THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

PUBLISHED BY

CARTER & NEILSON.

TERMS

Served in the city, and payable only to the carrier, TWELVE AND A HALF CENTS WEEKLY.

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

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TO THE PUBLIC.

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

BALTIMORE:

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4 1862.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

The Spanish troops, forming part of the combined expedition against Mexico, took possession of Vera Cruz on the 17th of December without opposition on the part of the Mexican authorities. The Spanish flag now floats over San Juan de Ulloa, the Governor of Vera Cruz demanding and receiving a respite of twenty-four hours for the purpose of enabling him to evacuate the city. There was great rejoicing at Havana on receipt of the tidings. The principal ships of the French cooperating squadron had reached Havana and the English contingent was expected to arrive there by the 30th of December. The special correspondent of the New York *Express* states that at the public reception which was given to General Prim on his arrival at Havana although the British and French alone were permitted to join the Cubans in doing honor to the Spanish General, two Confederate flags occupied one of the most prominent positions, mingling with the flags of France, England and Spain.

An attempt is made on the part of the Washington *Republican* to induce Congress to authorize the issue of Treasury notes—*not redeemable*—but made a legal tender and receivable for public dues. The *Republican* urges the adoption of this scheme on the ground that the Treasury "is without money to carry on the war," and cannot obtain loans "at any rate of interest which the country either will or ought to pay."

In a recent article from the London *Times* "the stone blockade" is denounced in the strongest possible manner. "People," says the *Times*, "who would do an act like this, would pluck the sun out of the Heavens to put their enemies in darkness or dry up the rivers that no grass may forever grow on the soil where they had been offended." The article concludes by declaring that such an act "ought not to be permitted by the guardians of the civilization of mankind." Washington correspondents of the Northern journals state that the sinking of vessels filled with stone in the channels of Charleston and Savannah will, it is thought, be regarded abroad as an evidence of the inefficiency of the blockade, and be used as a justification for breaking it. Government is, therefore, said to be considering the policy of abolishing by law the ports of entry in the Southern States, as a means of preventing the maritime Powers from questioning the efficiency of the blockade.

Advices from Port Royal, received at New York, state that Commodore Dupont is preparing for a new and imposing naval demonstration upon Charleston and Savannah, in which it is intimated that some ten thousand troops, in addition to Gen. Stevens' Brigade, are to be employed. Charleston papers of a late date, speak of the landing of a large force on Edisto Island, with the apparent design of cutting off the railroad communication between Charleston and Savannah.

Burnside's expedition is still reported as "fitting out," but from all we can learn it is not probable that it will be ready to take its departure from Annapolis in less than a week or ten days.

The refusal of the associated banks to take the last fifty million loan, does not, we are told, disappoint the Government, which expected it and made its calculations accordingly.

Despatches have been received at St. Louis announcing the capture of some fifty Confederates in Adrian county, Missouri, and the dispersal of several of the guerilla bands that have been active of late along the line of the North Missouri Railway.

Yesterday's proceedings of the Maryland Legislature failed to reach us last night.

Congress was not in session yesterday, both Houses having adjourned till Monday.

SAVINGS BANK OF BALTIMORE.—The annual report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Directors of the Savings Bank of Baltimore states, as the result of the examination of the affairs of that institution, that the amount of funds on the 31st of Dec., 1861, was $4,331,573,17. These funds exclusive of the cash on hand, are said by the committee to be invested in loans on real estate and stocks, and are well secured. The full report of the committee, which cannot but be interesting to depositors, will be found in our advertising columns. That the affairs of the Bank have been ably managed, is made perfectly evident by the report of the committee.

THE RELEASE OF MASON AND SLIDELL.

The Dubuque (Iowa) *Herald*, in speaking of the release of Messrs. Mason and Slidell, says:

"On what principle, we would like to know, have these prisoners been surrendered except upon the simple demand of Great Britain, a demand which should never be respected by an American statesman, as we are sure a compliance with it will not be endorsed by the American people.—We suggest that Congress express the sense of the people by passing a joint resolution disapproving of the course of the Secretary of State, in proper terms of reproach of the act and of the indignation which it has evoked in the American mind. Thus might the dishonor to which the country has been subjected be avenged and disgrace obliterated from the National escutcheon."

THE DEPARTURE OF MASON AND SLIDELL.

Some of the New York relatives of Mr. Slidell went to Boston for the purpose of seeing him before his embarkation for Europe. He had an interview with his sister on Tuesday.

The Boston *Journal* of Wednesday evening says:

"The arrangements for their return were very quietly made, and nothing was known in this city in regard to the affair until the hour arrived for their departure. The steam tug-boat Starlight was employed by the Government to convey the prisoners to Provincetown, Cape Cod, where they are to be transferred to the British frigate Rinaldo, which arrived at that port last night. In accordance with the above plan of releasing the Confederates, the tug-boat Starlight left this city shortly before ten o'clock this forenoon and stopped at Fort Warren, where she took on board Mason and Slidell and their two secretaries. After receiving their baggage, etc., the tug proceeded on her way to sea, leaving the fort about eleven o'clock. The whole affair was conducted without any display, in perfect quiet, and in the ordinary manner of conveying passengers."

A QUEER STORY.—The New York correspondent of the Philadelphia *Inquirer* says:

The pilot boat Charles H. Marshall, which came in from sea last night, reports that on Sunday morning, when thirty-five miles east by south from Sandy Hook, an India rubber bag was picked up, containing a large number of city papers of the date of December 27. The papers are supposed to have been lost, or thrown overboard from the steamer Teutonia or City of Washington, which left this port December 28th and 29th for Southampton and Queenstown. As those papers contained the news of the surrender of Mason and Slidell, with the Seward correspondence with Lord Lyons, etc., there are some who suspect that there must be somebody on board the steamer interested in suppressing important intelligence.

There was a tremendous gale at New York on Wednesday night, and nearly a dozen prize vessels in the Atlantic dock were more or less damaged. Several vessels in the bay dragged their anchors and were slightly damaged.

The New Hampshire Republican State Convention has nominated Governor Berry for reelection, and adopted resolutions sustaining the Government in prosecuting the war, endorsing the Administration, etc.

The newly-erected mammoth Methodist Episcopal Church at Boston, was dedicated on Wednesday, the Rev. Thomas Sewell, of Baltimore, assisting in the ceremonies and preaching a sermon on the occasion.

The late commander-in-chief of the American army, Gen. Scott, will not, it is said, visit Washington at present. He is in excellent health, the swelling of his lower limbs having disappeared, and with it the attacks of vertigo with which he was troubled.

The disastrous fire at Antwerp on the 2d ult., destroyed, among other buildings, a large sugar refinery, while eight lives were lost among the firemen and military. The insurance companies suffer to the amount of 3,000,000 francs.

B. L. Haydon and Dr. Abel, now in Fort Lafayette, are to be released on taking the oath of allegiance. They were arrested for smuggling in Lower Maryland.

From the Louisville Journal.

CONFISCATION.

"Absolute arbitrary power over the lives, liberty and property of freemen exists nowhere in a Republic—not even in the largest majority."—Con. Ky., Art. 13, Sec 2.

"The powers of the Government are divided into three distinct departments, and confided to separate bodies of magistracy. It is of the last importance to the purity of our institutions, that this division of powers should be preserved, and this barrier against the encroachment of one department upon another should be properly kept up."—Gaines vs. Buford, 1 Dana 505, decided in 1833. So also has it been held by the Supreme Court and all the State Appellate Courts.

"To enjoin what shall be done or what left undone, and to secure obedience to the injunction by prescribing appropriate penalties, belongs exclusively to legislation. To ascertain a violation of such injunction and inflict the penalty, belongs to the judicial functions."

"So far as the act in question undertakes to divest Gaines of his title and vest it in the State, it is a legislative infliction of the penalty; it is an assumption to that extent of judicial magistracy, without affording the accused the benefit of those forms and guards of trial which are his constitutional right whenever a citizen is sought to be punished either in his person or by forfeiture of his property, for alleged violations of the penal enactions of the State. The right to forfeit is merely an incident of the power to punish guilt. Without the guilt the forfeiture cannot be incurred. The guilt cannot be ascertained by the Legislature, nor otherwise than by a direct criminal procedure of some sort, and a judicial determination thereon."—1 Dana 506, 510.

"*No bill of attainder shall be passed.*" "*No State shall pass any bill of attainder.*"—Constitution United States.

"Bills of attainder are said by Woodeson, in his Lectures, to be acts of the supreme power pronouncing capital sentences where the Legislature assumes judicial magistracy, and bills of pains and penalties those which inflict milder punishments.—But it is believed that bill of attainder is a generic term comprehending both description of acts. Such, at least, is believed to be its true signification, as used in our constitutions. Thus it is said by the Supreme Court in Fletcher vs. Peck, 6 Cranch, 138: "a bill of attainder may affect the life of an individual, or may confiscate his property, or both." So, also, it is said by Judge Tucker in his edition of Blackstone, vol. I, page 291: "Bills of attainder are legislative acts, passed for the especial purpose of attainting particular individuals of treason or felony, or inflicting pains and penalties beyond or contrary to the common law." "That the term should be received in the large sense thus given to it, is consonant with the true republican character of our institutions. A condemnatory act of the Legislature inflicting upon an individual, or class of individuals, pains and penalties is as much within the reason of the prohibition as it inflicted capital punishment. They are both equally hostile to the principles of civil liberty and the spirit of our written constitutions. They are equally engines of tyranny and oppression—equally unsuited to the government of a free people."—1 Dana, 509.

"Bills of attainder have generally designated their victims by name, but they may do it also by classes, or by general description fitting a multitude of persons. Either mode is equally liable to moral and constitutional censure. Nor will these suggestions be answered by the obvious difficulty if not impracticability of enforcing forfeiture by direct criminal proceedings against such a host of unknown delinquents. If the power attempted to be assumed is a wholesome one, and was wisely, equitably executed in this instance, it will be a matter of regret that other and higher considerations induced the framers of the Constitution to withhold from the Legislature the power of giving such wholesale, summary redress. If on the contrary the existence of such power would be noxious to the common weal, and in this instance its exercise was oppressive, unwise, and unjust, then it will be a matter of gratulation that the wisdom of the Constitution has secured the community against such extensive oppression, and that the very extent of the evil intended is a security against its perpetration. But with this we have nothing to do. The validity of the act must be tested without regard to those qualities." 1 Dana, 510—512.

Judge Story, 3 Com. 211, speaking of bills of attainder, says: "The injustice and iniquity of such acts, in general, constitute an irresistible argument against the existence of the power. In a free government it would be intolerable; and in the hands of a reigning faction, it might be and probably would be, abused to the ruin and death of the most virtuous citizens. Bills of this sort have been most usually passed in England in times of rebellion, or of gross subserviency to the crown, or of violent political excitement; periods at which all nations are liable (as well the free as the enslaved) to forget their duties and to trample on the rights and liberties of others. During the American revolution this power was used with the most unsparing hand; and it has been a matter of regret in succeeding times, however much it may have been applauded *flagrante bello*."

This view of justice and policy has received our national corroboration, and the repugnance of enlightened modern legislation to confiscation in punishing crime has been amply illustrated. Congress has never yet so used its power to punish treason, and it is believed that every one of our States has abolished that forfeiture of estate which was the common law incident to attainders for every sort of felony. Vengeance, not policy, must be the ruling motive in any attempt to confiscate the estates of five millions of rebels.

"No person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia when in actual service, in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.

"In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall enjoy the right of a speedy public trial by an impartial jury; to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor; and to have the assistance of counsel for his defence."—Con. U. S.

Without due process of law, or the equivalent phrase, by the law of the land, means, according to Lord Coke, 2 Inst. 50, "no that no man be taken, imprisoned, or put out of his freehold without indictment or presentment of good and lawful men," &c., &c. "Against this ancient and fundamental law of Magna Charta," says he, "I find an act of Parliament made, that justices without any presentment or finding of twelve men, upon a bare information, should have power to hear and determine all offences committed against any statute. By color of which act, shaking this fundamental law, it is not credible what horrible oppressions and exactions, to the undoing of infinite numbers of people, were committed throughout England by Justices Empson and Dudley." Such, also, is the signification given to those phrases by the most eminent American jurists. Sec. 2 Kent's Com. 10; 3 Story's Com. 661, and 1 Tuck P'k 304. The interest is, that no man can be divested of the right or title to his property by mere legislative action, without the co-operation of a regular judicial investigation and condemnation. It being the unanimous concession heretofore of all parties, abolitionists alone excepted, that Congress has no power of emancipation within a State, it would be doubtful whether Congress could in any mode affix emancipation as a penalty for the treason of a slave owner; but even if Congress had such power, when pursued in a legitimate manner, it would still also follow that its sole action, *proprio vigore*, without judicial co-operation, could never emancipate the slaves of rebels or traitors.

"Congress shall have power to declare the punishment of treason, but no attainder of treason shall work corruption of blood or forfeiture, except during the life of the person attainted."—Con. U. S.

Congress having been forbid to pass any bill of attainder, this clause must have exclusive reference to judicial attainder. In that sense it precludes Congress from all power to prescribe a forfeiture, in any mode, beyond the life estate of the offender in any description of property, as a penalty for treason. Consequently Congress can under no view of its power emancipate a slave by way of forfeiture for longer than the life-time of its owner, and so to exercise the power would be obviously unjust, because of the injury that would thereby be inflicted on the ultimate owner.

Judge Story, in commenting on this clause (3 Comm. 172), gives thus the reason for this limitation of the power of forfeiture: "It is surely enough for society to take the life of the offender, as a just punishment for his crime, without taking from children and relatives that property which may be the only means of saving them from poverty and ruin. The history of other countries abundantly proves that one of the strong incentives to prosecute such offences as treason has been the chance of sharing in the plunder of the victims. Rapacity has thus been stimulated to exert itself in the service of the most corrupt tyranny; and tyranny has thus been furnished with new opportunities of indulging its malignity and revenge, of gratifying its envy, and of increasing its means to reward favorites, and secure retainers for the worst deeds."

The restriction of the power of Congress as to extent of forfeiture is confined to attainder for treason, as such is the fair construction of the clause, unless by liberal intendment the kindred offence of sedition be also included. But that intention is also to be inferred from the fact that Congress is not so restricted as to the other crimes it is expressly authorized to punish. The fear of the power being abused by a dominant party for the purpose of persecution did not apply to any crime but that of treason and its cognates.

As all loyal Union men look forward to the day when the present execrable rebellion will be suppressed and the law restored to its supremacy, it is obviously worse than idle to resort to any mode of confiscation or forfeiture which the law, when so restored, will not recognize as legal and valid.

Hence the ridiculous absurdity of General Fremont's attempt to emancipate slaves by virtue of his own authority as a General. So also as to the equally absurd attempt of General Halleck to provide for the wants of suffering Unionists by forced assessments upon the secessionists or suspected secessionists of St. Louis. *It is matter of marvel that any man should have attained a Major General's commission with so small a modicum of intelligence as not to know that his orders for the sale of men's property could have no other effect in a court but that of creating a personal liability upon himself.* A distinguished Chancellor once said that the Court could not steal rich men's shoes to give in charity to the bare-footed poor. This General ought to know that robbing is a greater crime than stealing, and that a General has no more power for robbing than a Chancellor has for stealing. By his usurped authority, he makes out a proscription list of three hundred of the men and women of St. Louis, and tells them plainly that if they dare resist his ordered levy on their property they shall be summarily dealt with by a military commission. What shall be the punishment inflicted by that commission we are not told. The gradation is an easy, perhaps a rapid one, from military confiscation for charity to military murders for vengeance.

Our Generals cannot be too soon undeceived as to any idea they may have that this war, carried on in our own country for the suppression of rebellion, gives them the same power over their fellow-citizens that they might exercise by the law of nations over foreigners, during a foreign war, waged in a foreign country. The power under commissions in this war is certainly limited, at least by that of Congress. What Congress cannot directly grant, they certainly cannot rightfully assume without Congressional orders. The power to suppress the rebellion is given to Congress, not to them.

The confiscation bill pending before our Kentucky Legislature is liable to at least two plainly fatal objections. First, it undertakes to punish treason against the nation, under the futile pretext of punishing treason against the State. For, as said by Judge Story, whatever doubts there may be, whether there can be any such thing as treason against a State whilst it remains part of the Union, there can be no doubt that whatever is treason against the nation, cannot also be treason against a State, or as to the exclusive power in Congress for its punishment. The second objection is, that the bill proposes to effect the contemplated forfeiture by means of informations filed in Court by certain commissioners, which is in direct conflict with a clause of the Kentucky Constitution that says, "no person for any indictable offence shall be proceeded against by information."

All which is respectfully submitted to the consideration of Congress, the President, and the Kentucky Legislature, by their Union-loving fellow-citizen,

S. S. NICHOLAS.

LOUISVILLE, December 26, 1861.

THE STONE BLOCKADE.

From the London Times.

"People who would do an act like this would pluck the sun out of the heavens to put their enemies in darkness, or dry up the rivers that no grass might for ever grow on the soil where they had been offended. Yet such men ask for our sympathies, and there are scattered few among us who are not ashamed to identify themselves with them and their doings."

The *Times* continues:

"Once again, the government of the North, in the agony of its disappointment and its rage, is evidently about to make an attempt to spread massacre through the unprotected dwellings of their estranged brethren. * * * *

"But this design of the North has nothing to do with slavery as a principle. It contemplates the negro only as an instrument of revenge. It means, not the subjection of armed men in fair fight, but horrible deeds committed upon defenceless whites of every age and sex. Here, again, we believe that the success of the scheme will not by any means correspond with the atrocity of the conception. But it is a terrible act for men calling themselves civilized to have even contemplated. * * * *

"All these things are as yet but in their commencement. Some are only threatened; others are only tentatively begun. They promise, however, in their development such scenes of horror as the world has never seen since men fought like wild beasts. Against such methods of war we protest at the outset. Against bloody reprisals, against the wanton destruction of those harbors which the beneficent Creator has given for the enjoyment of all His creatures, against incitations to domestic rapine and murder, we protest in the name of humanity and civilization. There is scope enough given by the laws of war for ruthless deeds; but acts of mere vengeance never yet decided a great war, and ought not to be permitted by the guardians of the civilization of mankind."

A SENSIBLE LETTER.

From the New York Post.

A WOMAN FROM THE OTHER SIDE.

A gentleman whom we know to be a thorough and hearty American, in a private note to us, argues that there are considerations which ought to mitigate the feeling of contempt which the late conduct of England will be apt to generate in this country. As it is one of the first duties of sincere men, in all controversies in which they may be involved, to do justice to the position of their adversaries, we take leave to publish his remarks. If they should have the effect upon the public mind which he evidently desires they should have upon our own, he will, doubtless, pardon us the liberty. He says:

"Now that the Trent question is virtually decided, we can hold it off at arm's length, look at it dispassionately, and try to ascertain what are the right and wrong of the matter.

"The belligerent right of search to ascertain the character and business of a professed neutral vessel is conceded, and the consequent right to order her into port, if there are reasonable grounds for belief that she is acting in behalf of the hostile power. Here the belligerent rights cease, and the neutral vessel is to be libelled and tried according to the law in such cases made and provided; is subject to forfeiture if convicted, or entitled to reparation if acquitted.

"The ground taken by the British now, though not formerly, that the belligerent commander cannot make himself the judge of the guilt or innocence of a neutral vessel, is undoubtedly correct, and must be maintained at every hazard, or otherwise all sixth commanders would at once be erected despots of the sea. That Great Britain once did this thing is no reason for making it a law of nations, but the contrary, as we and all others suffered from her assumptions.

"As regards the real law to be laid down and maintained in cases cognate to that of the Trent, the position assumed by the French Government appears to be the correct one, viz: That a neutral flag, ascertained to be such, shall cover all persons and property under it between neutral ports. Otherwise we, as belligerents, would have the right to station a man-of-war in the English Channel, search every vessel passing between France and Great Britain, and subject them to seizure and confiscation if any person coming under the denomination of contraband of war were found on board with the knowledge of the captain. No one would imagine that a belligerent had any such right, and the whole world would rise in arms against any nation advancing such a doctrine and attempting to put it in force.

"What we could not do between the ports of Great Britain and France, we cannot do between those of Great Britain and Spain; whence it follows that we have been in the wrong in this matter of the Trent, while Great Britain and France are manifestly in the right; and we should cheerfully, and of our own accord, have made the proper apology and surrendered the prisoners without waiting for the British demand. We need not regret the occurrence, however, as it has, or must be assumed to have, definitely fixed the doctrine of immense importance to commerce, that a neutral flag, as between neutral ports, is inviolable.

"Still, this being so, we may justly complain that Great Britain, while holding her flag insulted and her right of asylum violated, which last she has maintained against all nations, chose the harsh rather than the gentle method of treating the matter, got ready her arms, and instead of softly reminding us that we had, in this case, acted directly contrary to the principles we had always maintained, loudly demanded reparation for her wounded honor and the surrender of those we had taken from under her protection, virtually threatening war as the alternative.

"Let us look at this point dispassionately, also.

"What have the British seen on this side of the Atlantic? A nation contending for its existence against the most formidable revolt and conspiracy on record, a rebellion of such extent as to assume the proportions of a revolution and to put forth probable claims to success—one which, from previous manifestations of sympathy on the part of the rightful government and the known sympathy of large numbers in the loyal States, they had cause to expect would shortly carry its point and be recognized as accomplished. They had seen the Northern States awake with a start from what must have appeared the apathy of indifference, and could not believe them in earnest. They saw that slavery was the origin and cause of the rebellion, and yet that government was afraid to lay hands on it.

"Suddenly, at reverses of the Government forces which seemed to betoken the proximate success of the Confederates, extreme measures were adopted, betokening almost a state of desperation on the part of the Federalists. The *habeas corpus* act was suspended, men and women deemed dangerous, imprisoned without public accusation and kept in prison without trial, private correspondence violated, the right of free speech disregarded, the press, to some extent, muzzled, and newspapers suppressed. These things were done by the Federal Government, and the acts of the Government were applauded by the people. Will might the British say:—'Those people are desperate, they throw away all the safeguards which have hitherto been the protection and pride of our race, and think of nothing but the suppression of the rebellion. That is their business, however, and not ours, but when British subjects are brought under the control of such a despotism we must protect them.' Such a case did occur, and the British Government remonstrated, but in such an awkward and unfortunate manner as to fail in their object and subject themselves to ridicule. Then came the Trent affair, and the British might reasonably argue:—'The Americans will not only tolerate the subversion of laws among themselves, but they will disregard international law and violate the rights of neutral nations whenever they come in contact with them. They have done this thing deliberately, and if we object, will refuse all reparation and perhaps insult us still further. We must be prepared, therefore, if we would not expose ourselves to the loss of that respect which makes us what we are, and is our only security against outrage. They are wrong, according to all their previous positions, and mean to force us to submit to that wrong. This civil war has suddenly changed them into a nation of soldiers; they feel aggrieved by our acknowledging the belligerent *status* of their rebels; some of their newspapers demand the settlement of the local question, and that the joint arms of the people be turned against us. Who knows what may happen?—Should this be done, are our colonies safe? We must prepare, and must, moreover, make a parade of our preparations, that the Americans may see that we shall be ready to meet them, and so, perhaps, be deterred from entering upon a course which may embroil the whole civilized world.'

"Shall we undertake to say that the British were wrong in this? I, for one, doubt if we should have been able to see the Trent question clearly, had not Great Britain taken the position which she did. I am stating the British side, and do not think it needful to refer to the reasons we had for the distrust or for irritation against Great Britain which prevail among us—the very causes why we could not have judged the matter with dispassionate impartiality.

"I conclude, then, that we were wrong and the British and French right, in the matter of the Trent, and that the British had better reasons, to themselves, than we have been willing to allow, for assuming the position they did, and that, consequently, we ought not to bear further malice against them on that score."

LOSS OF THE PRUSSIAN CORVETTE AMAZON AND ALL ON BOARD.—Dutch journals state that a vessel of war, which proved to be the Prussian corvette Amazon, was stranded near the Helder, several weeks since, and the probability is that all on board perished, consisting of the Captain (Hermann) and 117 other persons. The Prussian and the English Governments have sent vessels to search the Dutch coast. The Amazon was launched in 1843, and is the second Prussian vessel of war lost within a year.

Paul Murphy, the renowned chess-player, was, according to the latest advices, on the eve of joining the staff of the Confederate General Johnston. Murphy has been studying law at Richmond.

Mr. James E. Calhoun, son of the late John C. Calhoun, of South Carolina, died at San Francisco on the 29th November. He was 33 years old.

From the New York Tribune, Jan. 3.

RECEPTION OF THE HON. MR. ELY.

The fact that the Hon. Mr. Ely would arrive in the city last evening attracted a large number of his personal friends and several officers of the 69th regiment to his quarters at the St. Nicholas Hotel, for the purpose of serenading him and congratulating him upon his liberation from the Confederates. After the usual congratulations had been concluded, and the band performed a lively tune, Mr. Ely said:

FELLOW-CITIZENS: In my forced sojourn in a distant city, I have endeavored, through a prolonged confinement, to so conduct myself that neither my patriotism nor my patience could be called in question, and I am rejoiced that this cordial reception is in approval of my course. I hesitate not to say that with slight exception the treatment shown me by my captors has been all that I could under the circumstances look for; and my release was attended with courtesies which I can never forget. Yet language cannot express to you the eagerness with which, in common with my fellow-prisoners in the Richmond tobacco factory, I watched "the door that looketh toward the North," and gladly caught every sympathetic message from a free press and loyal people. Nor can I describe the joy with which I turned my back upon the rebel capital, and the flag which misguided people would substitute for the glorious Stars and Stripes. The greetings of friends are at all times grateful, but the circumstances under which we meet to-night add to the pleasure with which I receive your congratulations. I am rejoiced to again stand in the chief city of the Empire State, which has done so much to help on the great contest for the Union and the Government. Even in my imprisonment I have been constantly reminded of its noble contributions to the army martialed in defence of the old flag.

My prison hours have been relieved of much of their tedium by the society of brave soldiers from New York. Corcoran, who led the intrepid 69th to noble deeds at Manassas, went with me to Richmond, and there remained for two months or more, until placed in close confinement at Charleston. Wood, of your sister city of Brooklyn, was my companion until ordered to a felon's cell, to be held like Corcoran, subject to the treatment awarded the rebel pirates. To the patient and heroic endurance of these distinguished officers, and that of all the captives from the Empire State, as well as those from other parts of the Union, I bear cheerful testimony. We have a right to glory in the conduct of these gallant men. On the field and in the dungeon they have never failed to manifest a spirit of true and undaunted patriotism, worthy the warmest admiration. Let us remember them in lonely cells, and hope that at the earliest moment consistent with the public interest they may be restored to their homes and friends.

Gentlemen, I am persuaded that the vast army committed to the trusty hands of Gen. McClellan has much to do. If I have learned anything in the South, it is that we fight a people terribly in earnest. The cry of Palatox at Saratoga, "War even to the knife," is still their cry. Firm in the belief that in such is their subjugation they have waxed desperate, and neither life nor treasure will be spared to prevent the advance of our arms. A rebellion so extensive and zealous as that which now reigns throughout the South can only be overcome by the best and strongest efforts of a united North. We must as one man, shoulder to shoulder, heart to heart, forgetful even of party, of prejudice, of all but country, join with the Government in its exertions for the preservation of the Republic. So only may we, by God's good help, restore the national banner whence it has been rudely torn, and by conquest win enduring peace and establish our power to cope with traitors at home as successfully as we have with foes from abroad.

TO METHODISTS.

As a large majority of the members of the Baltimore Conference are likely, from the present condition of affairs, to be denied the privilege of meeting at the time and place designated for the next annual session, the following paper will be presented to the members of the Church for their consideration and approval:

The undersigned, members of the M. E. Church, under the pastoral care of the Baltimore Annual Conference, have learned with deep concern that it is proposed to convene such of the members of said Conference as may be willing to assemble, and that the proposed assembly shall assume the name and authority of the proper Conference. In view of the fact that a large majority of the preachers constituting the Conference cannot possibly attend the meeting, and that many more will not attend from a sense of right and decency, and that any assemblage so got together would consist of a small and partisan minority of the whole Conference body, we earnestly advise against the course proposed. It would not be right. It would not be expedient.

It would not be right. Conference meets to examine the character and decide the relations and position of every member. It is a solemn court of trial. Common justice requires that the high prerogatives of such a court should not be assumed by a few preachers in the absence of the rest.

The Conference holds and uses common funds. It would be morally and legally wrong—it would be politically indecent—for a few to possess themselves of the property of all.

It would be inexpedient. Questions of ecclesiastical policy of vast moment to the Church have been definitely postponed by the members of the Conference to this meeting. All the preachers are formally pledged to action at that time, upon the momentous question which agitated the last session. Independently of other considerations, we earnestly advise against the proposed meeting; because it would revive in the midst of our congregations parties and strife, the consequence of which must be disastrous to the spiritual and temporal interests of our churches, already suffering severely through political dissensions. Others would abandon us and seek peace in other churches. Many would wit draw, and remain without church relations. The evil would be incalculable and irreparable.

No decision upon the great questions of our future relations which might be reached by the self-styled Conference would be accepted by the body of preachers or people. It would only be a subject of contention and cause of evil.

There is no necessity for the meeting. The free interchange of preachers peculiar to our institutions cannot be effected when only a few preachers, and a fragment of our territory are available; but all necessary and desirable changes can be made as well without a meeting of Conference, as with it, and without the least violation of Disciplinary provisions or Methodist usage. Therefore seeing no reason why the meeting should be held, but a great many why it should not, in the fear of God and with the earnest desire to protect ourselves and our brethren from the evils of congregational division and fraternal discord, we protest against the proposed action.

[COMMUNICATED.]

CORN AND FLOUR EXCHANGE.—The members of this institution are, according to the annual custom, presented with a "Regular Ticket" of fifteen men to "manage the affairs (?) for the ensuing year. It is high time that the Rules and Regulations enacted into the by-laws by the early founders" of the association, giving the retiring Board power to appoint a Committee to nominate a new board, whom turn, nominate those who constitutes "a quorum," is abolished.

It is a self-stealing and an onerous one for the Committee of Five to meet and deliberate where head shall be selected and state philosophers, they "go the whole," high and responsible duties for which they are entirely unfitted to the thanks of their constituency.

The recent resolution of the present worthy President is certainly a united compliment, and will do duty as much with a hearty response, but during his absence it would seem just a little unfair in the Association to have given him a libeler not capable of discharging the duties of President in his absence, and moreover, to have selected a man of whose life and habits of drunkenness would have reflected credit upon all concerned.

The poor are and respected gentleman next on the list is still there "the last of the original band, his head bald like the sacred mountain, by so many stepping over him. "Long may he wave!" But his business lies not in the way of reports speeches and statistics. As for the rest of the nominees, some are seldom seen upon the floor, some are even unknown to the subscribers, their interest in the institution evidently being solely to see their names in print, and to move such reflected honor as a Director may confer. We must judge of their fitness by their past. They have, in neglecting to provide for their wants in due season, so far their Bachelor's without regard to popularity, brought upon themselves the mortifying necessity of issuing a circular to the members, begging a contribution "*gratuit*" (?) to pay them out of that trouble which their expenses have incurred, and which their announced increase of the subscription to $15 per annum will not relieve.

So with regard to the management of the floor, and the various duties belonging to the Executive Committee; the rules are seldom violated, and, indeed, quite neglected. Even the absence of a proper regard for cleanliness in the approaches to and through the building is notorious, not withstanding the faithful service of a Janitor, who, like his namesake, holds the keys and keeps watch and ward at the entrance gate.

It is with no purpose of unjustly criticising the management of the past year that these remarks are penned, but they have again permitted their names to be presented for the votes of the members, and it is their right to inquire what claims they have upon them.

Each member is earnestly requested to think and act for themselves, and to select those men best qualified without regard to political creeds to bring the CORN EXCHANGE out of its present difficulties, and restore it to the respectability and prosperity of former years.

P. O.

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

JOHN P. PACA, Secretary.

REGULAR TICKET.

BENJ. M. WARFIELD,
WM. CHENEY,
GEORGE COOKE,
SAMUEL DUDLEY,
J. F. MILLER,
L. J. COX, Jr.,
R. G. MAGILL,
THOMAS CORNER,
GEO. H. KYLE,
FRANCIS WHITE,
THOS. E. MATTHEWS, Jr.,
S. G. MATTHEWS,
JOHN G. HOWES,
S. G. SALES,
JOS. O. FOARD.

OPPOSITION TICKET.

HENRY M. WARFIELD,
JNO. S. WILLIAMS,
JAS. WARDEN,
JOS. B. BRIGGLEY,
SAML. G. MILES,
T. R. MATTHEWS, Jr.,
J. J. TURNER,
THOS. WATTSON,
FREDK. TYSON,
ROBERT GRAFTON,
J. F. MILLER,
GEO. COOKE,
JOSHUA WALKER,
GEO. J. GUESNEY,
THOS. CORNER.

CENTRAL CHURCH,

CORNER SARATOGA AND LIBERTY STS.

This Church will be RE OPENED for Public Worship TOMORROW (Sabbath) MORNING. Services will be conducted by the REV. JOS. T. SMITH, D. D., Pastor elect, commencing at 11 o'clock, A. M., and 7.30 o'clock, P. M.

THE REV. FRANCIS L. HAWKS, D. D., will Lecture in the NEW ASSEMBLY ROOMS, Hanover street, on MONDAY EVENING, at 7½ o'clock. The proceeds of the Lecture are given to a missionary enterprise among the poor of this city. Jal 2t*

AMATEUR CONCERT POSTPONED.

In order to afford additional attractions and give efficiency to the CONCERT for the BENEFIT OF ST. MARY'S ORPHAN ASYLUM, heretofore announced to take place on Thursday, 2d January, 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 December, and on the following Friday, 31, and Monday, 6th January, at half-past seven o'clock. d31-2t*

ANN PRESTON, M. D., will deliver the three remaining LECTURES ON PHISIOLOGY to Ladies of the Course interrupted last spring, on the 7th, 8th and 11th of January, at 11 o'clock in the morning, in the second story Room of the Young Men's Christian Association building on Biddle street, just below Eutaw. Ladies holding tickets are invited to attend. Single tickets 25 cents. d31 eod1*

ECONOMY! ECONOMY!!

A DOLLAR SAVED IS TWO DOLLARS MADE.

This can be done by purchasing Wood already Sawed or Split, at Office of City Steam Fire Wood Mill,

No. 3 NORTH STREET.

JAMES H. JOHNSON

YEDDO TEA—A delightful article, part of the FIRST IMPORTATION FROM JAPAN, just received and for sale by

GREEN & YOE,
80 W. Baltimore street

WILLIAM F. OWENS,

208 *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

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MERRILL, THOMAS & CO.,

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mh25-tf

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o31-tf

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Libraries or small quantities of BOOKS, also OLD COINS purchased by

JOHN P. DES FORGES,
Numismatist.

o17-tf

DR. A. A. BLANDY,

SUCCESSOR TO DR. C. A. HARRIS,

51 NORTH CHARLES STREET

o26-tfr

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JAMES H