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,

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1862.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

We publish, as a part of the history of the war, a letter which was recently addressed by ex-United States Consul-General Helm, to the Captain General of Cuba, and which, with the permission of the latter, has been printed in pamphlet form, for circulation in Cuba and elsewhere. Mr. Schufeldt, the present Consul for the United States at Havana, protested against the reception, publication and circulation of the pamphlet in question; but his protest was not heeded. The Habaneros appear to be driving quite a prosperous business with the Southern ports. Five vessels from the Southern coast, recently ran the blockade and arrived at that port freighted with valuable cargoes of cotton and naval stores. The Confederate steamer Vanderbilt which left on her return voyage, on Christmas eve last, was preceded out of port by three men-of-war whose object was to guard her against being intercepted by the United States gun boat Santiago de Cuba, within the limits we presume of the Spanish jurisdiction. The refusal of Mr. Consul Schufeldt to hoist his flag in honor of the arrival of General Prim appears to have drawn down upon him the indignation of the Cubans.

The victory which was claimed for General Milroy in Western Virginia in his fight with the Confederate forces under General Johnson, is now acknowledged to have been no victory at all, but, on the contrary, a signal defeat. Our readers will remember we stated some days ago that such would prove to be the fact, and that letters had been received at Washington describing the defeat as "a disgraceful rout." The Wheeling *Intelligencer* confirms the fact that the Federal troops were repulsed, and furnishes some details which indicate that they behaved very badly: that their loss was very severe, and that their retreat was so rapid and disorderly that they left their dead in possession of the enemy.

An advance of the Federal forces into Eastern Kentucky is reported. That portion of the State is at present in the hands of the Confederates. General Humphrey Marshall with six thousand five hundred men is at Prestonburg, where he is fortifying the place against attack. Reinforcements to the number of ten thousand additional troops were expected to join him shortly; but General Garfield had been ordered to advance against him with five full regiments of infantry, a squadron of cavalry, and two batteries of artillery, for the purpose of bringing him to battle before the reinforcements arrive. As Marshall had determined to hold his position at all hazards a desperate fight was expected at that point during the present week.

were at that time attacking Paducah—that the battle was still going on—but that the Adjutant-General refused to permit the particulars to be made public. We are inclined to believe that here is not truth whatever in the report.

The Joint Committee of both Houses of Congress which was appointed to enquire into the causes of the disasters at Bull's Run and Ball's Bluff, does not appear likely to elicit much information in regard to the matter. The Secretary of War refused to submit the documents in relation to the defeat at Ball's Bluff to the inspection of the committee, on the plea that the interests of the service would be injured thereby, and now we learn that several army officers have declined to answer questions that have been put to them unless authorized to do so by General McClellan who, himself, snubbed the committee when some of its members sought at his hand such information as they required.

It is proposed to make the surrender of Messrs. Slidell and Mason the subject of discussion on Thursday next, if a quorum should happen to be present.

Mr. Thaddeus Stevens has introduced before the House of Representatives a bill to provide for the blockade of the Southern ports by proclamation. The bill abolishes all ports of entry in the Southern States; prohibits any foreign vessels from entering the interdicted harbors, under penalty of seizure and confiscation both as respects the vessels and their cargoes—the proceeds of whose sale, after condemnation, are to be divided among the captors. The last clause of the bill empowers the President to declare any harbor or harbors ports of entry whenever he may deem it expedient to do so. Such a bill can never become a law—or if passed into a law it can never be executed. No maritime Power will submit to a paper blockade.

We still have rumors of "an effective forward movement of the army now encamped on the banks of the Potomac." The release of Messrs. Mason and Slidell it is urged, and not without some show of reason, renders an advance necessary both for the purpose of satisfying the popular desire at the North and of maintaining the prestige of the Federal Government abroad. Vague assurances, we are told, have been given by those in authority at Washington that active offensive operations shall soon take place, and that the army will not go into winter quarters. It has been often stated before that the signal for a general movement southward will be the landing of Burnside's expedition at its point of destination, and it is probable that the programme has not, in this respect at least, been altered. It is confidently predicted that "a great event is impending in Kentucky, which will result in a glorious Union victory." As the Federal troops in that State, to the number of at least seventy-five thousand men, are preparing to march against Buckner, at Bowling Green, there is certainly reason for expecting that a most desperate battle will be fought at that point; but what the result of it will be can only be known after the battle has been fought and won.

It is rumored at Washington that General Dix is to be transferred from this military department to a command where he will have an opportunity of displaying his military ability "in a larger and more difficult sphere."

CALENDARS.—The various book and job printers of our city, as is usual at this season of the year, have issued very beautiful business cards in the shape of Calendars. Mr. Wm. M. Innes, 164 Baltimore street, and Mr. Wiley, 126 Baltimore street, appear to have been eminently successful this year. Mr. Innes' Calendar is a beautiful specimen of the art, which it would be difficult to excel; while Mr. Wiley's, by its large sized and clear type, can be readily deciphered when placed in any part of the counting-room.

FEDERAL PRISONERS AT THE SOUTH.—The Hon. Alfred Ely, since his return to Washington, has compiled an alphabetical list of the Federal prisoners now held by the Confederates. The list is published in the New York *Tribune*, and embraces the names of over eighteen hundred persons.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The initial number of a new monthly magazine entitled "The American Odd Fellows" has just been issued by John W. Orr, of New York. It is illustrated with an excellent likeness, engraved on steel, of James L. Ridgely, Esq., so well known as the able and indefatigable Corresponding Secretary of the Grand Lodge of the United States; an office which he has filled for more than twenty years. His Biography forms the leading article in the magazine now under notice; and is remarkably well written. A number of other original articles grace the pages of the magazine, all of which have a direct tendency to carry out the design of the publication, which is to disseminate "a knowledge of

LATEST FROM CUBA.

Correspondence of the Maryland News Sheet.

HAVANA, Dec. 25, 1861.

Since my arrival here a few days ago, two vessels have entered this port from New Orleans, and three from different ports of the Southern coast. The Confederate flag meets with great respect in Cuba. The Captain General, and all the subordinate authorities extend every possible kindness to Southern men. The Confederate steamer Theodora is blockaded at Nassau. Several vessels will leave here in a few days for Dixie. The Confederate steamer Vanderbilt brought over to this port, a large cargo of Cotton and Turpentine. The cotton brought thirty cents per pound. It was of indifferent quality, or it could have been sold for fifty cents per pound. The turpentine sold for eighty-three cents per gallon. A vessel that came in from New Orleans yesterday, brought a full cargo of Turpentine, which was held at eighty-five cents.

When the Vanderbilt left this harbor yesterday she sailed out in the afternoon, but whilst it was yet light, under English colors, and three men-of-war preceded her to see that the U. S. Gunboat Santiago de Cuba did not intercept her. The Vanderbilt had a large cargo and many passengers.

The day before yesterday was a gala day in Havana, in consequence of the arrival of General Prim, who is to take command of the Spanish forces which are about to operate against Mexico. The people here were very much incensed at the conduct of the American Consul, Mr. Schufeldt, who refused to hoist his flag, whilst all the other foreign Consuls had their flags flying. All the Cubans and Spaniards at Havana, are in favor of the Southern Confederacy with scarcely a single exception. S.

LETTER FROM CHARLES J. HELM, ESQ., ON THE BLOCKADE AND RIGHTS OF NEUTRALS, TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE CAPTAIN-GENERAL, DON FRANCISCO SERRANO, SUPERIOR GOVERNOR OF CUBA.

The following letter, which has been published at Havana in pamphlet form, was presented by Mr. Charles J. Helm to the Captain-General of Cuba. Mr. Schufeldt, the American Consul, formally protested against the reception, publication and circulation of the letter in question, but his protest was disregard by the Captain-General, who not only consented to receive it at the hands of Mr. Helm, but allowed it to be published:

HAVANA, Dec. 5th, 1861.

Sir—The great progress of civilization in the present century, is in an eminent degree attributable to the extension of an untrammelled commerce, the perfect freedom of the seas to all neutral Powers, and the total abrogation of the ancient barbarous doctrine of "might against right," as laid down by some of the old law-writers.

Twelve of the Sovereign States, which formed a part of the United States of America, have passed by their Conventions or Legislatures, ordinances dissolving the original compact by which they formed the Federal Union, and two others, Kentucky and Maryland, would, if not prevented by the presence of a large Federal army in their midst, and the arrest and imprisonment of many of their most able, distinguished and patriotic citizens, cast off all connection with a Government which has become odious to them, and a Government against which their best men are now in open arms. The causes which impelled these eminent and good citizens to establish for themselves a separate Government:—the encroachments by the Northern majority upon the rights of a Southern minority; their utter disregard of the obligations of the Constitution of the country;—their enactment of unjust and unequal laws by the national Congress, and of laws by nearly all the State Legislatures in direct conflict with the Constitution, thus themselves destroying the foundation of the original compact, and their total rejection of the decisions of the highest judicial tribunal of the country, have all been so fully discussed, and are so well known to your Excellency, and to the world, that it is only necessary to allude to them. It must also be equally well known to your Excellency that since the separation, the usurpations of power by Mr. Lincoln, at the head of the Northern Government, in the raising and organizing of an army without authority of law; in his declaration of war, which power by the Constitution is vested in Congress; in his suspension of the ancient writ of *habeas corpus*; in his arbitrary imprisonment of prominent, pure and patriotic citizens, and of foreigners, without warrant, and without such trial as is guaranteed to them by the Constitution; in his suspension of the tribunals of justice, and the establishment in their stead of an arbitrary military power, has not left a vestige of the rights of the people as derived from the fundamental law, admitting that the Constitution had force after the dissolution of the Union.

It can be easily demonstrated by reverting to the history of the United States for the past quarter of a century, that the Northern States have been and are now in open rebellion against the supreme law of the land;—that the Southern citizens, whose ancestors, in the main, established, the old government, in their loyalty and devotion to the principles of that government, from time to time, yielded well-defined rights, until the encroachments of a selfish and unscrupulous Northern majority became unbearable; and not until remonstrances and just complaints had been constantly scorned by them, did most of the Confederate States of America. After which, Mr. Lincoln declared war against them, by calling for seventy five thousand troops, to suppress what he chose to denominate a rebellion; his only right to do which consisted in the fact that he governed twenty millions of people, had possession of the treasury, the army and the navy of the late United States Government. To resist this Northern invasion was a natural right, which the people of the South felt, understood and acted upon. The war has now been waged for over seven months. The battles of Great Bethel, Bull Run, Lexington, Springfield, Ball's Bluff, Belmont and twenty others, in all of which Northern defeat was as prominent as Southern chivalry—show that though the Northern Government has the advantage in numbers of two to one, has the old army, the navy and the treasury, that it has been defeated upon every field, and that the grand army at Washington hesitates again to cross the Potomac, and having deserted Hatteras Inlet, can now only boast of having taken two mud forts at the mouth of Beaufort harbor, at a cost of many millions of dollars. The South now feels, as we think she has a right to do, that the neutral Powers of the world should regard the vain boast of the Northern President, that he would *speedily crush out the rebellion*, as mere *braggadocio*, and that instead of recognizing her as a belligerent, as has been done, that her independence and separate nationality should be immediately admitted; however, for the purposes of this communication, and as the power of recognition, by this Government, rests with her Catholic Majesty, we will only assume to be a recognized belligerent power, in the discussion of the right of the Northern Government to obstruct the free commerce of the sea.

The census of 1860 shows a population in the Confederate States (of course including Kentucky and Maryland) of 12,315 123, with the enormous annual agricultural production of over $800,000,000, of which about $500,000,000 was sent to the Northern States; and three fourths of the entire exportation from the whole country to foreign nations was furnished by them, for most of which ready markets were found in England, France and Spain; and the produce and manufactured articles of those countries were accepted in exchange; and thus each, in a measure, became necessary to the prosperity of the other, and all equally interested in preserving the perfect freedom of the great international highways. The vast exportation of the agricultural products of the Confederate States gave employment, directly and indirectly, to the shipping of Europe, as well as the Northern States of America; 2,500 vessels of the latter alone, with an aggregate of 1,200,000 tons, were employed in the transportation of their exports—(I have not the statistics at hand from which to give the European tonnage employed.) This wonderful commercial fleet, bearing the flag of every commercial nation, received and discharged cargo at the ports of the Confederate States, on a coast extending over three thousand miles, studded with harbors, bays, inlets and rivers, almost as numerous as the plantations which adorn their margins. It is this vast coast, with its thousand friendly harbors, that the Government at Washington affects to blockade, and this vast trade with neutral Powers that she assumes to interdict. First, has she the legal right to blockade the ports of a belligerent against the commerce of neutrals not contraband of war? Second, are neutrals bound to observe a blockade which is not effectual? Third, does not the legal right fail, if there be any, when the power to enforce it against neutrals fails? And fourth, is not the right to blockade confined to the immediate coast of the belligerent?

In the present controversy there has been much speculation as to what articles are included in "goods contraband of war." The best authorities define the term to mean "arms, munitions of war, or materials *directly* tending to offensive or defensive operations;" but the term "contraband" does not affect the relations or include the articles of ordinary commerce between neutrals, or neutrals and belligerents. Vattel says: "a neutral may lend even money to a belligerent, without just cause of complaint from the other of a breach of neutrality, except where no interest is demanded, or with the palpable object of enabling one to attack the other." This standard author, therefore, in a single sentence establishes the principle that in "goods contraband of war," is meant, only, goods which may be actually used in an attack by one belligerent or the other. In 1856 the Congress of Paris established certain rules, which are now accepted as international law throughout the civilized world, by which the distinction is thus clearly admitted: "One must carefully distinguish between merchandize of ordinary commerce, and that which applies particularly to the case of war. In further support of this position, Vattel says "that the commerce of neutral nations may subsist in as great a degree of freedom as is consistent with the laws of war. There are certain rules to be observed, upon which Europe seems to be generally agreed. The first is, carefully to distinguish ordinary goods, which have no relation to war, from those which are particularly subservient to it. *Neutral nations* should enjoy perfect liberty to trade in the former; the belligerent Powers cannot, with any reason refuse it, or prevent the importation of such goods into the enemy's country; the care of their own safety, the necessity of self-defence does not authorize them to do it, since these things will not render the enemy more formidable. *An attempt to interrupt or put a stop to this trade would be a violation of the rights of neutral nations—a flagrant injury to them*"—and refers to the treaty of Whitehall, 1689, by which England and the United Provinces notified all nations not at war with France that they should attack and take as prizes any vessels charged to a French port or from such port; on which Sweden and Denmark, in defence of their rights, which had been invaded by the taking of some of their vessels, formed a league to enforce a satisfaction of such right, and obtained it at the hands of the two maritime Powers, who recognized the justice of their complaint. The United States, as early as 1785, holding then, as at the time of their dissolution, that "free ships make neutrals, and agreeing that not even merchandize contraband of war should be confiscated, but only detained and paid for in fair value" (see Tharteux' *Cours Diplomatique*); again, in their treaty with France, still earlier, in 1778, they agree "that all articles which cannot properly be designated as designed for the use of war, whether by land or sea, shall not be considered contraband." The high character of the authorities quoted and their direct applicability to the position taken, and the wonderful tenacity with which the United States (the Government at Washington still claiming to be the United States) have always clung to the principle that "free ships make free goods," must satisfy your Excellency that the right of neutrals in their legitimate commerce with the belligerent Confederate States of America are not only disregarded, but wantonly violated by Mr. Lincoln's Government, in the capture of neutral vessels, not only on the high seas, but at the ports of the Confederate States itself—actually blockaded; and that such capture is not only an insult to and violation of the rights of the neutral whose vessel is by chance taken, but to neutrals whose commerce is interrupted by the fear or disinclination of their merchants to engage in commerce thus unlawfully threatened. We now come to the question, as to what constitutes a blockade. Beardet, in his "*Manuel des Marins*," defines blockades as "a port where vessels of war rigorously guard against the entry or departure of vessels, and take them prisoners if they attempt it." This definition indubitably establishes the principles that a blockade must be absolutely effectual to be respected. Again, Lucelisi Palli, in his "*Principles du droit public maritime*," says "the law of nations allows of the blockade of fortified places only, and is not applicable to towns of commerce not so fortified, to roadsteads or the confluence of open rivers." The Government of the United States during the Crimean war held the doctrine that neutrals had the right to trade with the belligerents, that "free ships make free goods," and that articles contraband of war could only be seized and confiscated by the capture of the ship in the actual attempt to run a blockade; and her vessels became the common carriers of the several belligerents. In the case of a vessal on a voyage from the United States to Buenos Ayres with warlike stores on board, during a war between Spain and Buenos Ayres, Mr. Justice Story, giving the opinion of the court, said: "But there is nothing in our laws, or the laws of nations, which forbids our citizens from sending armed vessels, as well as unarmed, to foreign ports for sale." And Mr. Chitty, in his edition of Vattel, note 159, says: "On a question of violation of blockade, Sir W. Scott said, 'Three things must be proved—1st, *the existence of an actual blockade;* 2d, the knowledge of the party supposed to have offended; and 3d, some act of violation, either by going in or coming out, with a cargo laden after the commencement of blockade.'" The principle that a blockade to be respected must be effectual, is so clearly settled, that I will not further multiply either authorities or argument to enforce it.

Are the ports of the Confederate States blockaded by Mr. Lincoln's Government even to the rightful exclusion of "articles contraband of war" in the spirit of a fair interpretation of universally accepted international law? We hold that they are not. Are they blockaded in such a manner as to authorize the seizure of neutral vessels, visiting her ports in the prosecution of ordinary commerce? Clearly not, and every such seizure is a wanton violation of the neutrals' rights, and an insult to the neutral flag. During the past month, more than thirty sailing vessels have entered the three principal Confederate ports—Charleston, Savannah and New Orleans; discharged their cargoes, and returned to the ports of the West Indies, most of them to Cuba, with rice, rosin and turpentine, and the few captures which have been made by the Federal fleet, of neutral vessels, have occurred upon the high seas; several of them in the vicinity of the Cuban Coast. This is, of itself, unanswerable proof that the blockade is not effectual, and should not be respected by neutral Powers. The captures which have been made have been as flagrant outrages as the forcible abduction of Messrs. Mason and Slidell with their Secretaries from a British mail steamer, in Spanish waters, in their transit from Havana to Southampton, by an armed force from Mr. Lincoln's war steamer "San Jacinto." Notwithstanding the United States have always insisted, upon the doctrine, "that a belligerent cruiser has no right to search a neutral on the high seas, for any reason which does not involve the neutral's violation of his neutrality, *i. e.*, his attempt to aid one of the parties at war; and that for every other purpose the ship is territory, and it is under its territorial laws, and no one on board can be invaded more than another." [*See Woolsey's International Law.*] To enforce which principle the United States declared war against England in 1812;—and as late as 1858, the American press, without exception, thundered forth their threats and malediction against England, because of the visitation by her cruisers of merchant vessels of the United States on the Cuban Coast, suspected as slavers; and the President of the United States, referring to the negotiations which grew out of this controversy, announced to Congress, in his annual message in 1860, that England had abandoned the claim of the right of visitation or search, and proceeded to say, "whilst it (the question) remained open, they might, at any moment, have been precipitated into a war." This was rendered manifest by the exasperated state of public feeling throughout our entire country, produced by the forcible search of American vessels by British cruizers on the coast of Cuba, in the spring of 1858. The American people hailed with general acclaim the orders of the Secretary of the Navy, AD from search or detention by the vessels of war of any other nation." These orders might have produced an immediate collision between the naval forces of the two countries. This was most fortunately prevented by an appeal to the justice of Great Britain and to the laws of nations, as expounded by her own most eminent jurists. Or, that other still more shameful, arrogant and undignified seizure of Senator Gwin and his companions, on the soil of New Grenada, against the protest of one of her Governors, who was without the power to enforce his legal orders, when threatened by five hundred of Mr. Lincoln's drawn bayonets; which admits of neither apology nor defence, and is aggravated by the fact that New Grenada has neither a powerful army nor navy to enforce her rights.—The stationing of armed cruizers in the vicinity of this harbor, by Mr. Lincoln, which are daily, almost hourly, overhauling vessels of all nations, and throwing out threats and menaces, even to vessels at anchor in the harbor, is an outrage approximating the enormity of those enumerated.

While the Confederate States are deeply interested in a revival of commerce with all neutral Powers, the interest of neutrals in reopening the trade, corresponds in a high degree with theirs; and a Government *de facto*, though not recognized by neutrals as an independent sovereignty, but as a belligerent, by the well-established rules of international law, possesses within itself all the elements of nationality required to entitle it to all commercial benefits at the hands of neutrals which are extended to her enemy. In the case of the revolted French colony of Santo Domingo, the principle was carried even further. Phillips, on *Insurance*, says: "But in determining who are public enemies regard is had to the Government *de facto*, and if a colony of the enemy has revolted and maintains itself under an independent Government, trade may be carried on with such colony. It was so held in regard to trade from England with the port of St. Domingo under the government of Christophe, after the revolt of that French colony, though England and France were at war." Commerce between our enemy and all neutral Powers is as untrammeled as though war did not exist. Is it just in neutral Powers to withhold from the Confederate States commercial benefits which are extended to her enemy? Is it just to themselves and their people, who are co-sufferer by this suspension of commercial relations with us? We say not, and Vattel says: "As long as a neutral nation wishes securely to enjoy the advantages of her neutrality, she must in all things *show* a strict impartiality towards the belligerent Powers. * * * In whatever does not relate to war, a neutral and impartial nation must not refuse to one of the parties, on account of his present quarrel, what she grants to the other. * * * Let us now discuss another case, that of neutral nations resorting to any enemy's country for commercial purposes. It is certain that as they have no part in war, they are under no obligation to renounce their commerce for the sake of avoiding to supply my enemy with the means of carrying on the war against me. * * * But if they only continue their *customary trade* they do not thereby declare themselves against my interests, they only exercise a right which they are under no obligation of sacrificing to me."

As the accredited representative of the Confederate States of America, to the Spanish, English and Danish Possessions in the West Indies, without, however, as yet, any official recognition, I have felt it my duty to lay before your Excellency, and the Supreme Governors of the other West India Islands, the above facts, with my comments and deductions, sustained, as I think, by the best authorities on international law, without intimating, however, what course should be pursued in the premises by any neutral Power; well knowing that your high character, ability and experience, is a guarantee that you will act as becomes the representative of a proud, chivalrous people.

I have the honor to be, with great personal regard, and high considerations of respect, your obedient servant, CH. J. HELM.

His Excellency, the Captain General, Don Francisco Serrano, Superior Governor of Cuba, &c.

From the New York Post, Dec. 30.

THE CORRESPONDENCE ON THE TRENT AFFAIR.—Few public documents have been read with such eagerness as the correspondence published by us on Saturday relative to the seizure of Mason and Slidell on board the British steamer Trent, closing with a settlement of the dispute in which it involved us with Great Britain. The public mind is sensibly relieved by the assurance that the cloud of war, which so many looked at with alarm, is overblown. The part of the correspondence which was conducted by Mr. Seward is universally admitted to be exceedingly able and ingenious, and seems to be generally regarded as putting the best face on the surrender of Mason and Slidell which the attendant circumstances will admit. We must confess, however, that, clever and ingenious as it is, we are not satisfied with the predicament in which it leaves us. * * * * * *

While Mr. Seward's letter to Lord Lyons is elaborate and voluminous, the English part of the correspondence is so drawn up as to imply that the case is not one for argument or negotiation. Earl Russell's despatch is couched in the briefest possible terms, and the demand of "that which alone satisfy the British nation" is made in such a manner as to imply that he wants nothing else. The note of Lord Lyons in reply to Mr. Seward's long letter imitates the laconism of his principal. There is no notice taken of Mr. Seward's arguments, there is no expression of satisfaction that an ugly affair has been settled. No mastiff ever carried off from his antagonist the bone that he had growled for, with less ceremony.

The House Committee on Commerce are maturing a bill, in accordance with the recommendation of the Secretary of the Treasury, for the appointment of a Solicitor of Customs, salary $5,000, and an assistant, with salary of $2,500. The bill also has another important provision—the division of Confederate property confiscated at the port of New York by the law of July last, among the principal customhouse officer, as apportioned by the revenue

From the New York Tribune, December 31.

SUPPRESSED DESPATCH.

The following despatch, intended for our paper of Monday morning, was suppressed by the Government Censor on the evening previous:

The true history of the Trent affair at Washington is briefly this:—At the first Cabinet meeting held after the seizure of Slidell and Mason, the President expressed himself in favor of restoring them to the protection of the British flag, if it should be demanded. He said it was doubtful if the course of Captain Wilkes could be justified by international law; and that at all events, he could not afford to have two wars upon his hands at the same time. Attorney General Bates echoed this opinion. He thought the seizure unjustifiable, and was in favor of giving up the men on demand.

Secretary Seward was non-committal. The other members of the Cabinet disagreed with Mr. Lincoln positively, and Secretary Chase argued forcibly and with warmth that the course recommended by the President would be dishonorable to the United States as a nation. Thus matters stood until the first belligerent note from England. No further discussions took place, nor was the question again mooted in Cabinet until Christmas Day.

The despatch from Earl Russell to Lord Lyons was delivered at the State Department on Saturday, as we telegraphed the next day, and Mr. Seward immediately went to work on his reply. Remembering the views of the Cabinet, previously expressed, Mr. Lincoln was not in haste to call them together. One meeting was adjourned to prevent premature discussion, and another on the regular day did not take place. The first was on Christmas Day, and after Lord Lyons had made his communication. Immediately after Thouvenel's despatch had been delivered, Seward's reply was read to the council, in a session prolonged for five hours.

The despatch of Thouvenel had convinced the opponents of the policy of surrender that the public opinion of Europe would sustain England; and it was used to secure unanimity in that policy. Mr. Seward's despatch, however, was subjected to much criticism. Many alterations and modifications were suggested. The next day a revised copy was read to the adjourned Cabinet meeting—further changes were suggested, and the despatch as a whole was not approved and adopted until Friday morning.

DIED,

On the 31st ultimo, at 7 o'clock, EMMA GRACE, only daughter of Francis A. and Pamelia F. Uhl, aged 13 years and 3 months.

Her funeral will take place from the family residence, No. 192 East Fayette street tomorrow (Thursday) afternoon, at three o'clock. The friends and acquaintances of the family are invited to attend.

In Allegheny county, near Pittsburg, Pa., on Friday, the 27th December, Mr. CATHERINE LIGHTNER, in the 90th year of her age.

The record of a life well spent,
Is her best monument.

At Philadelphia, on Sunday, the 29th ultimo, CHARLES E. DINVILLIER, aged 41 years.

At his residence, in Malden, Kanawha county, Va., December 17th, 1861, after a lingering illness of a few months, Rev. HENRY RUFFNER, D. D., in the 77th year of his age.

CALENDARS.—GRATIS.

WILEY would inform those of his friends, customers, and the public who have not received his LARGE AND SHOWY CALENDAR FOR 1862, that they can obtain them GRATIS by calling at his Job Printing Office, American Building, over the "American" Office. Jal 2d*

VISITING CARDS, NEW STYLES.

We have just received from London and Paris the new styles of Cards so superior in quality to the American.

☞ Those wanting Cards for New Year's week had better leave their plates early to prevent disappointment.

JAS. S. MATHEWS,
168 Baltimore street, near Calvert.

"* DIARIES for 1862—our usual assortment, of superior make. d12-2t

☞ SAVE 25 PER CENT.☜

If you want to purchase a fine Catholic Bible, a Prayer Book, or any Devotional Book, for the Holidays, call at MURPHY & Co's *Up Stairs* Bookstore, 182 Baltimore street, where you will find an extensive and choice collection, in every variety of elegant, superb and plain Bindings, which they are now retailing at wholesale prices.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS.—The well filled show cases of LASMOKE & Co., No. 10 Light street, attract considerable attention. We are glad to learn that their apartment never was better, and that every article represented to be by them, is just as represented. Their Watches, Jewelry, Silver and Plated Ware, Table Cutlery, Spectacles, Eye Glasses, &c., cannot be surpassed in Baltimore.

MERRILL'S BREECH-LOADING RIFLE.
MERRILL, THOMAS & CO.,
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PARKER BROTHERS' LONDON CLUB SAUCE.—This celebrated Sauce is far superior to all others. From the richness and delicacy of its flavor, it has attained a popularity almost as great in this country as in Europe. For sale by all first class grocers and by their agents,

GREEN & YOE, Importers,
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IMPORTANT TO HOUSEKEEPERS

Inform that they can save money by purchasing Wood already sawed and split, at office adjoining Steam Fire Wood Yd.

No. 1 INGLE AVENUE.

Ja 1-tf 14 & 15 Light st. JOHNSON.

ECONOMY! ECONOMY!!

A DOLLAR SAVED IS TWO DOLLARS MADE.

This can be easily accomplished by purchasing W. Taylor's Stove Polish.

JAMES H. JOHNSON.

BALTIMORE COAL COMPANY'S COAL. REDUCTION IN PRICE.

I am now receiving regularly my supplies of this celebrated COAL, and am enabled to offer it to consumers at very LOW PRICES. In view of the present unsettled state of affairs, and the possibility of shipments being cut off, I would recommend consumers of Coal to lay in their supply at once.

As to Cumberland Coal is now a mere to this market, I would recommend the use of my Coal as a substitute for cooking and other uses. I shall keep a large supply constantly on my wheelbarrow.

R. W. TYSON, Sole Agent,
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For the quality of the Baltimore Company's Coal for steaming purposes, I respectfully refer to the following parties:

Messrs. Dougherty, Woods & Co., Baltimore Sugar Refinery; Samuel T. Pearce, Esq., Agent Cornwall's Line Steamers; A. L. Hugkins, Esq., Boston Line Steamers; Messrs. Abbott & Sons, Canton Rolling Mill.

" Murray & Hazlehurst, Vulcan Works.

And Steamboats generally. 1y2 tf

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MERRILL, THOMAS & CO.,
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DANSKIN & CO.,

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MAKE

SHIRTS,

TO

ORDER,

AND KEEP A FULL ASSORTMENT READY MADE

GENTLEMEN WHO WANT A REALLY GOOD

SHIRT,

WILL FIND IT AT THIS ESTABLISHMENT.

ALSO,

GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING GOODS

IN GREAT VARIETY.

DANSKIN & CO.,
mh11-tf 155 BALTIMORE STREET.

ROOFING! ROOFING!! ROOFING!!!
ECONOMY, DURABILITY AND SECURITY WARRENTED
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. S. JOHNSON,
No. 3 Jarvis Building, cor. North and Baltimore sts.,
jy16-tf with Baltimore

REMOVAL OF
WHEELER & WILSON'S
SEWING MACHINES,
AT REDUCED PRICES,
Glass Cloth-Presser,
Improved Loop-Check
new style,
Hemmer, Binder, Corder, &c.,
Office No. 214 West Baltimore street,
next door to Cortlan A'Co.
W. MERRILL, Agent
ap8-tf

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JAMES FRYER invites attention to the very extensive assortment of Looking-Glasses now in store, suitable for every position and of all sizes.

Mantel Mirrors, Pier and Wall do. oval, and square Cornices, Tables, Brackets, Consols, &c., at unequalled prices.

The latest English and standard French Engravings always in stock.

Particular and undivided attention is given to the department of PICTURE FRAMES. Also, frames for Miniatures Photographs, Portraits, &c.

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No. 51 South Calvert street

ISRAEL & Co.
IVORYTYPES.
WATER-COLORED
AND
MEZZOTINT
PHOTOGRAPHS,
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LADD, WEBSTER & Co.'s
TIGHT-STITCH
SEWING MACHINES
FOR FAMILIES AND MANUFACTURERS
No. 131 BALTIMORE STREET
e24-tf Between Calvert and South street

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.,
d1-tf Corner of Charles street

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

DR. A. A. BLANDY
SUCCESSOR TO DR. G. A. HARRIS,
o29-tf 81 NORTH CHARLES STREET

ANTIQUARIAN BOOK STORE,
12 LIGHT STREET.
Libraries or small quantities of BOOKS, also OLD COINS purchased by JOHN P. DES FORGES,
c17-tf Numismatist.

KINDLING WOOD! KINDLING WOOD!!
SAWED AND SPLIT WOOD OF ANY SIZE
At Office of City Steam Fire Wood Mill,
No. 5 NORTH STREET.
e10 JAS. H. JOHNSON

YEDDO TEA.—A delightful article, part of the FIRST IMPORTATION FROM JAPAN, just received and for sale by GREEN & YOE,
o31-tf 48 W. Baltimore street

AMATEUR CONCERT POSTPONED.

In order to afford additional attractions and give efficiency to the CONCERT for the BENEFIT OF ST. MARY'S ORPHAN ASYLUM, it is now announced to take place on Thursday, January 2d. It has been decided to POSTPONE it until THURSDAY, 9th January.

The Ladies and Gentlemen who have kindly volunteered their services for this charity, are respectfully invited to attend the rehearsals at the Archbishop's on Monday evening, 30th instant, and on the following Friday, 31, and Monday, 6th January, at half past 7 o'clock. d28-2t

ROOMS OF THE CORN AND FLOUR EXCHANGE, BALTIMORE, Dec. 30, 1861.—The annual election of FIFTEEN DIRECTORS to manage the affairs of the Exchange for the ensuing year, will be held at the Rooms of the Association, corner South and Wood streets, on MONDAY, January 6, 1862. By order,

JOHN T. CAGA, Secretary.

REGULAR TICKET.

HENRY M. WARFIELD,
WM. A. HOYD,
GEORGE GORT,
SAMUEL DUKE,
J. A. WILLIAMS,
L. J. COX, Jr.,
R. G. MAGGIO,
THOMAS CORNER,
GEO. H. KYLE,
FRANCIS WHITE,
THOMAS R. MATHEWS, Jr.,
S. G. MATTHEWS,
JOHN G. HEWES,
S. P. HOYD,
JOS. O. HOYD. d26-2t

FIRE AND MARINE
INSURANCE AGENCY,
15 *SECOND STREET,*
Opposite Merchants' Exchange.
COMMONWEALTH FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,
of New York.
WASHINGTON MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY,
of New York.
JAMES McNEAL, Jr.,
Jal tf Agent.

CALENDARS
AND DESK BLOTTERS GRATIS!
Can be had free of charge at the
LEADING JOB PRINTING OFFICE OF
W. M. INNES,
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Book and Newspaper Printing,
Mercantile Printing, in endless variety,
Printing for Corporations, Institutions, &c.
Railroad, Telegraph and Steamboat Printing,
PRINTING—from the largest Book to the smallest Card—neat, cheap and expeditious.
Jal 2d*

MERCHANTS' BANK, BALTIMORE, Dec. 31st, 1861.—The President and Directors have declared a DIVIDEND OF THREE PER CENT. on the Capital stock, payable on and after Wednesday the 8th proximo. The City and State taxes are paid by this bank. D. SPRIGG,
ja1-tf Cashier.

CHESAPEAKE BANK, BALTIMORE, Dec. 31st, 1861.—The President and Directors have this day declared a DIVIDEND OF THREE PER CENT. payable on and after Wednesday, Jan. 8, 1862, free of State and City taxes paid by the bank. H. CHAMBERLAINE, Jr.,
ja1 1w Cashier.

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Bennerson,	5s.	L. F. Gravely,	1 oun