though every one now appears to be a master of international law, and to fully comprehend its origin, growth, changes, and final present condition, it is to hoped that the Administration will pay more attention to *them* than to the multitude at large, or newspapers either.

THE VERDICT REVERSED—THE DEMAND CONCEDED WHICH WAS "IMPOSSIBLE TO BE COMPLIED WITH."

From the American, Dec. 30.

We do not complain of the mode of settlement in this particular instance. A man, or a nation, can afford to sacrifice something sometimes for the sake of finding out who are true friends, and the lesson will not be thrown away. Legally in the wrong, *we are glad the Government had the courage and the magnanimity to act itself right in the eyes of all nations;* and henceforth we shall stand higher for it, however it may cause us a temporary feeling of chagrin to think that upon a mere technicality two such arch-traitors have escaped. * *

And as for the miserable traitors England has come into possession of at the expense of so much fume and fuss, let the American people wish her joy of them!

THE SURRENDER OF MASON AND SLIDELL ABSOLUTELY OUT OF THE QUESTION.

From the New York Herald, Dec 17.

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.

THE RESTORATION OF THE REBEL EMISSARIES—MR. SEWARD DISCHARGES HIS DUTY WITH SAGACITY, DIGNITY AND DECORUM.

From the Herald, Dec. 29.

The ultimatum of England upon the Trent affair, involving *the restoration of our rebel emissaries*—Mason, Slidell, MacFarland and Eustis—to the protection of the British flag, *has been acceded to*, and the clouds of a foreign war which were gathering, flashing and muttering in our eastern horizon have vanished as suddenly as the mimic thunders and lightnings of the stage. The official correspondence, facts and arguments on both sides are before our readers. The record of our Government is clear, consistent and satisfactory. Mr. Seward has discharged his duty in this matter with eminent ability, sagacity, dignity and decorum.

MR. LINCOLN WILL NEVER MAKE REPARATION OR APOLOGY.

From the Philadelphia Press, Dec. 16.

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.

MR. LINCOLN ALWAYS IN FAVOR OF REPARATION AND APOLOGY.

From the Press, Dec. 30.

It is well known that when Mr. Lincoln was informed of the arrest of the traitors on board the Trent, he anticipated the trouble which has grown out of this proceeding, and signified his willingness, rather than increase surrounding perils and impending difficulties, to send them forward on their voyage. Even amidst the acclamations that applauded the act he declared that he regarded their capture as utterly insignificant in comparison with the great interests that might be damaged by their imprisonment. He has now taken the responsibility, and he will be sustained for doing so.

CAN NEVER BE SURRENDERED.

From the New York Times, Dec. 12th.

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 factious 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.*

THE ACKNOWLEDGED RECTITUDE OF OUR POSITION A MYTH.

From the Times, Dec. 30.

Mr. Seward's masterly despatch demonstrates very clearly that, while we might have justified the act of Capt. Wilkes by British precedents, *it would have been at the expense of the great principles of maritime law to which the United States have always adhered*, and to which they would long since have secured the assent of the whole world, but for the opposition of Great Britain. Those principles are worth to us a thousand-fold more than the persons of Mason and Slidell.

WE HAVE BACK BONE ENOUGH TO KEEP THE TRAITORS DESPITE A WORLD IN ARMS.

From the Washington Republican, Dec 23.

"The city was much excited last night by the rumor that Mason and Slidell had been handed over to the British authorities, and that the telegraph operators had been ordered not to dispatch the news until Saturday night. What the truth is, we cannot say; *but we understand the character of Boston well enough to know that these arch-traitors will never leave the shores of New England alive, unless they are stolen away, as the fugitive slave Sims was*, when he was returned to his master at Savannah. In speaking of this subject, the Richmond *Examiner* of the 24th instant says that the Lincoln Government will 'eat its own dirt,' and illustrate its imbecility by giving up Mason and Slidell. The *Examiner* will, doubtless, be disappointed; and instead of imbecility, *he will find the administration and the people have back bone enough to keep the traitors, despite a world in arms.*"

OUR BACK-BONE MISSING—WE DARE TO DO RIGHT.

From the Washington Republican, Dec. 30.

"There are two kinds of courage—the brute courage of the bull dog, and the moral courage of the man who dares to do right in defiance of a 'storm of execration.' Now comes the test of true courage. England feels herself insulted, and demands reparation for the wrong. The matter is calmly discussed, and however humiliating the fact, we are found to be in the wrong, and 'Mr. Seward, willing to stand the storm of execrations that will fall upon his head,' dared to do right, and yielded to the just demands of England; thus illustrating in himself and the President the highest degree of courage and of wisdom—foiling the Confederates in a deep laid scheme to involve us in a foreign war, and showing themselves equal, in diplomacy, to the wisest statesmen in Europe."

NO RESTORATION, LET THE CONSEQUENCES BE WHAT THEY MAY.

From the New York World, Dec. 17.

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 consequences be what they may. This nation can submit to no such humiliation as surrendering 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.

WE FULFILL A CLEAR OBLIGATION IN SURRENDERING THE PRISONERS.

From the World, Dec 30.

Viewed in the simple light of the advantages of continued peace with England, *the surrender of these prisoners*, which deprives the rebels of a powerful ally and saves us from two formidable wars at once, *must be regarded with satisfaction.* * * The fact that the French Government, and, so far as we can learn, all the publicists of continental Europe, concur in the view of this question taken by England, and assented to by Mr. Seward, ought to be accepted as a strong presumptive proof that the nation suffers no dishonor, *but, on the contrary, fulfills a clear obligation in surrendering these prisoners.*

THE DEMAND WILL BE PEREMPTORILY REFUSED.

From the Philadelphia Ledger, Dec. 16.

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.

WE CAN WELL AFFORD TO GIVE THE TWO REBELS UP.

From the Ledger, Dec. 30.

The decision which the Cabinet has unanimously come to, to deliver these two rebel agents over to the protection of Great Britain, was not unexpected, and the public mind was partially prepared for such a result by the discussion which preceded it, and which showed an irregularity in the proceedings which impaired the legality of the act.

* * * * * * *

We can well afford to make the exchange of two rebels, harmless for any mischief they can do the Republic, for the sake of a principle which we have deemed vital to national sovereignty, and which is law for all time.

EUROPE.

PREPARATIONS FOR WAR NOT TO BE STOPPED BY THE SURRENDER OF SLIDELL AND MASON.

Correspondence of the Manchester Guardian.

LONDON, Dec. 13.—In the present state of the public mind, when war or peace is little more than a matter of conjecture, upon which, as we are all equally informed, one man's opinion is as good as another's, every straw indicating the direction of the great issue is eagerly watched. To-day comes the telegram announcing that a proposal for an arbitration is about being made by King Leopold—In the minds of some this is associated with a rumor prevalent during the last week that the Queen regards the possible contest with extreme discomfort; so much so that she had the despatch to Lord Lyons, as originally framed, modified into a more pacific form.

The close friendship between her Majesty and King Leopold seems to give a kind of connecting link between the telegram of to-day and the rumor of the early part of the week. But I think it will turn out that as little attention ought to be paid to the one as to the other. In the first place, I do not think it likely that the Queen really made any modification in the despatch; and in the next place, no suggestion of an arbitration could have emanated from any one in this country acquainted with the sentiments of the Government. They regard it as a clear and well-defined case of a wrongful act done, which must be repaired by the restitution of the Confederate Envoys. No more is asked, and nothing less will be accepted. And, if my information be not erroneous, either Mason and Slidell or Lord Lyons will be in Liverpool by the 29th or 30th of this month. The Government has asked for no apology. No importance is attached to any apology that could be made by the Federal Government, and the issue is reduced to the simplest possible proportions—the prompt surrender of the gentlemen taken from the deck of the Trent.

The probabilities of war or peace, as I have said, are merely a matter of opinion; but I think those whose views of public affairs are most valuable, from their position and experience, lean to war.—It is argued that every day the Confederate Commissioners are detained lessens the likelihood of their being given up. The Seward Cabinet has had time to look into the affair, as it was their bounden duty to do, and if they felt they were wrong they should have at once signified to Lord Lyons their readiness to repair the error into which their servant had fallen. It is expected that, with Mr. Seward's views about England, it is hardly in human nature to suppose that he has not put a paragraph into the President's. Message which will commit him to noncompliance with our demand. The Fairfax dispatch of the Harvey Birch became known beyond the Atlantic just in time to revive the excitement which had begun to languish after the arrival of the San Jacinto. It is feared that all these things will turn the scale in favor of war.

When I say this result is feared, I use a word which is by no means applicable to a large number of our public men, who look beyond the affair of the moment. The conviction forces itself upon many that the day is not far distant when the Southern Confederation must be recognized; and that recognition may be expected to bring about fresh difficulty, in which we must be prepared to maintain our policy. It is with this view, and as a demonstration of our intention to hold our own way, that the Government are sending out ten thousand men to Canada without any reference to the reply of the American Cabinet. If Messrs. Mason and Slidell landed at Liverpool to-morrow, not a soldier the less would be sent out. If we are to have a war with the North, in connection with this United States schism, there could be no more favorable time than the present. It would be a short and decisive war, and would have a vital influence on the preservation of peace and the uninterrupted freedom of commerce for many years to come, without our having to pass through the ordeal of social and mercantile confusion which ware, as a general rule, entail.

THE REPLY OF THE TIMES TO THURLOW WEED.

From the London Times, Dec. 13.

It is very seldom in this present polite and decorous age that we are able to accumulate so much evidence of a deliberate and long-cherished intention to do us an injury as we are able to bring against Mr. Seward, the present Prime Ministry of the Northern States of America. During the visit of the Prince of Wales to the United States, Mr. Seward took advantage of an entertainment which was given to the Prince and his suite to tell the Duke of Newcastle, of which Mr. Weed says he knows nothing, he says it must have been a bad joke—that kind of agreeable badinage which passes after dinner between Dukes and embryo Secretaries of State.

As to the chain of facts which connect this bad joke with what we fear will turn out to be a much more earnest, Mr. Weed says nothing, but refers us to the present American Minister in London, Mr. Adams, as a true reflex of American sentiment towards England, the misfortune being that Mr. Adams, who has the good will, has not the power, and Mr. Seward, who has the power, has not the good will. Perhaps thinking that something was yet wanting to the vindication of Mr. Seward, Mr. Weed proceeds to argue that he must be our friend, because, we having settled all our boundary disputes with the United States, there is nothing left to quarrel about. It would be exceedingly agreeable if Mr. Weed could convince his countrymen of this fact, and he will excuse us if we do not find in his admission that there is nothing left to quarrel about, any palliation of the conduct of Mr. Seward in fastening a quarrel upon us. The Queen has been the respect and the Prince of Wales the regard of the American people—good reasons why they should respect her government; but surely no extenuation of conduct which our correspondent admits to be, in his view, a violation of the law of nations.

If the Queen would only pay America a visit there would be no chance of a rupture. But then, the Queen most certainly will not pay America a visit, and we therefore derive but little comfort from this suggestion. After that indispensable appeal to our common ancestry which has hitherto availed us so little in dealing with our transatlantic relatives, we come at last to the real point. Mr. Weed, who believes us to be in the right, and who has tantalized us with all this show of ardent affection, and who has proved so entirely to his satisfaction that the best feeling exists towards us in the American Government and the people, informs us that if, relying on the right he admits and the affection he asserts, we demand that the persons who have been taken by violence from our protection be restored to us we shall meet with a refusal. The affections of America may be lacerated, but once having begun to insult us, she will continue to do so. In his own pleasant, familiar way, Mr. Weed tells us that America is as unreasoning as the bad example of her mother country can make her. But if, instead of requiring as a preliminary to any further discussion the restoration of the captives, we are content to give the American people time for deliberation; if we are willing to forget that the discussion began by seizing the thing in dispute, and to recognise a debate commenced under such circumstances as having nothing in it either degrading or unusual; if, in fact, to use the expression current in America, we will enter into "protracted negotiations," there is reason to hope that America may yet relent, and condescend to the opinion that, after all Slidell and Mason are not worth a war. We fear Mr Weed in this is over sanguine, and that, so long as America is allowed to retain what she has taken from us at the cheap price of an interminable correspondence, she will too keenly appreciate her own gain and our degradation to put an end to so agreeable an interlude.

But her forbearance will never be tried. We can, we think, convey to Mr. Thurlow Weed the sentiments of every Englishman on this painful subject. We do not ask from America courtesy or affection, respect for our Queen or regard for our Prince. These things are hers to give or to withhold. We do not even ask that amount of fair treatment which we are in the habit of receiving from other nations. We have long ago made up our minds to dispense with that; but we do demand that she shall abstain from actual outrage, or that, if it is committed, she shall make reasonable reparation. If she will do this, it is well; if not, the alternative will not come in the desired form of "protracted negotiation."

COMMANDER WILLIAMS, OF THE TRENT, ON THE TRENT AFFAIR.

Commander Williams, of the Trent, was the recipient of a public dinner on the 12th instant, and in response to the toast of "The health of our gallant and worthy guest, Commander Williams," gave a long account of the seizure of Mason and Slidell. After stating that the San Jacinto fired a shot across the bows of the Trent, and shortly afterwards a shell, he proceeded to relate the manner in which he and Lieutenant Fairfax parted. He said:

"Mr. Fairfax came to me on the main deck, hat in hand, and said, 'Sir, I have a painful duty to perform, and if in the excitement of the moment I have said aught that by possibility'—I can't say this is word by word what he said, but it is the substance—(hear, and 'That's all we want')—'if I have said aught that by possibility can be construed into a personal offence or an insult towards you, I must humbly beg your pardon, sir, for I never meant it.' I replied, 'Mr. Fairfax, I have had a painful scene to witness—a scene of degradation to my country's flag, (Hear, hear.) I do not deny that my feelings have been greatly excited, but if by any gesture I have done aught to offend you, as a man, there is my hand, sir, and I crave your forgiveness.' (Applause.) I ask you now, gentlemen, that Mr. Fairfax—I do not say that he has said so—but I say he has countenanced it in the American papers, he has countenanced the expression, 'Gasconader.' (Loud cries, 'Have they dared?' and 'Shame, shame.')"

HIS RELATIONS WITH CAPT. MOIR.

"He, Mr. Fairfax, says 'That my manner was so violent he was compelled to request Captain Moir to remove me from the deck'—('Oh! oh!')—and 'that that there was no union existing between Captain Moir and myself.' Gentlemen, I utterly deny that there ever occurred one single instance of a want of unity between Captain Moir and myself—'Bravo!' and 'That's a relutation')—and I am proud to have this opportunity of saying that I can bear testimony to the high character of Captain Moir (cheers), the most gallant sailor, the most urbane gentleman, with all the courtesies of life to endear him to those with whom he is associated, it has ever been my lot to meet in this world. (Repeated cheers.)

MISS SLIDELL DID STRIKE LIEUT. FAIRFAX.

"I am going to approach a subject with great diffidence. I am going to speak of Mrs. Slidell and her daughters. (Hear, hear, and 'cheers for them.') I tell you, sir, that Miss Slidell branded one of the officers to his face with his infamy, having been her father's guest not ten days before. ('Disgraceful,' and 'Bravo for Miss Slidell.') No words of mine shall pass my lips on a political point. I have no political feelings. I do as I am ordered. Mr. Fairfax decided that the marines made a rush toward Miss Slidell, at the charge, with fixed bayonets. I believe when I lay my hand on my heart—(suiting the action to the word)—and say, as I hope for mercy on the day of judgment, it is true that they did so. (Hear, hear.) Miss Slidell—and no girl has been pained more at the mention of her name in the public papers than she has been by the manner in which some persons have alluded to it; not pained by their having stated the manner in which she acted—(cheers)—but some of the public papers described her as having slapped Mr. Fairfax's face. (Cries of 'Serve him right if she did,' and 'Bravo.') She did strike Mr. Fairfax—(cheers)—(Cloud cheers for her then.') She did strike Mr. Fairfax—(cheers)—but she did not do it with the vulgarity of gesture which has been attributed to her. Miss Slidell was with her father in the cabin, with her arm encircling his neck, and she wished to be taken to prison with her father. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Fairfax attempted to get into the cabin—I do not say forcibly, for I do not say a word against Mr. Fairfax, so far as his manner is concerned—he attempted to get her away by inducements. In her agony, then, she did strike him in the face three times. I wish that Miss Slidell's little knuckles had struck him in the face. I should like to have the mark for ever."

CAPT. MOIR JUSTIFIED IN NOT REFUSING A PASSAGE TO THE COMMISSIONERS.

It has been argued whether we should not have done our duty more closely if we had refused a passage to these so-styled Commissioners from the Southern States. Now, on this point I have a very strong opinion. I know that there are at this table members of the legal profession, but I am not going to offer you any opinion of my own. I am going to offer to your notice a fact of which I am perfectly cognizant, and which occurred in the year 1833—either at the latter end of the year 1833, or the beginning of the year 1834. At that time Donna Maria was on the throne of Portugal. In 1833 Dom Miguel was expelled from that country, and yet a noted agent of Dom Miguel applied to the Peninsular and Oriental Company for a passage to Lisbon in the Tagus steamer. The passage was refused. That agent prosecuted the company. I do not mean to say that this is decidedly a point in support, but *a fortiori* it strengthens my argument. He prosecuted the company for having refused him a passage, and after a long hearing the political agent was cast, but the only plea on which he was cast was the pleas of the company, that if they had not refused him they would have been refused admittance to the Tagus, and, consequently have been subjected to a prosecution, collectively and individually, by passengers who had paid their money to be taken to Lisbon. *A fortiori* I say that it is a case in point. (Hear, hear.) It shows that Capt. Moir had no right or power whatever to refuse these so styled Confederate Commissioners passage to England. (Cheers.)

ABOUT MRS. SLIDELL.

Well, I must speak of Mrs. Slidell. You may be aware that these ladies were under my charge for three weeks—three weeks of close intercourse on board ship with ladies under your charge gives you a greater insight into their character and their feelings than casual intimacy on shore. (Hear, hear.) Whatever other people may say of Mrs. Slidell and her daughters, I assure you that, so far as my humble judgment goes, they were thoroughly well-bred ladies. (Applause.) Now, what will you think of this? When I landed I was sent up to London in a special train. I had previously recommended Mrs. Slidell and her daughters to an hotel in London, believing it to be a quiet hotel, and where they might get apartments *en suite*. (Hear.) Well, I was sent in a special train to report the circumstances to the Government. On the day after I had arrived in London I dined with Mrs. Slidell, for on the day on which I did arrive in London I was engaged at the Foreign Office with Lord Palmerston and the Lords of the Admiralty until a late hour. I say, then, that on the day after I dined with Mrs. Slidell. I am somewhat difficient in telling you what took place. You will hardly believe that a gentleman of the Northern States, aye, a so-called gentleman, had called upon Mrs. Slidell that afternoon, and, as if their feelings were not harrowed enough by being separated from their father and protector, some demon must come to make the rankling in their hearts more bitter by telling them the decision of the law officers of the Crown. He said he came to offer his condolence (!) and to inform them that the law officers of the Crown had decided that the seizure of her husband was not contrary to international law!' (Cries of disgraceful, and shameful.) Gentlemen, I was enabled to tell Mrs. Slidell—and perhaps you will pardon me if I repeat the expression here—(yes)—that it was a —— infernal lie! (Oh!' and a laugh) for I had just come from the Foreign Office, where I had learnt the decision of the law officers of the Crown—(hear)—and which was diametrically opposite to what the man dared to say. (Cheers.)

HOW HE SAVED MISS SLIDELL FROM A BAYONET CHARGE.

Now, gentlemen, I have only one more subject that I know of on which to speak. The circumstances attending the gallant Federal marines rushing with the points of their bayonets at Miss Slidell. (Hear, hear.) It was at this point that she screamed, for her father snatched himself away from her—I do not mean snatched himself rudely, but he snatched himself away from her to break the window of his cabin, through which he thrust his body out. But the hole was so small that I hardly thought it would admit the circumference of his waist. It was then the lady screamed. I am charged by Mr. Fairfax, 'that my manner was so violent that he was compelled to request Captain Moir to remove me. (Nonsence.) But when the marines rushed on at the point of their bayonets—and I believe that it is not necessary that I should make a solemn asseveration that it is true ('No, no')—when they rushed on at the point of the bayonet, I had just time to put my body between their bayonets and Miss Slidell ('Oh!'), and I said to them—and if Henry of Exeter were here I would ask him for his absolution for it (laughter)—I said to them: 'Back, you—— cowardly politroons.' ('Bravo!' and, 'Capital!') I need not ask you, gentlemen, if I am acquitted of bullying. I bullied no one. (Hear, hear.) I need not ask you whether you acquit me now. I beg once more to express my thanks to you for the mantle of your approbation which you have thrown over my shoulders.

The bearer of the despatches in relation to the Trent difficulty from the British Government to Lord Lyons, Capt. Seymour, arrived in New York on Sunday morning from Washington. Captain Seymour will probably remain a week or so.

CASE OF COL. CREAGER OF BALTIMORE.

A LOOSE STYLE OF DOING BUSINESS.

Correspondence of the Cincinnati Commercial.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 23.—The case of Colonel J. P. Creager, which comes before a court of inquiry to-morrow, excites considerable attention in military circles around Baltimore, and will probably develop a series of transactions on the part of the gallant Colonel equal to, if not eclipsing in brilliancy of conception and adroitness of execution, the notorious swindles of the Fremont financiers in Missouri. A few facts in the case have already leaked out, which may not prove uninteresting to your readers. Any one who has been around Baltimore within the last two months must have noticed on the walls, in all parts of the city, large and showy placards, offering extraordinary inducements for able-bodied men of good moral character who had a desire to serve their country, to enlist in Colonel Creager's regiment of cavalry. Colonel Creager, who is a man somewhat advanced in life, and smooth, oily and insinuating in his address, worked industriously and successfully to recruit his regiment. While it was with the utmost difficulty that recruits could be obtained for the various regiments of Maryland infantry, there was comparatively a rush for Creager's mounted regiment; so that he had, some weeks ago, before his operations were interfered with, 600 men regularly enlisted, and the six full companies organized and officered.

Col. Creager's operations, from first to last, have been very extensive and latitudinous, and will make an interesting chapter in the secret history of the "conduction" of this extraordinary war. He has at various times made of himself Colonel, Adjutant General, Quartermaster and Secretary of War.—With a laudable desire to have his subordinate officers of the best possible material, he himself made the selections and got them commissioned, charging from $1.50 to $3 each, according to the grade of the office, or the military ambition of the candidate, the money thus obtained going to the formation of some sort of a "fund," the precise nature of which has not yet transpired. His son, a sixteen years old, he procured to be commissioned as Lieutenant Colonel. He made most extraordinary contracts for equipping and subsisting his regiment. A New York establishment was to supply him with a thousand of the best cavalry swords, at $18 each. The gun manufactory of Merrill & Co., of this city, were to furnish one thousand carbines at $45 each. His saddles and other equipments were to be of the best and most extensive pattern, and he had already received the best outfit in the way of clothing, six hundred splendid horses, and elegant, well-constructed winter quarters.—Besides these, he, by some hook or crook, drew out $14,000 from the National Treasury, to distribute among the wives and families of his men.

General Cooper, who is in command of all the Maryland forces, not being consulted in any of those transactions, began to think that Colonel Creager was cutting it rather fat, and accordingly went on to Washington to inquire into his authority. He was told by Secretary Cameron that Col. Creager had no commission in the United States service, but was acting simply under verbal authority of President Lincoln to raise a regiment! Isn't this a beautiful illustration of the looseness with which military business is transacted at Washington?

Secretary Cameron, I understand, has repudiated contracts to the amount of $14,000 or $15,000, already fulfilled. The greater part of the contracts, however, had not been fulfilled. It is to be hoped that the investigation will throw some light upon the means by which Creager, with no other credentials than that of verbal authority from Uncle Abe to raise a regiment, was enabled to draw $14,000 from the Treasury.

BIGAMY EXTRAORDINARY.—A young man, named Levi Irvine, of Bloomsburg, Pa., being enamored of two young ladies, married them both, on last Saturday evening. The girls, of course, were ignorant that they were marrying the same man at almost the same time, and were greatly distressed when the fact was discovered. Two days afterwards the bridegroom was in the county jail for taking more wives than the law allows.

MARRIED.

On the 26th instant, by the Rev. R. G. Chaney, JAMES S. WATKINS to Miss KATE T. GADE, all of Baltimore.

On the 26th instant, by the Rev. Mr. Doll, JAMES M. OHLE to Miss MARY E. GARDNER, daughter of the late G. F. Gardner.

DIED.

On Friday, the 27th instant, at his late residence, Wyoming, Queen Anne's county, Md., C. C. TILGHMAN, aged 73 years and 11 months.

On the 29th instant, of consumption, JAMES MULLEN, in the 27th year of his age.

On the 29th instant, JACOB T. WARNICK, in the 37th year of his age.

Report of Deaths in the City of Baltimore, for the week ending Monday morning.

HEALTH OFFICE, Baltimore, Dec 30, 1861.

Apoplexy 1; asthma 1; casualty 2; child-bed 1; colic 2; croup 4; dropsy 5; dropsy in the head 1