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BALTIMORE.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1862.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the Senate the House bill providing for the construction of twenty iron-clad gunboats, was reported back from the Committee on Naval Affairs, with an amendment, which proposed that the expenditure should be made by the President, instead of the Secretary of the Navy. Mr. Hale, as chairman of the Committee, stated that the object of the amendment was to censure the Secretary of the Navy, because of his previous course in the purchase of ships, through his brother-in-law, Mr. Morgan, of New York, by which the latter had pocketed, in a very short time, ninety-five thousand dollars, in commissions. Mr. Foster thought the object would not be attained by the amendment, as the President would still charge the Secretary with the disbursements. Mr. Morrill thought it was the duty to deal with such cases directly, and not with side thrusts. Mr. Powell took the same ground, and censured the President for retaining a Cabinet officer, against whom such charges were brought. The discussion was then abruptly closed by the Vice President announcing that it was time to proceed to the order of the day, which was on the report from the Judiciary Committee on the contested seat of Mr. Lane, of Kansas. The discussion of the report occupied the remainder of the session.

☞ In the House of Representatives a resolution was adopted authorizing the Judiciary Committee to send for persons and examine witnesses as to the telegraphic censorship of the press; and to compel the production of papers and despatches sent or proposed to be sent. A resolution was also passed calling upon the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish the sum total of the floating debt of the United States, and the heads under which the said debt may be arranged. Instructions were given to the Committee of Ways and Means to consider at their earliest convenience the expediency of reporting a bill for raising one hundred millions of dollars by taxation.

The inauguration of Governor Bradford took place yesterday in the Senate Chamber, and in the presence of both Houses of the Legislature. Governor Bradford delivered the customary Inaugural address, which will be found elsewhere, and at the conclusion of the ceremonies the Senate adjourned.

In the House of Delegates a resolution of thanks, profusely sprinkled with adjectives, was adopted in honor of the distinguished services of the retiring Governor, Thomas Holliday Hicks.

In Western Virginia a detachment of Federal troops under Captain Lacy, marched into Tucker county, dispersed some five hundred Confederates, killing and wounding several of them, and taking three prisoners. A large amount of stores are also said to have been destroyed. On the other hand the Wheeling papers state that a party of Confederates entered the town of Suttonsville, drove out the Federal forces stationed there, destroyed all the government property and set fire to the town.

It is now definitively ascertained that the French princes have resigned their positions in General McClellan's staff, and are making preparations to return to Europe. The reason for this step is alleged to be the apprehension entertained by the Prince de Joinville that the United States are about to be embroiled with foreign powers.

After General Jackson retired from before Hancock it is believed that he formed a junction with the Confederate brigades under Anderson and Loring, and with this combined force marched to attack General Kelley at Romney. That some such movement was contemplated is evident from the fact that the Richmond papers had announced the capture of Romney, though the report was certainly premature.

There is a growing disposition in Congress to exercise a rigid supervision over the army and the various military chiefs. It is moreover becoming apparent that General McClellan, by reason of his persistence in a policy of "masterly inactivity," is losing favor with many of those who formerly professed to be among his most ardent admirers. Mr. Conkling, a day or two ago, in the House of Representatives, in his severe strictures upon the disgraceful generalship displayed at the battle of Ball's Bluff, denied the right of the military authorities to withhold any facts in regard to the cause of that awful disaster, and was sustained by the House in his resolution calling upon General McClellan to furnish the information required. The New York *Post* has also taken up the question editorially, and intimates that "political aspirations" interfere too much with the devotion of our military Commanders to their proper duties. General McClellan is sneered at for his reticence, and it is declared to be the duty of Congress, if it should find in the present organization of the army any obstacle to the energetic prosecution of the war, to co-operate with the President for its immediate removal.

The Washington correspondent of the same journal states that there is trouble also brewing between the officers of the regular service and the volunteers. The latter, it is said, begin to find their respect for the regulars sensibly abated. They concede the superiority in skill of the regular artillery officers, but maintain that the regular infantry and cavalry officers are not only no better than volunteer officers of the same rank, but are, in some instances, positively inferior. But the most serious charge which is brought against the regular officers is, that they have no heart in the struggle—that they are filled with Southern prejudices, and that they hope so to procrastinate the war that no great damage shall be done until 1864, when a combination may be formed to bring about a pro-slavery peace on a Southern basis, by electing to the Presidency McClellan, or some other pro-slavery General. If it be true that this antagonism exists between the regulars and the volunteers, we may look for changes in the army before long which cannot fail to lead to important results.

Partisan corps of Federal and Confederate troops are still carrying on an active warfare in the interior of Missouri. Col. Jennison has burned the village of Austin, in Cass county; whilst in Johnson county the secessionists are in the ascendant and are threatening Lexington and Warrensburg. A Government train of about twenty-five wagons together with its guard of seventy-five men is said to have been captured by the Confederates.

A telegram from Wheeling, based upon a telegram from Cumberland, states—that yesterday morning, at daylight, a detachment of General Kelley's forces left Romney, and surprised a body of Confederates, two thousand strong, at Blue's Gap, east of Romney, routing them with a loss of fifteen killed and twenty taken prisoners. Two pieces of cannon are said to have been captured, with wagons, tents, &c. The Federal troops are reported to have sustained no loss whatever.

CONCERT.—The concert to be given this evening, under the direction of Professor Gegan, at the New Assembly Rooms, for the benefit of the orphans in charge of St. Mary's Asylum, appeals in the strongest manner to the aid of the charitable, and we need scarcely urge our readers to extend to it the most liberable support. Apart, however, from its claims on their benevolence, it will form such a musical entertainment as is seldom offered, as the ladies and gentlemen who have kindly volunteered their services, comprise the leading amateur talent of the city. The programme has been selected with proper regard to the different tastes of the lovers of music, and will undoubtedly be rendered with great effect. As the previous concert given in aid of the same laudable charity was attended by a more numerous audience than could conveniently find standing-room, we would advise our readers to secure their seats in advance, which may be done at Mr. McCaffrey's music store, during the day.

Correspondence of the Maryland News Sheet.

NEW YORK, Jan. 7th, 1861.

The three thousand six hundred and ninety-seven *bales* of cotton which were reported to have been brought to this city to-day by the Vanderbilt, from Port Royal, were bags of loose cotton, in the seed, weighing about one hundred pounds each, which, when properly cleaned and ginned, will not net more than one-third of their present weight. The entire amount of merchantable cotton brought by the Vanderbilt will not much exceed one hundred and twelve thousand pounds, or two hundred and fifty bales of the usual size.

EUROPE.

From the London Athenæum.

CAPT. MAURY ON AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

The intellectual voices of America have scarcely yet been heard on the great question of Secession and Civil War. These questions having suddenly acquired for ourselves a deep and mournful interest, readers will be glad to hear the opinion of a scientific man who is neither a partisan nor a politician. Capt. Maury's views are expressed in a letter to Rear-Admiral Fitz Roy, but they are in fact addressed to the scientific men of England:—

RICHMOND, Virginia.

My Dear Admiral:—Since this nefarious war was forced upon us, my hands have been busy in preparing for it; and I have not had either the time or the opportunity to let my friends and former fellow-laborers on your side of the water know what is become of me. My country was torn; the Union was gone; a number of States had renounced it. In this breaking up of our once happy and great Republic, it became me to take sides. The path of right and duty was clear; and here I am.

Pray, now, my friend, bear with me, while from the Southern stand-point, I explain to you the real nature of those influences which have led to this early disruption of the American Union:—You recollect that I told you when in London last November, when these difficulties were just beginning to loom up abroad, that all the right was on our side. You could not understand it then, for your information was derived chiefly through the Northern press. Few people in England, I believe, ever read a Southern newspaper; led astray by the apparently just, but really one-sided statements and teachings of the Northern press, your people were induced to look upon our troubles and the complaints of the South merely as the empty ravings of a political party that had been turned out of power. The South, by some means, it was held, ruled the Government from the beginning; it had lorded over the North—and now that the North, having its patience worn out, had, by constitutional means, taken the power into its own hands, the South was simply acting the part of a spoiled child, in the overgrown boy, who had been allowed to play with a borrowed toy until he believed it his own, and who, when at last it was taken away and restored to its rightful owner, disturbed the family with his childish ravings. Such seemed to be the light in which the affair was looked upon generally in England and on the Continent—and such evidently was the light in which the Yankee press held it up to foreign view. But the real difficulty is one of another sort; and the causes out of which it has sprung are old and deep-seated. They are partly physical, partly industrial, partly social, and partly political; they have been cumulative.

The New England States are manufacturing, seafaring and commercial; the Southern States are agricultural. The most profitable labor in this country was the agricultural labor of the South. Your own commercial statistics prove this, for they show that about three-fourths of the national exports consisted of agricultural products of the South.

Here then were two sections of the country so invested with physical conditions, that labor in the field was very unprofitable in one, very profitable and highly remunerative in the other. Yielding to these conditions the laboring man of the North, to earn a living, found it easier to go to sea than starve at home; while his fellow at the South found it easier to gather "enough and to spare" from the teeming soil and genial climate of his own sunny South. Therefore, at the formation of the Government the two sections presented themselves, one as seafaring, with fishing as its chief occupation; the other as agricultural.

But soon the Yankees came up with representations of this sort:—Fishing is a poor business, said they; it doesn't pay; but fishing ought to be encouraged for national purposes; therefore, let us not only protect Yankee-caught fish in our markets against the fish caught by the English, Dutch and French, but let us give the New Englanders a bounty on all fish that they can catch. In other words, let us tax this agricultural business of the South which is so profitable, for the benefit of our fishermen, whose business if left to itself won't pay. And so annually large sums of money were taken directly out of the common treasury, ostensibly, but originally and really from the pockets of the Southern planter, to pay the New Englanders for catching fish for their own uses. This went on many years under the plea that these fisheries were a nursery for seamen, and unless American seamen were fostered in such a nursery, the nation, it was said, could not have a navy. But when it was obvious that we could get seamen in abundance without drawing upon any such nursery, the South sought, but the North steadily and persistently refused, their assent to a repeal of the Fishing-bounty Act.

The South held that in the eyes of the Federal Government all citizens were equal, that all the States stood on the same footing, that the Union was formed, not for individual, but for the common good, and that Congress had no right to tax any citizen or class of citizens for the benefit of another. The Federal compact required taxes to be equal, and all citizens, labors and industry to be taxed alike. It was as much the duty of Congress to foster, encourage and protect the industry of South Carolina as of Massachusetts—of one State as of another. Such was the Southern doctrine, and such were the teachings of the Fathers. But the country went on growing and prospering, and there was simply from the South a protest against this heresy.

Finally, in 1812, to protect Northern interests, and to vindicate the commercial rights of New England—for the South had neither ships to be searched nor seamen to be impressed—we went to war with old England. The New England States ignobly backed out of that war, and left the others to bear the brunt of it.

With peace there arose a school of protectionists—men who unwisely said, "Let us not depend upon John Bull any more for anything whatever; let us henceforward do our own manufacturing, our own fetching and carrying. But, to enable us to do these, we must encourage and protect the workshops and artisans of New England. And as the agricultural labor of the South is so very profitable, we may charge it with the support of this New England interest also. They have stood annual bounties to our fishermen for years, and we *guess* they will stand protection for awhile." Political Economists may say what they will, but legislate and theorize as they may, they cannot without robbery make any branch of labor profitable which is not self-sustaining; to make such industry profitable, somebody must pay; and as a rule, the money must come out of the pockets of those whose business is self-sustaining. But protection in this instance, they said, was only required to set this manufacturing business in New England on its legs; that it would soon be able to stand alone, when the power of protection might be withdrawn. So the South yielded, and consented again to be taxed; but, this time, the tax was under the form a tariff, not of a bounty, though in the end it was the same, for it had to be paid by the self-sustaining labor of the country, and that was chiefly at the South.

New Englanders are proverbially sharp, keen and "cute;" so having once tasted of the treasury pap through cunningly-devised tariff bills, they soon discovered that heavy expenditures from the Federal treasury would necessitate high tariffs; then they went for an extravagant government, and engineered with Congress for large appropriations. To create demands upon the national purse, they established navy-yards where they were not required; built forts where they were not wanted; erected lighthouses where they were not needed; and actually studded the Northern seaboard with establishments of this sort, while the whole Southern coast, from the Capes of Virginia all the way round to the mouth of the Rio Grande, in Texas, was but badly lighted, though the navigation along the Southern Bays is most difficult and dangerous. There is also along the Southern coast a half-finished fortification here and there, and, as for a navy-yard, there is not one in which there could be found any of the usual facilities either for building or repairing; and neither of these operations could be performed except for double cost. As for lighthouses, compare those of the Florida coast with those of New England, and you will better appreciate the force of those remarks. Pray look at this somewhat attentively, for it is one of the points of difficulty in the quarrel, that is not apt to be perceived by one outside the national family circle. Though neither the sole nor the chief cause, it is, nevertheless, one of the many aggravating influences which helped to make it. Along the coast of the Northern States and within the distance of about 250 miles, they have no less than four magnificent dock-yards, where millions of public money are annually expended. But along the Southern coast from Cape Hatteras to the Rio Grande, a distance of nearly 2,000 miles, the South has but one navy-yard, and that only in name, for no vessel has ever been repaired there; and as for building, though it has been established about forty years, the first vessel constructed there has yet to be commissioned into service. In case of disaster to a man-of-war in the Gulf of Mexico or the West Indies, she has to go to a Northern ship-yard to be repaired and paid off. This is only another one of the many 'cute little Yankee tricks to which the Northerners have resorted to get the public money disbursed among them. As a rule, the great mass of the public expenditures were made in the North, not in the South, so that the Southrons found themselves doubly taxed—taxed first for the benefit of the Northern manufactures, and then, in the disbursement of the public funds, denied an equal participation in the benefits accruing therefrom.

Thus fostered, pampered and petted, the Northerners began to think themselves altogether superior to the Southrons, for, said they, "look at our shipping and commerce, behold the beauty and magnificence of our cities, mark our workshops and railways, contrast them with the like at the South, and then say if these are not the evidences of a different and a better people, the indications of a superior race?" With this they took up the notion that they could not associate with us in the common territories because of our slaves. We held slaves when they sought our alliance. They knew that, for they kidnapped them in Africa, they and the English brought them over in their ships and sold them to us. But, notwithstanding this agreement, the Constitution and their obligations under it, they announced a "higher law," and pronounced their agreement with us under the Constitution "a covenant with hell." Will these people keep faith any better with money-lenders when debts pinch? With this temper in the Northern heart and mind the Federal Government found itself seized with a vast extent of unpeopled lands, the common property alike of all the States. Much of it had been given to the Federal Government by the Southern States for the benefit of the Commonwealth; some of it had been acquired from the Indians by treaty and purchase,—and some had been bought from France, Spain and Mexico,—but all was paid for out of the common treasury. Into these territories the North now insisted that the Southerners should not go unless they left their slaves behind. To this the South said "nay," for, continued we, these lands belong as much to us as to you; they are the common property of all the States; the Federal Government is only the trustee in the matter; it is bound to manage them for the good of the whole, it cannot discriminate between the heirs. Look at the deed and title and constitution, and you will see that we have the same right to go and settle upon these lands with our servants as you have with your "help" and apprentices, or with your oxen and asses. But in reply they began to preach about their new-fangled doctrine of a law more sacred and binding than oath on the Holy Evangely—and tell us that our slaves if carried into a territory would be degrading to them. Thus by mere force of numbers they voted us out of our lands, and appropriated them to speculation and their own purposes.

These public lands, instead of a blessing to the Government, have proved a curse; they have had more to do in hastening on the present unhappy state of affairs than people generally are aware. They have given to the country an apparent prosperity, by attracting to it hordes of emigrants from abroad, who, with their money, their industry and their policy, imparted to the Republic a progress in wealth and population which astonished the world. Pulling up the people with national vainglory, the prosperity of the country induced them to overlook all else, and ascribe everything to our peculiar form of government and to Yankee enterprise. These emigrants, with their votes, have often turned elections. Before they had come to understand our institutions, their voice has had controlling influences with the Government. The public lands have caused the fall of the Republic while yet in the vigor of youth, by means of the policy which, within the last thirty years, has been pursued with regard to them. Up to that time, the practice was to organize them slowly into territories, to admit them sparingly into market, and so to regulate the settling of them up as to prepare for their reception into the Union in pairs—one State with slavery and one State without slavery, always together. This was done until the number of States had been increased from thirteen to thirty, and the Union consisted of fifteen States with and fifteen States without slavery.

The reason for this practice is obvious. It is found in this consideration:—In the Senate, every State was entitled to two votes, and no more,—though the free States, by virtue of this land policy, and consequent more rapid increase of their population, had acquired the ascendancy in the Lower House; yet, so long as they were equal in the Senate, it was impossible for one section to combine for unfriendly legislation against the other, for all laws required for their passage concurrent majorities in each House. The House might be unanimously in favor of a measure, yet it fails to become a law if there be in the Senate even a majority of 1 against it.

General Washington, in his virtue and wisdom, had warned the people against the dangers of dividing the country geographically into sections. They might and had arranged themselves into parties; but these were irrespective of parallels of latitude, isothermal lines or the "peculiar institution." A division of parties by geographical lines, if it should take place, would, the fathers of the Republic saw, be most liable to take place on the Slavery Question. Hence, for two generations the policy was religiously adopted, and rigidly pursued, of equalizing the number of Free and Slave States, and preserving that equality in one branch of the Legislature. The law also forbad at least the immigration of slaveholders, with their slaves, from Brazil, South America, Cuba, Jamaica and elsewhere; but it encouraged the immigration of free white persons from all parts of the world.

Under these laws, the Free States increased in population more rapidly than the Slave States; for the emigrants generally, being anti-slavery in their opinions, preferred to settle in the Free States. Therefore, the growth of these in population was greatly assisted by the tide of new-comers from Europe, while that of the Slave States was left to its own natural increase. Yet, nevertheless, Congress, until a quarter of a century back, was slow to organize new territories on the anti-slavery side of 36° 30′, or to open up the lands in these for settlement; and in order to preserve this equality of numbers between the States—pro and anti slavery—the public lands were brought so sparingly into market that the receipts therefrom were not more than sufficient to pay the expenses thereof. Such was the case until about thirty years ago. About that time, and in an evil hour, this wise policy was abandoned, and the people were tempted by the Government out into a sea of speculation upon the public lands such as the world never saw. Under it the laws of naturalization were relaxed. Ireland was drained of her increase, and all Europe was latiated, persuaded and tempted to come and help us to subdue, occupy and replenish the magnificent wilderness of America. In a single year the sales of the public lands, which had never reached more than $3,000,000, went up to $26,000,000. Land script and warrants were dispensed like waste paper. Every man who had ever served as much as two weeks in war had land for a farm given to him. Besides bounty lands to the soldiers and sailors of every war, donations of public lands, by millions of acres in the single grant, were made to the new States, or given to individuals and corporations, to aid in the construction of railways and canals and a variety of other enterprises. Companies for the sale of these lands were formed on both sides of the Atlantic. Drummers, to beat up purchasers, went out into all parts of Europe. Listening to their representations, and yielding to temptation, a throngs of living souls, such as has been rarely seen, was put in motion for the wilds of America. The extravagants of the Mississippi scheme were realized.

Such a tide of emigrants soon swelled the population of the new territory to the number required to entitle it to one representative in the popular branch of Congress. Thereupon the new territory was admitted into the Union as a free, sovereign and independent State; it was, consequently, received into the Senate upon an equality as to votes and political power with the oldest and most populous of the original States. Instead of dividing this free territory out into large States like Texas, it was divided into States only about one-fifth as large; consequently, the balance of power in the Senate could not be maintained long under the stream of in-flowing population from abroad, nor could it last a moment after parties had arranged themselves according to sectional lines. As soon as this balance was destroyed, the issue was made; and with eighteen Free States, at they are called, to fifteen that recognized African slavery, Lincoln, at the head of a sectional party, was brought into power regularly, according to the forms of the Constitution, but upon a platform entirely subversive of it. Thus the land policy hastened the destruction of the Union, by unwisely calling into play political powers that were bound to throw the Federal machinery out of adjustment. Nor is this all; it led political economists into error, and induced the world to ascribe to the so-called "indomitable energy and enterprise of the New England people" what, in the reclaiming of a wilderness, belongs really to a host of European emigrants.

The Northern Congress has imposed a direct tax upon its people of $20,000,000. Our Congress has taxed us for $20,000,000 to pay principal and interest on our debt. We at the South cheerfully and willingly submit to this tax, and every cent of it will be promptly paid. But, mark my word, the Northern people will be slow to put their hands into their pockets for this "rail-splitter," as Abe Lincoln is called. Nevertheless, he may squeeze a portion of this tax out of them, but if so, it will be only a portion, and that will come with such writhings, grins and protestations, that he will never attempt to "raise the wind" again by any such process. But when the pinching time—the pay day—does come, will not the same motives which induced his people to proclaim a "higher law," and to denounce certain provisions of the Constitution as "a covenant with hell," induce them to repudiate this debt, principal and interest, which he is now seeking to create for his wicked purposes? I cannot but think so. The faith was pledged to stand by the Constitution; yet, the moment they felt the Constitution operating as a restraint upon them, they violated it. Will they be more faithful to their promise to pay? Will they not, after the money is borrowed and spent, be more likely to turn upon the leaders and say, "This debt was created by a doubtful authority at best; it was created in the name of the United States, when there was no longer any such Government; it was created to support a war which the Constitution does not recognize; all this was known to you when you made the loan? Therefore, we won't pay." This debt, principal and interest, these Northern men will repudiate altogether, for already the war is beginning to be unpopular with the masses. Enlistments go on slowly in the North. The people are hanging back. It is worthy of remark, that almost every prisoner we have taken from them professes himself to have been deceived. He was entrapped into this war, and if he is ever permitted to reach home again, he will for one keep clear of any more such scrapes. Such is their language.

But after the public lands were the enormous influx of foreigners upon us had destroyed the checks and balances of the Government, the cry of the "irrepressible conflict" was raised in the North. Either, said their leading but deceitful statesmen, we must overrun and overturn the institutions of the South and root out slavery, or the South will impose upon us its negroes. Upon this the Northern or "Free States," as they are called, combined. Exceeding us in number of States and polls of people, they drew a geographical line, and formally divided the country into sections—North and South. This act, lawfully determined, placed, according to the forms of the Constitution, the whole Federal machinery—Executive, Legislative and Judicial—in the hands of a faction formed of fanatics, and banded together for the purpose of making war upon our rights, our property and our liberties. The end and aim of that Constitution was to "establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity." The Federal machinery having fallen into such hands, and the Constitution having thus wrought out a failure, my noble, my gallant, my native State, speaking through her people in convention assembled, resolved to assert that precious right, which, though inalienable, and formally admitted so to be by all the States, yet, to prevent cavil, she had, by express declaration, as I have already shown, reserved to herself when she first joined the Federal Union. And that right was the right to withdraw from it.

Though not so mighty in numbers nor so rich in warlike supplies as the enemy, we are eight millions of people thrice armed, in that our quarrel is just. Fighting for our homes, we are mighty in battle. In mere lust the enemy is fighting for power and conquest; we, for fire-sides, the graves of our fathers, dear life, and all that is precious to the heart and to civilization. Our cause is holy; theirs, hellish. We cannot, we will not, be subjugated.

The contrast is frequently drawn by our old men between the conduct of the English in the war of 1812 and the conduct of the hordes of Lincoln now. The English invaded us, but respected the property and regarded the rights of unarmed citizens. The same counties have been invaded by Lincoln. He has devastated and laid them waste, and for what? Why, simply to compel us to submit to his government. Suppose he should succeed, would not success overturn the whole fabric of the Constitution? The Republic was founded on the consent of the governed. Failing in this, it is no longer either a Republic or any other form of government that has at its foundation the will of the people. It is a tyranny. We want nothing of the North. We choose not to submit to Northern domination; we are fighting simply to be let alone, and to be permitted to govern ourselves in our own way.

The South presents the remarkable spectacle of an army having in its ranks the first men and best talents of the country. To subdue or conquer such an army is simply an impossibility, for its soldiers are fighting for all that makes life dear to them. I fight with a price upon my head and a halter around my neck. Nor I alone, but every man of mark or substance among us. Lincoln's men are not made of such stuff; for they are for the most part mere hirelings, and their armies in battle are strengthened by no such hope, and moved by no such fears as those which inspire us. They talk of a re-construction of the government and a re-union of the people. Simply, and in a few words, reannexation to the British Crown is more possible.

I very much desire that the friends of free government in Europe should be correctly informed as to the true state of things with us; for your information being chiefly derived through our enemies, it is of course one-sided, and generally, also, it is not only erroneous, but wilfully mendacious. The papers at the North that plead our cause, or dare tell the truth about this war, are suppressed by Lincoln's mere *sic jubeo*. A large majority of us, they would have you believe, are opposed to secession and this war. Saving some of the Western counties of this State, and a few in East Tennessee, I have never known the people so united upon any subject. The women, if possible, are more enthusiastic than the men; they are of one mind; and the clergy are as earnest as the women. In the week the clergy are, of their own free will, drilling and being drilled to arms: their churches are given up to the women, who, with needles and sewing-machines, congregate there to make clothing for the soldiers. On Sundays, from the pulpit, the holiness of the war and the righteousness of our cause are preached to the people. In battles, you find clergymen among the foremost of the fight. We have on our side a bishop for a general, holy divines for colonels, majors, captains and soldiers in the ranks. Never was a people more united and in earnest than the people of the Confederate States are at this moment.

Yes, you have heard something too of our starving—of our inability to produce breadstuffs and provisions enough for our own use, &c. To make you believe that would be requiring you to renounce your belief in physical geography, for that shows that within the Confederate States we have the finest of climates; our lands are unsurpassed in fertility; we are a grazing, and a farming, and a planting people. Educated in the South, I never saw a beggar until I entered the Navy and went to New York. Such is the habitual abundance that the very few poor who are found among us are provided for without calling on the people for poor-rates. Our Southern laws recognize no such tax. The staples of Georgia are cotton and rice; yet the Census shows that, according to population, Georgia furnishes as much wheat as New York—and New York is one of the wheat-growing States of the North. Never have the grain crops of the South been more abundant than they now are. The blockade of our ports, admitting it to be effectual, would not interfere with us as to any of the necessaries of life. It may cut off our supplies of tea and coffee, and the various articles of merchandise that we have been accustomed to receive from abroad; but this does not amount even to a privation, for we submit to these wants as a self-denial and a discipline that is all for our good.

WAR ITEMS.

WESTERN VIRGINIA.

The Federal Troops Driven from Suttonville—Government Property Destroyed.

We find the following in the Wheeling *Press* of Saturday:

BULLTOWN, Jan. 3.—The Confederates burned the town of Sutton, with the exception of two or three houses. They also burned the two churches at the Flatwoods. They destroyed all the Government property that was at Sutton—Captain Rowan's (Federal) cavalry had previously been compelled to retreat from Sutton to Weston by the Confederates, after considerable skirmishing.

FROM WASHINGTON.

From the Columbus (Ohio) Journal, Jan. 4.

PARTICULARS OF THE TAKING OF SUTTON, VA., BY THE CONFEDERATES.

The surgeon who had charge of the sick at Sutton, Virginia, and who reported the capture of that place by the Confederates, which has already been given, arrived here yesterday. He reports that the town was in possession of a company of Federal cavalry, who were guarding the sick there, and the place was attacked on Sunday last by a force of from 300 to 400 bushwhackers, and the cavalry fled, leaving ten or twelve sick soldiers who fell into Confederate hands. They afterwards burnt the entire town. What became of the sick left behind, the surgeon did not know.

Special Washington Correspondence of the Philadelphia Inquirer.

THE PRESIDENT'S LEVEE.

The levee at the President's to-night was largely attended. Among the crowd we noticed Secretaries Cameron, Chase and Seward, and Lord Lyons, M. Mercier, the French, and most of the other foreign Legations, a number of Senators and Members; Generals McCall, McDowell, Keyes, King, Casey, Blenker, Stahl, Morrell, Couch and Hancock. Captain Hancock, of British brig Emmertaille, in full uniform, was escorted in by Secretary Seward and introduced to the President. After the ceremony of presentations were over, the President noticing the Hutchinson troupe in the east room, invited them into the reception room, and they sang a number of patriotic songs.

Special Washington Correspondence of the Philadelphia Press.

THE MORTALITY IN BERDAN'S SHARPSHOOTERS.

The mortality in Berdan's sharpshooters during the past few days has excited much remark. As many as five have died in a single day. The regiment is now, however, rapidly improving in health.

The French Princes.

The New York correspondent of the Philadelphia *Inquirer* says:

The two Orleans Princes, while in town, were almost nightly the guests of some prominent citizen or other up town. It is said that they have resigned the places they have recently held on General McClellan's staff, and are making preparations to return to Europe. I cannot ascertain that any reason is assigned for this proceeding apart from the apprehension of the Prince de Joinville that the United States is about to be embroiled with foreign Powers, and that it is not desirable that his nephews should be in a position which might necessitate them, even in appearance, to take up arms against France, or an ally of France. This is a rather singular statement for the Prince to make, under the circumstances, but I have the best reasons for knowing it is not more singular than true.

Special Washington Despatches to the N. Y. Tribune.

A STRANGE ORDER.

Officers connected with the Government, and Senators and Representatives, found it difficult this morning to credit a statement made to them by a Brigadier-General from the outposts, that commanding officers on the lines are positively forbidden to question the contraband negroes and deserters who may come within our lines, such as, so far as may be necessary to guard against an attack, these persons, with their knowledge bottled up in them, must be sent under guard to headquarters in Washington.

THE TREASON ON THE PENSACOLA.

It has just been discovered that an essential pipe of the steam sloop Pensacola is plugged so completely as to be useless. This was probably done as long ago as last spring, when the navy yard was infested with disaffected employees. Had the secessionist who did it known the existence of another similar pipe, he might, by destroying its usefulness in a similar way, have caused the explosion of the boiler.

A FORMIDABLE RECONNOISSANCE.

On the repeated reports of our pickets last night that trains were continually arriving from Manassas at Drainesville, orders were given by General Hancock that the division of Generals McCall and Smith with Ayres' and Mott's batteries, and 250 wagons, should make a reconnoissance at daybreak. Twenty-two thousand men started accordingly this morning with two days' rations and forty rounds of cartridges each man. A march of five miles failed to discover the enemy. Fifty wagon loads of forage only rewarded the expedition.

THE TELEGRAPHIC NEWS CENSORSHIP.

The House Judiciary Committee authorized their chairman to offer a resolution asking authority to send for persons and papers for the purpose of making a rigid investigation into the censorship which has been and still is exercised over telegraphic news sent to the Northern press. The committee is determined to probe this matter to the bottom.

SOFT ARMY OFFICERS DISMISSED THE SERVICE.

The names of several young army officers who have expressed the opinion that the South cannot be whipped have recently been stricken from the rolls. We trust that this is only the first step in the right direction.

APPOINTMENT OF A SON OF GEN. PATTERSON.

Two weeks since General McClellan requested of the Secretary of War the appointment of Frank Patterson, son of General Patterson, as Brigadier-General. Yesterday an order for his appointment was sent by the President to the War Department.

Special Washington Despatches to the New York Herald.

THE CAMPAIGN OF GENERAL PATTERSON.

The proposition of General Patterson, for an investigation into his management of the campaign on the Upper Potomac, is said to have much more significance than the simple vindication of himself. It is stated, on high authority, that an examination of the orders and despatches by which his action was controlled, will show that they could not have been transmitted to him as they were issued by General Scott, but were altered or tampered with in the course of their transmission, and to this cause his failure to move against Johnston when he was expected to do so is altogether attributable.

CONFISCATION OF MASON AND SLIDELL'S REAL ESTATE AS AGAINST ENGLISH PURCHASERS.

Mr. Slidell is believed to be seized of real estate in Louisiana. This he could convey to London bankers, and no act of confiscation of our government subsequent could attach. Such a conveyance would not diminish our complications with England. Perhaps an investigation of the records of the General Land Office would throw some light on supposed purchases of Government lands by Slidell, one or two years since, in Louisiana, to a large extent.

ABATEMENT OF AN INTOLERABLE NUISANCE.

The Provost Guard have begun to-day to abate the nuisance of negroes parading the streets dressed in army uniforms. The appropriation of soldiers' clothes by the negroes has grown to be an intolerable nuisance. A number of negroes were to-day compelled to doff their military trappings, and others taking warning by the example, in a little while the nuisance was completely abated.

FEMALE REBELS UNDER MILITARY ARREST.

It is known that several female prisoners are watched and cared for in the northern part of the city by a detachment of the Sturgis rifles, under Lieutenant Sheldon. On several occasions recently, events have transpired showing a plot to clandestinely effect their release; but the vigilance of the guard has often frustrated it.

THE CANADIAN SENTIMENT.

The Montreal *Pilot* recommends, "in view of the uncertain state of matters, as far as Canada and the United States are concerned," that Parliament should be called together at an earlier day than usual. The *Pilot's* reasons are follows:—

For, although for the present, apprehended disturbances with the Federal States may be considered over, there is no knowing when Canada may be called upon to defend itself, when England may be compelled to declare war. Now that Secretary Seward's apology and explanation are upon record, and that Mason and Slidell, with their Secretaries, are replaced under the protection of the flag from whence they were torn—that affair may be considered settled; and having so "cheerfully" conceded to a demand, which, before it was made, the Government declared they would perish first, it is barely possible that a peace with the revolted Southern States may be made; and then—hurrah for Canada!

The belief of a great portion of the lower classes in the States is that Canada would not dislike being annexed to the Republic, and that there is and has been always a strong feeling here in favor of such a project. It would be one of the first duties of the representatives of the people, when Parliament assembles, formally to repudiate this idea, and show the Yankees, as the press has already tried to assure them, that there is not the slightest ground for entertaining such a belief. This, however, would not save Canada from invasion, were the war with the South concluded. What could be done with the hundreds of thousands of men now under arms, and the great majority of whom would have to be disbanded?

Their appetites are already whetted with the plunder they expect down South; and how could they be prevented from making a raid on Canada if that expectation was disappointed? Then, again, the great European Powers must sooner or later get tired of the internal broils of the States, and raise the blockade. It is very doubtful what steps Great Britain may deem it necessary to take respecting this stone fleet, which has been sunk at Charleston harbor and off Savannah. This will give rise to another great international question, and when it is brought under the notice of England, Earl Russell may again be called upon to interfere. Our relations with the United States are ticklish in the extreme. There are so many contingencies to look forward to—so many complications likely to arise—that, as we have said, at any day we may be called upon to fight for our hearths and our homes.

The holidays are now nearly over; the weather is such that farmers can do but little work; business is dull and slack, and we can conceive of no better time than the present month to have Parliament convoked. It would convince our Yankee friends—unless such of them as desired to remain unconvinced—that we are loyal and true to our Queen to our very heart's core—that we have no desire to discard "the flag that's braved a thousand years, the battle and the breeze," to live under the banner with the stars and stripes; and that when they shall have taken possession of the soil of Canada, or one foot of it, we shall have been driven into the sea, into the St. Lawrence, or into the Lakes.

REGULARS AND VOLUNTEERS.

VOLUNTEERS' CRITICISMS OF REGULAR OFFICERS.

Washington Correspondence of the N. Y. Evening Post.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—As the war goes on, and as the volunteers grow more and more familiar with the details of the service, and have fuller opportunities of observing men and things around them, it is obvious that they regard with less and less favor the officers of the regular army. Six months ago, happy was the regiment that could get a West Point man to command it. The fact that a man had passed five years of his boyhood at the Military Academy was held to be sufficient proof of his qualifications for almost any position in the army. The volunteer officers, many of them men of great talents and natural capacity for command, and of high social and political station, modestly submitted to the pretensions of the regulars, and yielded a certain deference to their assumed superiority.

But, after serving with them for six or eight months, with ample opportunities of testing their merits, the most observant and capable volunteer officers find their respect for the regulars sensibly abated. The following are some of the remarks on this subject which have been made to me by candid and judicious men, in whose powers of correct observation and reflection I have much confidence. They say that it does not follow because a man has been graduated at West Point he is necessarily a man of talent. To get through the Academy only requires average intelligence, industry and steadiness. The ablest men at West Point have generally entered the Engineer and Topographical Corps, and those two corps, the volunteers readily admit, are composed of officers of decided ability, and of scientific attainments of the highest value to the army. They also concede the general superiority in skill of the regular artillery officers. But here their concessions stop. They maintain that the regular infantry and cavalry officers excel neither in talent nor in knowledge the volunteer officers of the same ranks, and in many cases, where personal comparisons are made, the regulars are pronounced to be positively inferior. The volunteers claim that many of their regiments are better drilled and better managed than the regulars. They say that the majority of the regular officers have lost what knowledge they brought from West Point, because they have had no opportunity to exercise it, having wasted their lives since for the most part in dull service at slenderly garrisoned forts, or in a petty warfare with the Indians, so that few of them have ever seen a hundred soldiers together till this war broke out. They accuse them, too, of ignorance of human nature and of the art of managing and leading masses of men—an ignorance incidental to their life on the barbarous frontier, surrounded only by savages and by a few parties whom they regarded and treated as servants rather than as soldiers. Even some of the general officers recently appointed, on the strength of their West Point education, are said to be incapable of drilling their commands.