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BALTIMORE:
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8 1862.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the Senate the bill to increase the number of cadets at the West Point Academy, was taken up, and after a long discussion was put to vote and lost. Yeas 12, nays 25.

In the House of Representatives nearly the whole session was taken up in the discussion of the surrender of Messrs. Mason and Slidell. Mr. Vallandigham, of Ohio, arraigned the Government for the course which it had pursued, and for what he styled "the abject humiliation" to which it had subjected the nation. He predicted, in spite of this surrender, or because of it, that this country will either be at war with Great Britain in less than three months, or will have to tamely submit to the recognition of the Confederate States, and the breaking of the blockade. Mr. Hutchins, of Ohio, in reply, charged that his colleague had changed his position upon the question of war—that at one time he was opposed to coercion, whilst now he is in favor of a war with England because it might benefit the rebels. He, moreover, accused Mr. Vallandigham of having declared that not a soldier should leave the State of Ohio for the purpose of subjugating the South. Mr. Vallandigham denounced the report as false, and Mr. Hutchins accepted the denial. Mr. Thomas, of Massachusetts, was opposed to the surrender, but would acquiesce. He still believed England to be in the wrong. Mr. Dixon, of New York, thought that if Great Britain desired to go to war with the United States she could soon find pretexts enough.—"Years hence," he said, "nobody will feel any humiliation that may attach itself to this question." He voted on the resolution complimenting Captain Wilkes for his act, because the latter conceived it to be his duty to arrest the rebels, and performed it. Mr. Dixon closed with a reference to the military arm of the service, which he said was only acting as a police force to prevent the escape of negroes from the service of the Rebels. He was in favor of employing the slaves against their former masters. He closed by declaring that before we reached a victory we should be in a condition of bankruptcy, for the Government was to-day flooding the country with an irredeemable paper currency.

In the State Legislature the bill incorporating the City Passenger Railway was made the special order of the day in the Senate for Friday next. After some minor matter were disposed of, the two Houses went into joint committee to count the votes for Governor. When the ballots were counted, the Speaker declared Augustus W. Bradford duly elected Governor of Maryland.

The attack of the Confederates, under Jackson, upon the Federal forces at Hancock, is wholly inexplicable from the accounts that reach us through the Associated Press. The only fact that is clearly understood is, that the Federal regiments which were posted on the Virginia side of the Potomac, for the protection of the working parties engaged in repairing the railroad and reconstructing the bridges, were driven across the river, and the road and bridges again destroyed, so that communication by rail between the station opposite Hancock and Cumberland has been rendered wholly impracticable. For the rest, we are told that Jackson shelled the town of Hancock without doing any damage, notwithstanding, it offers so distinct a mark that it would be impossible not to drop shells in it if the attempt were really made in earnest; and that the Federal troops did not lose a single man. As usual, however, in these encounters, "one Confederate officer was seen to fall, and is believed to have been killed." Whether the loss of this officer induced the Confederates to retire, or they were actuated by other reasons, [illegible] ing to ten regiments, with the exception of a battery and an infantry guard, has been withdrawn from the river, and it is surmised that Jackson has marched to attack the Federal troops at Romney.

The news from Port Royal *via* Fortress Monroe, and as extracted there from Southern papers, indicates that General Stevens, who was announced previously as having driven the enemy from his batteries at Port Royal Ferry, with the intention of holding his position until reinforcements arrived from the North, subsequently concluded to remove his brigade back to Port Royal Island, which he successfully accomplished under cover of a heavy fire from the gunboats. From this statement it would appear that the attempt which has been made to obtain a footing on the mainland of South Carolina has proved a signal failure. The Richmond papers of Monday last state, as a rumor, that a despatch had been received in that city announcing the capture of Romney, after a very slight resistance, by the troops under General Jackson. As Jackson did not retire from before Hancock until Monday evening, the report of his capture of Romney the preceding day must necessarily be unfounded.

A telegram from Cairo states that General Pillow has resigned his command. Fifteen thousand troops are said to have left Columbus last week for Bowling Green. General Seigel has tendered his resignation. He was superseded in his command recently by General Curtis, and it is probably owing to this cause that he has thrown up his commission. As the German volunteers in the army of Missouri were much attached to Siegel, his retirement, it is apprehended, will create considerable dissatisfaction.

The Washington correspondent of the *Courrier des Etats Unis* intimates that the French princes—the Duke of Chartres and the Count of Paris—have resigned their positions on the staff of General McClellan. They were in Boston yesterday and it is conjectured will sail for Europe in the course of a few days.

Correspondence of the Maryland News Sheet.
ST. INIGO'S, MD., January 1.

Mr. Editor:—I send you the following communication in the hope that it may attract the attention of the proper authorities and procure a remedy for the evils complained of.

Who the proper authorities are, nobody here appears to know—the persons referred to acting with a kind of inquisitorial power, and apparently ignoring the existence of Gen. Dix.

On the evening of Christmas Day, two detective policemen (one of whom was named Williams), accompanied by a posse of military, came to the house of Dr. Browne, near this place, at which myself and a few friends were spending the evening, and requested an interview with this gentleman. At the request of Mrs. B., I was present at the interview in the Doctor's sitting-room.

The men were evidently intoxicated, and asked in a very peremptory tone for two servants, who, they said they were informed, were born of a free woman. When they were not satisfied with the explanation that the servants alluded to were bought at public sale several years ago, that the full value was paid for them, and that consequently the title must be good if the buyer was not a fool, I interfered with the simple remark, that I did not think that it was any of their business, but was a matter which could be readily decided by the Court of the county.

To this these persons replied that they had *come to set the courts right*; that they *were the courts*—together with language of personal insult towards myself, and implying that clergymen ought to be as ethereal in their contemplations as to overlook every violation of right and justice in this lower world.

When they found, however, that their bullying was not successful, they became more calm; and after enjoying some of the good things so abundant at this season of the year, they left the place, and on their way to their quarters entered the house of a widow woman, whose only protection was a youth of 13 or 14 years of age. This lady, being afraid of soldiers, fled on their approach. Finding the house unoccupied, they commenced destroying every thing of utility they could see. They broke the windows, forced open the bureau, and threw the contents in the fire, hacked and cut the furniture with their swords, and finally made the place a complete wreck.

These same persons have, on several occasions, visited a house occupied by several respectable females, at the unseasonable hours of 12 or 1 o'clock at night, and have deported themselves in a way disgraceful to men of ordinary humanity. These ladies are, in fact, in perpetual dread of the worst insults. Their pretext on these occasions, was that they were looking for suspected persons.

It is proper to state that the men who perpetrated this outrage on the property of a poor widow, circulated the report next day that we had a negro insurrection down here, and were it not for their valuable services, all our throats might have been cut during the night. The idea is perfectly preposterous. The fact, however, is, that they first entered the negro cabins on the place, and compelled the negroes to give them whiskey, which supplied them with the excitement necessary for their work of destruction. This narrative, the facts of which occurred under my own eyes, is only a sample of what I have heard from other quarters in this county.

The reason that facts like these have not been made public before, and that, in the present instance, it devolves upon me to make this communication, is that men of property are afraid of incurring the displeasure of men whose apparent irresponsibility gives them such power for mischief of every kind. I leave these facts to speak for themselves, only protesting, in the name of God and humanity, against their recurrence, and expressing my conviction that their inevitable tendency is to drive to desperation any man with a spark of manhood in his constitution.

From the censure implied in this letter, I except the Sergeant of the posse, who came with the police, and the whole of the Indiana Cavalry, stationed in this county, whose considerate deportment has won the respect of the community.

JAMES STEPHENSON,
Rector of St. Mary's Parish, St. Mary's County.

Correspondence of the Maryland News Sheet.
THE ENGLISH WAR VESSEL—REMOVED CASES FROM BALTIMORE CITY.

ANNAPOLIS, Jan. 7, 1862.

The English war vessel which arrived here yesterday is still anchored off the harbor. As yet none of her crew or officers have come ashore.

The removed criminal cases and parties to suits have not been brought on to this court for trial. On Monday next those cases will be called peremptorily for trial.

LATEST FROM THE SOUTH.

The Richmond *Dispatch* of Monday, received by yesterday's boat from Old Point, has the following items:

From the South Carolina Coast.

CHARLESTON, January 5.—Reliable intelligence has been received that the Yankee troops have been driven from their position on the mainland, and have sought protection on Port Royal Island, and under the guns of their war-ships.

General Lee, in a despatch to official quarters here, confirms, substantially, the above report.

At Half-mast.

The flags of the Confederate States on the Capitol and Custom House were at half-mast yesterday, in consequence of the death of a member of Congress from Texas.

The Habeas Corpus in Richmond.

George Twells, a political prisoner, who has been in confinement for some time past in the county jail, is to have a hearing before Judge Meredith on the 8th inst., on a *habeas corpus* asked for by the prisoner, and granted by the Judge.

War Rumors.

It was said last night that a despatch had been received here stating that General Jackson, with ten thousand men, had marched into and taken possession of Romney, in Hampshire county, the Yankees making little or no resistance.

A report prevailed in the city last night that the enemy, said to be five thousand, had taken possession of Huntersville, in Pocahontas county. We did not learn the particulars.

Defences of Richmond.

The work of the fortifications on the Manchester side of James river are progressing at a very satisfactory rate, under the capable superintendence of Mr. William A. Mason, who has been appointed one of Captain Hagan's deputies in carrying out the designs of the Government.

So far as we are capable of judging, all of the defensive works on both sides of the river have been, or are being, put with a single eye to the amount of resistance which they may be capable of making to the inroads of the enemy, should he ever at any time hereafter make his appearance in this section of the country.

As the reader is probably aware, companies are now being formed in this city to man the fortifications. When the men are announced as ready, no doubt all the guns which the present force is capable of handling with effect will be immediately placed in position, and the men duly instructed in their use. The subject of manning the batteries from the abortive attempts made by the "Home Artillery" has been treated more lightly than it deserved.

It is an encouraging sign of the times that the people are now willing to consider the matter in the serious light in which it should be regarded.

We hope the enemy may never come this way; we don't believe that he ever will, but should he do so, the value of the batteries to our citizens would be beyond computation.

Gen. Johnston.

Gen. Johnston has issued a circular addressed to the army of the Potomac, exhorting them to contribute to the relief of the sufferers by the Charleston fire. We learn that this address was well received among the troops. The Fourth Alabama regiment alone has raised $1,250. The Alabama Zouaves, Capt. Dyer, contributed $320; and the "North Alabamians," Capt. Scroggs, $250. In the latter corps fifteen negroes gave $45, and in other companies there were contributions by the servants.

A Generous Firm.

Messrs. Wadley, Jones & Co., of Herndon, Burke county, Ga., have tendered to the Mayor of this city 50,000 feet of lumber, suitable for building, in aid of the sufferers by the late conflagration. We hope that the railroads will co-operate in this generous movement by forwarding the lumber at the lowest possible figure. By the advertisement it will be seen that Messrs. Wadley, Jones & Co. have a large amount of lumber for sale at Station No. 9, Georgia Central Railroad.

The Ladies of Havana and the South.

The Savannah *News* notices that among the late arrivals in that city from Cuba, is a large box of beautifully prepared lint, presented, through Capt. Gladding, to the soldiers of the Confederate army, by a number of the Senoritas of Havana. The lint is drawn in threads four or five inches long, from the finest linen fabric; is white as driven snow and soft as down. It is put up in neat little hanks, and made and contributed by a number of the first ladies of Havana, and is sent as a testimonial of their heartfelt devotion to our cause.

The First Regiment S. C. V.

The Suffolk correspondent of the Petersburg *Express* says:—

"The 1st South Carolina regiment will soon go into their winter-quarters, which are now nearly completed. Lieut. Col. Hamilton is in command. There is comparatively little sickness in this regiment. If the authorities could pay off the soldiers in this division of the army now, it would be peculiarly gratifying. Many of them have families, and charges are to be made, and money is needed at this season. All furloughs are cut off, and no pay has been received in a long time, and I fear many of the families of the soldiers will experience pinching want."

Army of the Potomac.

Correspondence of the Richmond Examiner.

MANASSAS, Dec. 27.—To-day our whole army is engaged in building log houses for winter-quarters, or in moving to sites already selected. Several brigades will remain where they now are, near the fortifications in Centreville, and the remainder will fall back a mile or two upon Bull Run. General Kirby Smith's brigade is at "Camp Wigfall," to the right of the Orange and Alexandria road, near the Run. Near by the whole of Van Dorn's division are making themselves comfortable in their little cottages, which rise rapidly day by day under the diligent hands of the soldiers. A few brigades are scattered down toward the Occoquan, where wood and water are plenty, the farthest being by Davis' Ford. The artillery, with the exception of Walton's battalion, has already been located between Cub Run and Stone Bridge. The cavalry has fallen back a little, and they are now building stables and houses near Centreville.

Gen. Stuart will remain in the advance. It is probable that Gen. Johnston will occupy the Lewis House, on the battle-field, and Gen. Beauregard Wier's, his old head-quarters, before the 18th and 21st. Longstreet's division will, if I am correctly informed, occupy the advanced position, and will remain where it is at present. The artillerists, detailed to man the guns in the batteries, will also remain by the fortifications. In case of an attack by the Yankees, it will take about two hours to get the main strength of the army across to Bull Run. Information of an approach would be given at least two hours before an enemy could come up. That is about the situation of affairs for the winter, and it remains to be seen whether our men are to have an opportunity of a brush with the Yankees, or whether they will be allowed to enjoy their new houses in quietness. When I say all are ready for an attack, I express but feebly the feeling which prevails throughout the army.

Suicide of General Cocke.

The following obituary notice appears in a Richmond paper:

"Suddenly, on the night of the 26th of December, General Philip St. George Cocke, in the fifty-third year of his age. Exemplary in all the relations of life, as son, father, husband, master, friend and neighbor, General Cocke used and improved the great wealth for the good of his country, the advancement of religion, and the benefit of his fellow man. With him the poor and suffering ever found sympathy and aid; the Christian minister encouragement and support. On his large estates, both in Virginia and the South, he had made ample provision for the religious instruction of his numerous slaves, by erecting chapels and providing competent Christian teachers. Devoutly Southern in all his principles and feelings, he was one of the first to volunteer his services in the cause of his country, and as a Captain, Colonel and General, to devote all his energies and abilities to her defence. His countrymen will never forget his arduous and successful labors in preparing the Department of the Potomac to repel invasion; and fearlessly and faithfully, as commander of the Fifth Brigade, did he meet the foe on the famous field of Manassas. Returning home after an eight months' campaign, with a mind and body shattered by unremitted attention to his duties, the last sad act of his life was the act of a man whose reason had given way under excess of labor and patriot anxiety.—Peace to his ashes, and may the God of Heaven comfort his bereaved widow and family in their deep distress."

HOW JOHN BROWN SAVED THE CAPITAL.—The Washington correspondent of the Boston *Journal* tells the following singular story of the way in which John Brown's lawless raid into Virginia became the remote cause of the salvation of the Federal capital:

"When the marines dashed up to the door of the engine-house, where Virginia Chivalry quailed, they seized not only John Brown but a quantity of powder within the building, which he had brought from Pennsylvania. After Brown and his party were secured, the powder was placed in one of the brick buildings, where it remained till April last. When the United States troops found that the Virginia forces were preparing to make a descent upon the Ferry for the purpose of capturing the arms, they looked about for ammunition. They did not dare to visit the magazine, for there were sharp eyes which watched every movement, and an attempt to take powder from there would precipitate an attack. Then it was that John Brown's powder was invaluable. It was in small packages, and where it could be taken and distributed unbeknown to any outsiders. It was placed in the different buildings, the trains were laid, and just as the Virginians thought the prize was theirs, they found that the flames were ahead of them. It was designed that the several thousand stand of arms there stored should be distributed in Baltimore, where, as you know, the outbreak immediately occurred, and that thence a descent would be made upon Washington. So John Brown's powder saved the Capital. All of this will appear, I am informed, with satisfactory evidence, in the report of the committee appointed to investigate the Harper's Ferry affair.

"John Brown's body lies mouldering in the grave,
But his soul is marching on."

EUROPE.

The New York and Philadelphia papers of yesterday contain the following more extended summary of the English news by the Bohemian, at Halifax, than was furnished the Baltimore press on Monday:

The dates per the Bohemian are four days later than those already received.

The steamship City of Baltimore, from New York, arrived at Liverpool on the 26th ult.

The steamship North American, from Portland, arrived at Liverpool on the 25th ult.

The steamship City of Manchester, from New York, arrived at Liverpool on the 24th ult.

The Bohemian reports, on 2d January, in lat. 48 deg. 10 min. N., long. 48 deg. 30 min. W., exchanged colors with the American bark Petrea, bound west. January 3d, at 4 A. M., in lat. 46 deg. 10 min. N., long. 51 deg. W., exchanged night signals with a steamer, supposed to be the Jura, bound east.

LONDON, December 26.—Great excitement is exciting here in regard to the death of the late King. His body is to be disinterred and analyzed. The public are greatly stirred up in regard to the matter, and troops are patrolling the streets to preserve order.

LONDONDERRY, December 27.—Advices from Canton, China, of the 25th of November, say that Mr. Burlingame, the American Minister, had been well received there, and that he subsequently left for Shanghai, *en route* to the capital.

A few foreigners had been invited to visit Pekin.

The rebels were near Ningpo, and the inhabitants were fleeing to Shanghai, where the alarm had subsided.

Hong Kong was reported to be invested by the rebels. It was also reported that the "braves" there had attacked the foreigners in the streets and houses, and that placards were posted up threatening the extirpation of the Europeans.

News from Japan is received, but it is unimportant.

The advices from America are unfavorably construed in London, and the funds are drooping in consequence.

In Liverpool peaceful hopes preponderate and cotton is rising.

A number of gunboats have been ordered to the Mersey.

It is reported that the frigate Algiers has been stationed off the straits of Gibraltar, to prevent the passage of privateers.

The frigates Lilley and Melpomene were to leave Gibraltar on the 21st for America.

It is reported in Paris that the Orleans Princes are to return to Europe forthwith.

The English papers are discussing the Trent affair in a hopeful view, believing that the Confederate Commissioners will be given up by the Cabinet at Washington, and a war be thus averted.

Pending the receipt of news from America in response to the English advices of the Europa, there is much speculation as to what decision the United States Government will arrive at. The result is being quietly awaited. The prevailing opinion, however, is in favor of peace.

War risks at Lloyds' have a downward tendency.

The English papers calculate on the despatch of the French Government reaching Wasnington before Mr. Seward sends his reply to Lord Lyons, in regard to the demand of the British Government. The papers express the hope that the French despatch will reach Washington in time to influence the reply of Mr. Seward.

The Paris *Presse* says that the new Southern Commissioners have arrived at some German port, and are now en route to Paris and London.

The London *Times* has a criticism on Secretary Chase's financial report, and expatiates at some length on the extraordinary extension of the borrowing system, declaring that it exceeds anything in England's history.

France is about to send reinforcements to the squadron off Mexico, and also to the squadron off the Northwestern coast of America.

It is also rumored in Paris that a squadron of observation is to be sent to the eastern coast of America, under Admiral Renaud.

The Paris Bourse closed flat yesterday at 67f. 25c. for the Rentes.

The Madrid *Correspondence* says that Spain is to send from six to seven thousand men to Mexico, and that the Spanish squadron will sail in three divisions.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—The sales of three days amount to 31,000 bales, including 6,500 bales to speculators, and 1,000 to exporters. The market is buoyant, with an advance of ¼d. The sales on Friday were 15,000 bales, including 5,000 to speculators and exporters—the market closing with an advancing tendency at the following quotations:

	Fair.	Middling.
Orleans	12¾d.	11¾d.
Mobile	12¾d.	11¾d.
Uplands	12¾d.	11¾d.

The stock of cotton in port at Liverpool is estimated at 558,000 bales, of which 210,000 are of American descriptions.

LIVERPOOL BREADSTUFFS MARKET.—The Breadstuffs market is generally quiet, with a declining tendency.

LIVERPOOL PROVISION MARKET.—The Provision market is firm and steady.

LONDON MONEY MARKET.—Consols closed on Thursday at 90⅞@91⅞ for money, but declined on Friday to 90⅝@90⅞—under American advices.

The weekly return of the Bank of England shows an increase in bullion of £145,000.

American Stocks are quiet and steady. The latest sales were: Illinois Central shares 40½@41½ per cent. discount, Erie Railroad 24½@25¾.

ANOTHER APPEAL OF MR. COBDEN IN FAVOR OF ARBITRATION.

The following letter has been received by Mr. [illegible] to attend a forthcoming meeting at Brighton, for the purpose of advocating arbitration in the existing dispute with America:

MIDHURST, Monday, Dec. 16, 1861.

MY DEAR SIR: I regret that I cannot accept your invitation to be present at the meeting to be held next Monday condemnatory of a war with America. When asked to address public meetings, my plight, just now, is that of a man who, having sprained his ankle, is invited to enter the lists for a foot-race. Though the state of my health in other respects is good enough, I am prevented by a local affection, for the present, from public speaking.

But I am glad to hear that the workingmen of Brighton are promoting a meeting on the American question. The object of all rational men and true patriots at this moment should be to enforce upon the Government that principle of mediation or arbitration which was proposed by the British Plenipotentiary, and sanctioned by the Congress of the Great Powers at Paris, in 1856. The protocols of the Conferences then held, which were laid before Parliament at the time, but to which few persons have now access, disclose to us the excellent motives alleged by Lord Clarendon for proposing this "happy innovation," which he designed as a barrier against conflicts which frequently only break forth because it is not always possible to enter into explanation and to come to an understanding."

The question thus enforced in the name of the British Government was solemnly debated, every Plenipotentiary taking a part, and was adjourned for two days to enable Count Orloff to obtain the "definitive adherence" of the Russian Government, when the following declaration was unanimously agreed to:

"The Plenipotentiaries do not hesitate to express, in the name of their Governments, the wish that States between which any serious misunderstanding may arise should, before appealing to arms, have recourse, as far as circumstances might allow, to the good offices of a friendly Power."

Now, is it possible that any case will ever arise to which this principle of mediation can be more applicable than the present? In perfect ignorance of what the answer of the American Government may be, I will assume the worst—that they refuse to surrender the captured envoys, and offer to justify their course by appeals to international law. What can be more within the scope of the Paris resolution than that, where two interested parties differ on a subtle point of international law, it should be referred to the decision of a disinterested third Power?

Looking at it even with a view to a practical redress of our present grievance, what other course offers so good a hope of success? The object desired is to place at liberty the gentlemen who were taken from a British vessel. I happen to know Messrs. Slidell and Mason personally, and to the latter I am indebted for many courtesies at Washington; and although, as they must know, I can have no sympathy for their cause, few persons would more rejoice than myself to see them released from an irksome confinement. But assuming that to effect this object we declare war against the Federal States, and that these gentlemen are in consequence transferred from Boston harbor to the interior, does any one acquainted with America believe that it would be possible for England to release them? We could destroy each other's commerce and spend countless treasure—we might pour out blood like water, and ruin, for a generation, two great civilizations; but the object aimed at could not be accomplished.

On the contrary, if we submit the question to the adjudication of a third Power, the first step will be to place the two envoys at the disposal of the recognized tribunal. Should it be decided that they were illegally captured, they will be released; if their seizure be pronounced justifiable by international law, they will be liable to detention as prisoners of war only, and not as rebels, for the Government of Washington can have no right of appeal to the law of nations in justification of their act except by acknowledging the belligerent rights of the South.

But it has been said that the Washington Government wish to insult us, with a view to provoke a war. There may be traitors or madmen in the North who would like to see their Government involved in the embarrassment of a war with England; but that a Government and people who require at the moment half a million of men in arms to meet a civil war and guard their capital, should look with anything but dismay at the prospect of a war with the most powerful maritime State in the world, is too monstrous a supposition to be seriously believed by those who pretend to entertain it.

At all events, the true test of the disposition of the American people will be the expressed willingness on our part to resort, if necessary, to the mediation of a third party. Should such a conciliatory step meet with no better response than a desire to insult and wrong us, we should be united as one man to repel the outrage; and, unless the solemn declaration of Paris is to be impotent for all practical good, and a mere dead letter, all the Powers of Europe would in such a case be ranged on our side, and ready to brand with outlawry a nation guilty of so barbarous and wanton an aggression.

Entertaining these views, I recommend the workingmen of Brighton, and all who take part in similar demonstrations, to raise their voice in favor of arbitration. The cry for peace alone is hardly enough at the present moment. What we require is peace on the principles of impartial justice; and the truest way of insuring this in case of dispute, whether in the case of nations or of individuals, is by calling in the service of a disinterested arbitrator.

I remain, very truly yours,
Henry Catt, Esq. R. COBDEN.

COMMENTS ON MR. COBDEN'S LETTER—ARBITRATION ABSURD.

From the London Times.

It is impossible not to see that the course advocated by Mr. Cobden would by no means tend to the preservation of peace either in the present instance or in the future; not in the present instance, because the Americans would find the temptation to protract negotiations to an endless extent irresistible so long as negotiation would insure their possession of the captured envoys. The only result would be that, after much time wasted, we should have to make the peremptory demand which we make now, and all our forbearance would not avoid this inevitable issue. As for the future, it is quite clear that such a precedent would tend to arm strong States against the weak, and to substitute a violent seizure in every case for a pacific demand. We are not, as Mr. Cobden says, two interested parties differing on a subtle point of International law. We are two nations, one of whom has offered to the other an unprovoked act of violence.

Were we to refer the seizure of the passengers of the Trent to the decision of international law, we should be referring to a code which, with reference to the Southern States, the American Government has not yet recognized. Our conduct would be doubly base—first, in tamely submitting to an insult, and then inventing for its perpetrators excuses which they do not put forward for themselves. This we will not do. We can say, with Henry IV., "Send us your prisoners, or you will hear of it;" and we can say that, after the prisoners have been restored, we are willing to enter into any discussion as to the merits of the act which may be thought desirable. We insist upon knowing clearly whether we are in the reign of war or peace. If the seizure of the prisoners was the act of the American Government originally, or if it be adopted by them now, it is an act of war, and as such, to be encountered by war. If they disown it, they must prove their sincerity by repairing it. It is impossible to negotiate in the former case. The latter has not arisen. There is, therefore, no room for arbitration.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.
(Regular Session.)

FIRST BRANCH—The Branch met at five o'clock. On motion of Mr. DURR, Mr. Crowley was made temporary President.

Mr. YOUNG presented a claim from William Rose, for rent of house occupied by Col. Kane. Referred.

Mr. MULES presented an ordinance repealing the ordinance passed on the 20th of April, 1861, appropriating $500,000 for the defence of the city. Referred.

Mr. SULLIVAN offered a resolution inquiring of the Mayor as to the manner in which the money appropriated for the defence of the city has been spent. Adopted.

Mr. MULES offered a resolution directing the City Comptroller to purchase a national flag to be displayed from the top of the old City Hall. Adopted.

A communication was received from the Register covering a communication from the Northwestern Virginia Railroad Company, relative to the payment of the coupons of that company guaranteed by the city. Referred.

Mr. DURR offered a resolution directing the Clerk to inform the Second Branch that the First Branch is organized, and proposing, with their concurrence, the appointment of a Joint Committee to wait upon the Mayor to scout if he has any communication to make to the Council. Carried.

The PRESIDENT appointed Messrs. Durr, Mules and Young, the committee on the part of the First Branch.

A message was received from the Second Branch concurring in the resolution appointing a committee to wait upon the Mayor, and naming Messrs. Dean, Alricks and Robb, on the part of that Branch.

Messrs. BURKE and BARNON, who had not qualified on Monday, asked permission to record their votes in the affirmative, on the passage of the ordinance repealing what is known as the "Flag ordinance." Granted.

The committee appointed to wait on the Mayor reported that they had performed the duty, and his Honor would send a communication to the Council at the hands of his Secretary.

Mr. MULES moved that the Branch proceed to select a permanent President *pro tem*. Carried.

Messrs. Crowley, Dukehart, Streeter and Norris were placed in nomination.

On the first ballot there was no election; the second resulted in the election of Mr. Crowley, who on taking the chair made a brief and appropriate address.

A message was received from his Honor the Mayor, stating that at his earliest convenience he will submit to the Council a message on the condition of municipal affairs. Read and laid on the table. Adjourned.

SECOND BRANCH.—Branch met, Chas J. Baker, Esq., President, in the chair, and all the members present.

The Clerk of the Branch presented each of the members a ticket of admission to the annual course of lectures before the Maryland Institute; and on motion of Mr. Robb the thanks of the Branch were voted to Col. S. S. Mills, Chairman of the Committee on Lectures.

A message was received from the First Branch proposing the appointment of a joint select committee to wait on the Acting Mayor and inform him that the Council is ready to receive any communication from him. The proposition was concurred in and Messrs. Dean, Alricks, and Robb, were appointed the committee on the part of this Branch.

A message was also received from the First Branch announcing the appointment of the usual joint standing and select committees.

A message was received from the First Branch concerning a message from Acting Mayor Chapman, which was read.

The Branch then adjourned till this afternoon at 5 o'clock.

MR. THOMAS COLLEY GRATTAN, FORMERLY BRITISH CONSUL AT BOSTON, ON AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

From the New York Times.

According to Mr. Grattan, the South is to be recognized, whatever may come of the present imbroglio about the Confederate commissioners. The tide of public opinion, he tells us, is rising fast throughout England toward the recognition of the Confederate States. Government must feel the swell, and are also doubtless trimming the vessel of the State to spread all sail in that direction—The French Emperor, he asserts, is anxious for the recognition of the South, but wishes England to take the initiative; while these two great Powers are hesitating, Spain may snatch from them the merit of the act.

"Spain," says Mr. Grattan, "is one in that trinity of nations whose fleets and armies are on the sea for the nominal purpose of chastising miserable Mexico for numerous offences against them.—Their wrath for that wretched land may be allowed to cool; it will suffer nothing by delay, and the joint armament can easily be turned toward the coast of the beleaguered Confederate States.—What is to prevent Spain, on her own account—with the strongly suspected fact that the outrage on the Trent was perpetrated in Spanish waters, and remembering how promptly the American Government acknowledged the independence of Mexico and seized on Texas for itself—from now retaliating by the recognition of those twelve Confederate States, with the tacit consent of her two great Allies? Who doubts that the large force now steaming through the Gulf had a possible ulterior destination, or that its commanders were not, at any rate, forewarned of such a contingency?"

Good reasons are given by Mr. Grattan, from his own point of view, for the recognition of the South by England. There is no hope, he believes, of the North abolishing slavery; whilst the external slave-trade would cease with the separation of the South, because it is carried on by Northern ships. On the other hand, the disruption would deprive the North of "much of its aggressive ability, and incline a greater degree of circumspection in its intercourse with European nations, and more especially with England. Its chief elements of strength—the handling of Southern cotton and tobacco, and forced sales to the Southern States, of its manufactures, and forced shipments of its cotton, coastwise, in Northern vessels—will all be taken from it, and these great elements of profit offered as prizes to the commercial enterprise of the world. The South, as an independent nation, will form an effectual counterpoise to the North. It will be its interest to keep in check the domineering influence of the North; and in no way can this be so well effected as by curtailing its manufacturing and navigating interests. Should the civil war be protracted until the South may become exhausted, and the result be a forced reconstruction of the Union, it must be clear that the Government would then become much stronger, more centralized, more vigorous, than that of the original Union. It would be wielded, in effect, by the Northern Majority, and, of course, its policy will be to foster Northern manufactures and shipping; and thus a new Union would be far more dangerous to the peace of the world than even the old one, for who can believe that a disbandment of the immense armies existing, and to be speedily augmented, would take place without a blow being first struck against Canada?"

From the New York Tribune, Jan. 7.
PRIZE-FIGHT IN NEW JERSEY.

ELLIOTT AND WINKLE FIGHT SEVENTY-FOUR ROUNDS IN TWO HOURS AND TWELVE MINUTES.

The prize-fight between young Elliott and Winkle, which was broken up by the police on Thursday of last week, came off yesterday morning in New Jersey, on the spot originally selected. The parties have both appeared in the prize-ring before, and have both been defeated. Winkle once fought Dan Kerrigan, and was by that worthy knocked out of time by a single blow, which, catching him on the point of the chain, so confused his ideas, that he was not able or desirous to respond when the half-minute was up—in short, he took no note of "time."

Elliott, on a certain disastrous morning, met "Little Billy Clark," and was by that hard-fisted young gentleman defeated, after a sharp contest. So the two whipped men resolved to fight each other, that from one of them might be removed the stain of being *always* conquered; but fortune was against them even in this mild and modest request, for their fight was merely a draw, so that neither of them is any more a conqueror than before.

The interference of the police last week had merely the usual effect of postponing, not preventing, the match. About 150 persons were present yesterday morning at the appointed spot, near Weehawken, and there were many delays before the men could agree on referee, umpires, etc. A good ring was made, and at last, at 9:15 A. M., the combatants entered the ring. Both were in very good condition, having been in active training for some time past. Elliott was seconded by John Woods and William Clarke, while Johnny Roach and Kit Burns officiated for Winkle. Johnny Morgan was umpire for Winkle, Con Foley was umpire for Elliott, and the referee was a man named Waters.

The men fought two hours and ten minutes, and so light was the hitting that neither man had a bad black eye, and in fact the affair was more like a sparring match than a fight. For 74 rounds they stood up, but neither their own love of "the manly sport," nor the jeers of their friends, could persuade them to much severe fighting. Elliott was declared to have drawn first blood, and first knock down. Winkle kept going down, and Elliott kept striking him when he was down, so that for seven consecutive rounds Winkle's friends claimed "foul" on account of their man being unfairly hit. The referee said "fight on," however, and at last it was declared to be a drawn battle.

It wasn't much of a fight after all, and had the police been present, they would hardly have been justified in interfering, for the blows were so light, and the demeanor of both men so timid, that no man could conscientiously depose that the peace was being broken.

EXTRACT OF LETTER FROM M. THOUVENEL TO MR. DAYTON.

The following extract contains the pith of the reply of the French Government to the proposition of Mr. Seward, on the part of the United States, to abolish privateering:

PARIS, September 9th, 1861.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

If the United States, before the actual crisis, had adhered to the declaration of the Congress of Paris, as this adhesion would have bound the whole Confederation from that moment, the Cabinet of Washington might, at the present time, have availed itself of it to contest the right of the Southern States to arm privateers. Now, if this supposition be correct, (*fondée,*) one could not be astonished that the Government of Mr. President Lincoln, according to the principles which it has set forth in its manner of viewing the present conflict, should wish to consider the contemplated convention as much obligatory upon seceded States, in the present circumstances, as if it had preceded the hostilities. But if this opinion be quite explicable on the part of the Cabinet of Washington in the situation in which events have placed it, it could not be thus with governments which have proposed to themselves to preserve the strictest neutrality in a struggle the gravity of which it has no longer been possible for them to disregard. In accepting, then, a proposition presented (*formulée*) by the Federal Government, when the war had already unhappily broken out between the Northern and Southern States of the Union, it was natural that the Government of the Emperor, having decided not to turn itself aside from the attitude of reserve which it had imposed upon itself, should consider beforehand what extension the Cabinet of Washington might be induced, on account of its position, to give to an arrangement by which it declared that the United States renounced privateering. The hostilities in which the Federal Government is actually engaged, offering to it the opportunity of putting immediately into practice the abandonment of this mode of warfare; and its intention, officially announced, being to treat the privateers of the South as pirates, it was manifestly of importance to caution the Cabinet of Washington against the conviction, where it might exist, that the contemplated treaty obliged us thus to consider the privateers of the South as pirates. I will not dwell upon the matter (*n'insisterai pas*) in order to show how much we would deviate from the neutrality we have declared ourselves desirous of observing towards the two factions of the Union, if, after having announced that they would constitute for us two ordinary belligerents, we should contest their primitive rights of a belligerent to one of them, because the other should consent voluntarily to the abandonment of it in a treaty concluded with us. There is no need to point out, further, how we would forcibly break through our neutrality as soon as we should be constrained, in virtue of the contemplated convention, to treat as pirates the privateers which the South will persist in arming.

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