THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET,

PUBLISHED BY

CARTER & NEILSON.

TERMS

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BALTIMORE.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1862.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the United States Senate a resolution was passed calling upon the President for all the correspondence relating to neutral and belligerent rights on the ocean which has taken place since the Congress of Paris, in 1856. The resolutions passed by the Maryland Legislature, protesting against any interference with slavery by the General Government, were presented by Mr. Kennedy.

In the House Mr. Vallandigham asked leave to introduce a resolution calling upon the Secretary of the Treasury to report the sum total of the floating debt of the United States, the Departments under which the debt has been incurred; the amount, in pounds, of tea, coffee and sugar imported into the United States during each month of the current fiscal year up to January 1st, and the amount of duty collected on each since the 5th of August last. Laid over.

The Message of Gov. Hicks was read before the Legislature yesterday. After congratulating the members upon the earnest devotion they had already exhibited to the best interests of the State, he proceeds to express a hope that in the measures yet to be perfected no mistakes will be made. On the subject of the State finances he announces that the receipts into the Treasury during the fiscal year ending Sept. 30th, were one million forty-eight thousand three hundred and thirty-nine dollars and sixty seven cents—$1,048,339.67—which added to the balance previously in the Treasury gave an aggregate of one million five hundred and sixty-one thousand six hundred and thirty dollars and eighty-three cents—$1,561,630 83. The disbursements during the same period amount to one million three hundred and forty-three dollars and eight cents, ($1,306,013 08); exceeding the revenue which accrued and was received during the same period by the large sum of four hundred and eleven thousand two hundred and thirty-one dollars and eighty-eight cents, ($411,231.88.) This fact owes its existence solely to the reckless and prodigal expenditure of the Legislature of 1860.

I transmit herewith a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, in reference to the new apportionment of members of the House of Representatives in the Congress of the United States.—From it you will perceive that the number of Representatives from this State has been reduced to five; and that, therefore, it will be your duty to divide the State into the requisite number of Congressional Districts. I transmit, also, a statement, from the same Department, in regard to the population of our State, which will be found of value in the labor of forming the new districts.

I herewith transmit a copy of the Joint Resolution of Congress to amend the Constitution of the United States; approved March 2, 1861. I submitted the same to the Legislature at its special session in Frederick city; and I believe it received action in one branch thereof. But it was never finally acted upon, and I deem it my duty to transmit it to you, and to urge the propriety of giving it your prompt attention.

The National Sanitary Commission, at a meeting held at Washington on the 12th of September, 1861, resolved "that the Sanitary Commission urge the adoption, on the part of the several State Legislatures, of a uniform system of medical examination for military service." A copy of this resolution has been forwarded to me, and I submit it for your consideration.

The reports of the Commissioner on the part of Maryland to ascertain and define the southeastern and northwestern boundaries between Maryland and Virginia, are herewith submitted. I am informed by the Commissioner that the tracing and marking of the western line of the State, from the "Fairfax Stone" to the northern boundary of Maryland, was completed during the summer of 1860. The work was commenced in 1859, with the co-operation of Virginia, in conformity with chap. 275, of the Acts of 1852. The Commissioner on the part of Virginia failed to join in the completion of the survey; but it being a matter of great importance to Allegany county that it should no longer delayed, the Commissioner for Maryland completed the work, as required by chapter 365, of the Acts of 1860.

The Commissioner for Virginia was invited to join the Commissioner for Maryland in marking the southern line between the Pocomoke and the Atlantic; the necessary surveys for which had been made at the joint expense of the two States. No answer was received to that proposition, and the intentions of the Legislature, in this regard, have not been carried out. All the details connected with the subject are fully set forth in records and maps, transmitted to this Department by our Commissioner. I suggest the propriety of preserving those papers. They have cost the State a considerable sum, and will be valuable in the future.

I transmit herewith the report of the Commissioners appointed by the Act of 1860, chapter 165, to define the boundary line between Dorchester and Somerset counties. The sum of five hundred and eighty four dollars and thirty-seven cents was expended in the prosecution of this commission; and the vouchers therefor are on file in this Department. The map referred to in the reports is on file in the Land Office.

As incidentally connected with the subject of the southern boundary of our State, I transmit a copy of a petition of the inhabitants of Tangier Island, asking for the annexation of that island to Maryland.

I trust that the condition of the Maryland Penitentiary will receive due consideration at your hands. The earnings of the Institution do not pay its expenses; and it will be necessary for you to aid it by a suitable appropriation. The reports of the directors and officers, with accompanying statements, are herewith submitted.

In my communication to the General Assembly at its session in January, 1860, I suggested the propriety of punishing crimes of lesser grade by confinement in the penitentiary for a shorter period than the minimum then allowed by law. The experiment has been made, and has not met my expectation. The large number of criminals of this class sentenced to the penitentiary has impoded upon its finances a burthen which they cannot well endure.

When the convict is received at the Institution he is provided with a prison suit. When he is discharged he has to be supplied with another suit, and with two dollars in cash. Having been confined but a short time, he has not earned sufficient to pay the expenses of maintaining him; and the difference has to be defrayed from the funds of the Institution.

It seems to be necessary, therefore, to make some changes in the existing laws on this subject. While it is manifestly cruel and unjust to punish petty offences by long terms of imprisonment, it is certain that the present mode of punishment seriously interferes with the efficiency of the Penitentiary.

Perhaps the ends of justice might be fully attained by punishing this class of offenders by short terms of imprisonment in the jails or almshouses, at hard labor. In this way they might, at the least, under an efficient system, earn sufficient to pay the cost of maintaining them. If not, the expence could be lightly borne by the several counties and the city of Baltimore, and thus the resources of the Penitentiary be relieved from a heavy charge.

I venture to suggest, also, the expediency of reducing the number of Directors of the Penitentiary, and of increasing their pay. I believe such a step will promote the efficiency of the Institution; and I have no hesitation in expressing my conviction that the pay now received by the Directors is not adequate compensation for the duties they are required to perform.

I respectfully suggest the propriety of measures to ascertain the will of the people in regard to the assembling of a Convention to re-form the Constitution of our State. The time for such ascertainment, as fixed by the Constitution itself, has arrived, and the singular condition of our State and National affairs renders it imperatively necessary for us to look to changes in our organic law.

If, in your discretion, you deem it proper to take the step I have indicated, I suggest the propriety and economy of so framing the Act for that purpose that Delegates to the Convention may be voted for at the time when the people shall vote for or against a Convention. Of course, if the vote be against a Convention, the election of Delegates will be void.

Although the matter has been settled judicially, I deem it due to myself to explain the part I have taken in reference to the late contest for the office of Comptroller of the Treasury.

The Legislature of 1860 declared that A. Lingan Jarrett, Esq, was duly elected Comptroller, in consequence of alleged frauds and violence at the election in Baltimore city, in November, 1859.—With the grounds of that decision I had nothing to do; therefore it would have been my duty to cause said decision to be carried into effect, had I not been fully satisfied that, in so doing, I should violate a clear and plain law of the State.

The first section of Article 22, of the Code of Public General Laws, says that "the Comptroller shall file his bond, and qualify by making the declaration and taking the oaths required by the Constitution and laws before the Governor, on or before the second Wednesday of January next ensuing his election; on which said second Wednesday of January the term of his office shall commence."

The decision of the Legislature was arrived at, and Mr. Jarrett presented his bond and offered to take the oath of office, long after the expiration of the period fixed by law for those purposes. As I could not administer the oath of office to him without palpably violating the law, I refused to accede to his request to do so; and took no action in the matter except to endorse upon the bond offered by him my belief that the sureties thereto were sufficient. Thereupon Mr. Jarrett instituted certain legal proceedings in the premises, which were afterwards withdrawn.

Subsequently the incumbent of the office resigned, and I appointed Dr. Dennis Claude to fill the vacancy.

The Legislature, at its special session at Frederick, passed an Act to enable Mr. Jarrett to qualify before one of the Judges of the Court of Appeals. He did so, and demanded possession of the office.—Believing the Legislature had no power to pass such a law, retroactive in effect, I requested Dr. Claude to refuse to give up the office. Mr. Jarrett then opened an office in Annapolis, and was duly recognized by the Treasurer as being the Comptroller.

Believing it to be my duty, I caused legal proceedings to be instituted, to test the right of Mr. Jarrett to proceed in the discharge of the functions of the office which he claimed. The Courts decided that he had the right; and, thereupon, Dr. Claude delivered to him the books, papers, &c., and surrendered the office.

A portion of the indebtedness of the Northern Central Railroad to the State has been paid into the Treasury, and I have caused such legal steps to be taken in the premises as I deemed necessary.

Reliable information received at this Department in regard to mismanagement of the interests of the Maryland and Delaware Railroad Company, makes it my duty to recommend that you at once take such steps as may be necessary to a thorough investigation of the affairs of that company.

It will be but an act of justice to a very large, worthy and industrious class of our citizens, if you adopt some stringent legislation in reference to the preservation of the oyster beds in our waters.

Since our national troubles commenced, large numbers of persons from other States have infringed upon our rights and violated our laws in this regard; thereby rendering the labors of those of our citizens engaged in taking oysters almost valueless, and greatly damaging the oyster beds.

Experience has shown that our laws are not efficient for the protection of this important and valuable interest; and I trust that you will be able to devise some remedy.

I have heretofore suggested the propriety of issuing licenses to catch oysters; the fund to accrue from the sale of such licenses to be applied to building and keeping in service small steam vessels, whose sole duty shall be to guard against violations of the laws in this respect. I still think the plan a good one, and believe that it will entail no expense upon the State.

I transmit herewith an interesting report from the Rev. Ethan Allen in reference to the Records of the Executive Department. Also, a letter from John H. Alexander, Esq, in relation to an index to the first volume of a Calendar of our Domestic State Papers, prepared by him in accordance with an act of the General Assembly.

These matters possess great interest; and I trust that you will consider it proper to take some action in regard to them.

The Sheriffs of Washington, Frederick and Allegany counties have claims against the State for guarding our boundary along the Potomac and on the Pennsylvania line, during the excitement attendant upon the John Brown raid. I recommend that said claims be investigated by you, and that provision be made for their settlement.

The condition of St. John's College demands your attention. That Institution, by a vote of its Board of Trustees, is not now in operation; and it is proper for you to determine whether, under such circumstances, the State's annual donation shall be continued, so long as the College shall remain in its present inefficient condition, or unless the Board shall execute their trust under the grant.

It is my duty, as *ex officio* President of the Board of Trustees, to declare that I by no means approve of the management of the affairs of the College, and that I do not hope for any improvement in them while they remain under the control of the present Board.

The appropriation made by the former General Assembly for furnishing and repairing the Government House has been expended principally for repairs outside the building, which were greatly needed. The vouchers for said expenditures are ready for examination by the proper committee.

No provision has been made for the payment of counsel for the State in the case of Emanuel Myers. I trust the matter will receive your attention.

I herewith transmit copies of the correspondence between this Department and Commissioners from certain of the States now in rebellion against our Government. I transmit, also, copies of resolutions passed by several State Legislatures, and which I have been requested to lay before you.

This is the last communication which I shall have the honor of submitting to the General Assembly. In a short time I shall exchange the cares of office for the quiet of my home. During my incumbency of the position to which, four years ago, I was called by the people of the State, I have found its duties, in very many cases, extraordinary, perplexing and harrassing to an unusual degree; and I shall be able to leave them with no ordinary amount of pleasure. Whatever may have been my shortcomings in their performance, I am persuaded you will believe we when I assert that, in every case, I have endeavored to do that which I thought was right.

For whatever of good the Great Disposer of events has made me the instrument, and for whatever of error the fallibility of my judgment has led me to commit, during my term of office, I am content to await the just verdict of my fellow citizens, when peace and sober counsels, experience and calm reason, shall enable them to approve without partisitie and to condemn without prejudice.

It affords me great satisfaction, in closing this communication, to be able to congratulate the General Assembly, and the people of the State, that, in these perilous times, the duties of this office are shortly to be discharged by one whose discretion, ability, courage and patriotism insure that he will guide the fortunes of the State with safety and honor to her people.

I earnestly pray that Heaven will abundantly help him and you in the fulfilment of the duties allotted to you; and that, through your united efforts, no harm may come to the Commonwealth.

THOS. H. HICKS.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, Jan. 1, 1862.

THE STONE BLOCKADE VIGOROUSLY DENOUNCED.

From the London Examiner, 14th ult.

But supposing reparation to be made for the Trent outrage, and the prisoners to be restored safe from lynch law, which seems too natural a sequence to Wilkes law, will it not be for the Powers of Europe to consider whether the measures the North is taking against the South are consistent with the interests of civilization? Is it to be endured that the Federal Government shall eke out the inefficacy of its blockade by the detestible means described in this malignant passage, respecting the fleet of vessels laden with stone to be sunk to choke up Southern ports?

The main ship channel leading to Savannah is but 250 yards across in the narrowest place, and can be perfectly barred by half a dozen of these vessels. Charleston harbor is equally eligible to the same treatment. Once sunk, these old hulks become points for the accumulation of alluvials which the rivers bear down, and of the sand which the ties carry back. There is a natural tendency in such ports to form obstructions, and all we have to do is, as the physicians say, to "assist nature." Becoming thoroughly imbedded in the sand, these accumulations but advance with time, forming unconquerable obstacles to reopening the harbors, and establishing a blockade which the highest Prerogative diplomacy of the world will be utterly powerless to "raise." It must be confessed there is something wonderfully gratifying in this silent, resistless piece of Rhadamanthean justice. The element of the method is fine, and a *chef d'œuvre* in its way; no vulgar theatrical vengeance, no laying of the city in ashes, as those heated bosquets of Charleston threatened, but a silent blight falling on them as though out of the night—deadly, inevitable—and leaving those peddlers cities in a petrified death in-life, to "point a moral or adorn a tale"—*New York Times.*

Will the civilized Christian world suffer a warfare carried to this fiendish pitch of destructiveness, choking up forever nature's channels of life, intercourse and plenty? A blockade is an injurious interference with the business of nations, but it is temporary, and when the purpose is effected, or abandoned as impracticable, there is a return to the *status quo ante;* but this infernal expedient of the channel choking is resorted to as permanently destructive, depriving a whole region of one of its natural outlets of production, and ruining its cities more effectually than by fire and sword, whose ravages may be repaired; but not those of this hellish device of malice, according to the calculation of its authors. Rivers are the highways of the world, and to destroy one of these means of communication is an injury to all, which should not be permitted to the malice of any Power.

THE RELEASE OF MASON AND SLIDELL.

WHAT THE CANADIANS SAY.

The first shot which we get from the English side, on the surrender of the Southern Ambassadors, is from the Montreal *Gazette.* After some preliminary remarks, it proceeds:—

"But what a bitter, bitter pill it must be for the fire-eaters to cram down their noisy throats! And despite the ingenuity of Mr. Seward it must be a bitter humiliation for the Government. They had, in a solemn manner, and after due deliberation, ratified the act of Capt. Wilkes. Their organs had proclaimed that the heavens should fall rather than allow the traitors to be given up. Now they are to be given up, on demand. That is the short of the bitter issue, let it be disguised as it may.—We do not say that there is not much soundness in the line of argument Mr. Seward has taken up.—We do not say, that it is not commendable for the United States Government, even at this hour, to yield. But every argument which Mr. Seward can urge, every argument which can be urged in defence of the policy of the Government, is a bitter commentary on the almost criminal stupidity of the politicians who have brought the United States to so deplorable a pass. Why did they not think of this before? Why were they so blind as not to foresee that Great Britain would demand restoration and apology? *Under the British system of Responsible Government, any Ministers which had brought such humiliation on their country, would be broken, and ignominiously kicked out of their places."*

From the Providence (R. I.) Post.

"Whether Captain Wilkes acted on his own responsibility, or under instructions of his Government, is wholly immaterial. If on the former, his act should have been promptly disavowed. If under the latter, the Government was *particeps criminis.* In either point of view the offence was no less aggressive and hostile. The Government having recognized and approbated it, is directly answerable for whatever consequences may result from it. If war be the result, it will be difficult for the Administration to escape the odium of provoking it. On the other hand, if such an additional calamity be averted by releasing Messrs. Mason and Slidell from imprisonment, on the demand of Great Britain, the American Cabinet will exhibit an incompetency to conduct the affairs entrusted to it, which cannot fail to humiliate and degrade the high character to which abler counsels had elevated this once precious Republic."

From the Albany Argus.

"Passing aside such trifles as the mere facts, how Mr. Seward precipitates himself upon the argument! *He argues both sides, and ingeniously pauses in the middle to confess that he does not know which he has done best.* He pleads first one side, and then the other, with an adroitness that may be said to quite put poor Lord Lyons to the blush, who never once thought how many sided his claim was, and then puts him to the blush again, by refuting all he has put forward for him. His attitude, as he holds himself in, at the turning point of his ratiocination, is a perfect tableau. If he had gone on much further in his precipitate discourse, he would have established forever the British doctrine of belligerent rights; but he arrests himself, like a trained athletic, and, at the critical moment, saves his country and the cause of international law."

From the Boston Daily Advertiser.

"Even now, so undefined is the palpably sinister purpose of England, that we cannot but feel it to be uncertain whether the issue has been postponed for years, or only for a few months. But we say with a solemn and deliberate conviction, that this nation will deserve to perish when it forgets the arrogant terms on which an adjustment of the question, not essentially critical, has been forced upon it at a moment of distraction and weakness."

The Boston *Courier* add to the above:

We do not say that we indulge quite such a spirit as this; *but in view of all the facts, we go for clearing the decks, hoisting the flag, and preparing for action!*

The injuries received by Hon. Josiah Quincy, of Boston, from a fall, a short time since, are said to be more serious than was first represented. The hip-bone was fractured, which his physicians think will cost him a six months' confinement.

The late Sir Ralph Pendlebury bequeathed the magnificent sum of £100,000 to be held by trustees for the relief of the poor of the borough of Stockport, England.

There are at the present time sixty-seven families belonging to the Confederate States, stopping at one hotel in Montreal, so says a Vermont paper.

MESSAGE OF GOV. HICKS

TO THE

LEGISLATURE OF MARYLAND.

JANUARY SESSION, 1862.

Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Delegates:

The earnest devotion to the best interests of our State, which has been evidenced by you during the recent special session of your Honorable Bodies, renders it almost unnecessary for me to make to you the usual formal communication at the opening of your regular session.

Your prompt assumption of your proportion of the national tax is, of itself, a sufficient guarantee that the other subjects which must engage your attention will speedily be elaborated and put in practicable shape. Necessarily, the intricate nature and numerous and delicate details of those subjects will require considerable time for their consideration and perfection. That they will be thoroughly examined in all their aspects, and that they will not be carelessly acted upon by you, I have abundant evidence from what I know of the labor already bestowed upon them by your committees.

Such care, such patient labor, are indispensable at this time. For the credit and honor of our State, we all sincerely hope that no mistake may be made; but that every act of your Honorable Bodies may be as full and as perfect as possible. To this consummation I earnestly commend you.

The condition of the finances of the State at the close of the fiscal year has, I understand, been fully made known to you by the Comptroller of the Treasury Department.

From the report of that officer to this Department, for the fiscal year ended 30th September, 1860, herewith submitted, it appears that the receipts into the Treasury were one million and forty eight thousand three hundred and thirty nine dollars and sixty-seven cents, ($1,048,339 67); which, added to the balance in the Treasury as of 30th September, 1859, shows the aggregate for the year to have been one million five hundred and sixty-one thousand six hundred and thirty dollars and eighty-three cents, ($1,561,630.83).

The disbursements during the same period amounted to the sum of one million three hundred and six thousand and forty-three dollars and eight cents, ($1,306,013 08); exceeding the revenue which accrued and was received during the same period by the large sum of four hundred and eleven thousand two hundred and thirty-one dollars and eighty-eight cents, ($411,231.88.) This fact owes its existence solely to the reckless and prodigal expenditure of the Legislature of 1860.

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These matters possess great interest; and I trust that you will consider it proper to take some action in regard to them.

The Sheriffs of Washington, Frederick and Allegany counties have claims against the State for guarding our boundary along the Potomac and on the Pennsylvania line, during the excitement attendant upon the John Brown raid. I recommend that said claims be investigated by you, and that provision be made for their settlement.

The condition of St. John's College demands your attention. That Institution, by a vote of its Board of Trustees, is not now in operation; and it is proper for you to determine whether, under such circumstances, the State's annual donation shall be continued, so long as the College shall remain in its present inefficient condition, or unless the Board shall execute their trust under the grant.

It is my duty, as *ex officio* President of the Board of Trustees, to declare that I by no means approve of the management of the affairs of the College, and that I do not hope for any improvement in them while they remain under the control of the present Board.

The appropriation made by the former General Assembly for furnishing and repairing the Government House has been expended principally for repairs outside the building, which were greatly needed. The vouchers for said expenditures are ready for examination by the proper committee.

No provision has been made for the payment of counsel for the State in the case of Emanuel Myers. I trust the matter will receive your attention.

I herewith transmit copies of the correspondence between this Department and Commissioners from certain of the States now in rebellion against our Government. I transmit, also, copies of resolutions passed by several State Legislatures, and which I have been requested to lay before you.

This is the last communication which I shall have the honor of submitting to the General Assembly. In a short time I shall exchange the cares of office for the quiet of my home. During my incumbency of the position to which, four years ago, I was called by the people of the State, I have found its duties, in very many cases, extraordinary, perplexing and harrassing to an unusual degree; and I shall be able to leave them with no ordinary amount of pleasure. Whatever may have been my shortcomings in their performance, I am persuaded you will believe we when I assert that, in every case, I have endeavored to do that which I thought was right.

For whatever of good the Great Disposer of events has made me the instrument, and for whatever of error the fallibility of my judgment has led me to commit, during my term of office, I am content to await the just verdict of my fellow citizens, when peace and sober counsels, experience and calm reason, shall enable them to approve without partisitie and to condemn without prejudice.

It affords me great satisfaction, in closing this communication, to be able to congratulate the General Assembly, and the people of the State, that, in these perilous times, the duties of this office are shortly to be discharged by one whose discretion, ability, courage and patriotism insure that he will guide the fortunes of the State with safety and honor to her people.

I earnestly pray that Heaven will abundantly help him and you in the fulfilment of the duties allotted to you; and that, through your united efforts, no harm may come to the Commonwealth.

THOS. H. HICKS.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, Jan. 1, 1862.

THE STONE BLOCKADE VIGOROUSLY DENOUNCED.

From the London Examiner, 14th ult.

But supposing reparation to be made for the Trent outrage, and the prisoners to be restored safe from lynch law, which seems too natural a sequence to Wilkes law, will it not be for the Powers of Europe to consider whether the measures the North is taking against the South are consistent with the interests of civilization? Is it to be endured that the Federal Government shall eke out the inefficacy of its blockade by the detestible means described in this malignant passage, respecting the fleet of vessels laden with stone to be sunk to choke up Southern ports?

The main ship channel leading to Savannah is but 250 yards across in the narrowest place, and can be perfectly barred by half a dozen of these vessels. Charleston harbor is equally eligible to the same treatment. Once sunk, these old hulks become points for the accumulation of alluvials which the rivers bear down, and of the sand which the ties carry back. There is a natural tendency in such ports to form obstructions, and all we have to do is, as the physicians say, to "assist nature." Becoming thoroughly imbedded in the sand, these accumulations but advance with time, forming unconquerable obstacles to reopening the harbors, and establishing a blockade which the highest Prerogative diplomacy of the world will be utterly powerless to "raise." It must be confessed there is something wonderfully gratifying in this silent, resistless piece of Rhadamanthean justice. The element of the method is fine, and a *chef d'œuvre* in its way; no vulgar theatrical vengeance, no laying of the city in ashes, as those heated bosquets of Charleston threatened, but a silent blight falling on them as though out of the night—deadly, inevitable—and leaving those peddlers cities in a petrified death in-life, to "point a moral or adorn a tale"—*New York Times.*

Will the civilized Christian world suffer a warfare carried to this fiendish pitch of destructiveness, choking up forever nature's channels of life, intercourse and plenty? A blockade is an injurious interference with the business of nations, but it is temporary, and when the purpose is effected, or abandoned as impracticable, there is a return to the *status quo ante;* but this infernal expedient of the channel choking is resorted to as permanently destructive, depriving a whole region of one of its natural outlets of production, and ruining its cities more effectually than by fire and sword, whose ravages may be repaired; but not those of this hellish device of malice, according to the calculation of its authors. Rivers are the highways of the world, and to destroy one of these means of communication is an injury to all, which should not be permitted to the malice of any Power.

THE RELEASE OF MASON AND SLIDELL.

WHAT THE CANADIANS SAY.

The first shot which we get from the English side, on the surrender of the Southern Ambassadors, is from the Montreal *Gazette.* After some preliminary remarks, it proceeds:—

"But what a bitter, bitter pill it must be for the fire-eaters to cram down their noisy throats! And despite the ingenuity of Mr. Seward it must be a bitter humiliation for the Government. They had, in a solemn manner, and after due deliberation, ratified the act of Capt. Wilkes. Their organs had proclaimed that the heavens should fall rather than allow the traitors to be given up. Now they are to be given up, on demand. That is the short of the bitter issue, let it be disguised as it may.—We do not say that there is not much soundness in the line of argument Mr. Seward has taken up.—We do not say, that it is not commendable for the United States Government, even at this hour, to yield. But every argument which Mr. Seward can urge, every argument which can be urged in defence of the policy of the Government, is a bitter commentary on the almost criminal stupidity of the politicians who have brought the United States to so deplorable a pass. Why did they not think of this before? Why were they so blind as not to foresee that Great Britain would demand restoration and apology? *Under the British system of Responsible Government, any Ministers which had brought such humiliation on their country, would be broken, and ignominiously kicked out of their places."*

From the Providence (R. I.) Post.

"Whether Captain Wilkes acted on his own responsibility, or under instructions of his Government, is wholly immaterial. If on the former, his act should have been promptly disavowed. If under the latter, the Government was *particeps criminis.* In either point of view the offence was no less aggressive and hostile. The Government having recognized and approbated it, is directly answerable for whatever consequences may result from it. If war be the result, it will be difficult for the Administration to escape the odium of provoking it. On the other hand, if such an additional calamity be averted by releasing Messrs. Mason and Slidell from imprisonment, on the demand of Great Britain, the American Cabinet will exhibit an incompetency to conduct the affairs entrusted to it, which cannot fail to humiliate and degrade the high character to which abler counsels had elevated this once precious Republic."

From he Albany Argus.

"Passing aside such trifles as the mere facts, how Mr. Seward precipitates himself upon the argument! *He argues both sides, and ingeniously pauses in the middle to confess that he does not know which he has done best.* He pleads first one side, and then the other, with an adroitness that may be said to quite put poor Lord Lyons to the blush, who never once thought how many sided his claim was, and then puts him to the blush again, by refuting all he has put forward for him. His attitude, as he holds himself in, at the turning point of his ratiocination, is a perfect tableau. If he had gone on much further in his precipitate discourse, he would have established forever the British doctrine of belligerent rights; but he arrests himself, like a trained athletic, and, at the critical moment, saves his country and the cause of international law."

From the Boston Daily Advertiser.

"Even now, so undefined is the palpably sinister purpose of England, that we cannot but feel it to be uncertain whether the issue has been postponed for years, or only for a few months. But we say with a solemn and deliberate conviction, that this nation will deserve to perish when it forgets the arrogant terms on which an adjustment of the question, not essentially critical, has been forced upon it at a moment of distraction and weakness."

The Boston *Courier* add to the above:

We do not say that we indulge quite such a spirit as this; *but in view of all the facts, we go for clearing the decks, hoisting the flag, and preparing for action!*

The injuries received by Hon. Josiah Quincy, of Boston, from a fall, a short time since, are said to be more serious than was first represented. The hip-bone was fractured, which his physicians think will cost him a six months' confinement.

The late Sir Ralph Pendlebury bequeathed the magnificent sum of £100,000 to be held by trustees for the relief of the poor of the borough of Stockport, England.

There are at the present time sixty-seven families belonging to the Confederate States, stopping at one hotel in Montreal, so says a Vermont paper.

THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.—FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—Mr. KING, of New York, presented a petition, numerously signed by citizens of that State, in favor of the abolition of slavery throughout the country, with fair remuneration to loyal owners, "as a conciliatory measure," &c.

Mr. FESSENDEN, of Maine, presented a similar petition, and to call upon bond and free to assist in crushing the rebellion.

Mr. LATHAM, of California, presented a petition from the Chamber of Commerce of San Francisco, in favor of a steam line to China and Japan.

Mr GRIMES, of Iowa, presented a petition of numerous citizens of that State for the employment of homeopathic physicians in the army.

Mr. TRUMBULL presented three petitions from citizens of Illinois praying the abolition of slavery.

Mr. HOWE, of Wisconsin, presented several petitions for mail routes on Lake Superior.

Mr. RICE, of Minnesota, presented petitions for the establishment of a national foundry at Rock Island.

Mr. SUMNER, of Massachusetts, submitted a resolution, which was adopted, calling upon the President, if not incompatible with the public service, for all correspondence since the Congress of Paris in 1856, not heretofore communicated, relative to belligerent and neutral rights on the ocean.

Mr. KENNEDY, of Maryland, presented the resolutions of the General Assembly of Maryland indicating disapproval of the evidences manifested in some quarters of a disposition to interfere with the institution of slavery in the prosecution of the war, and declaring the understanding of