THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET

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TERMS

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TO THE PUBLIC.

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

BALTIMORE.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1862.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the Senate Mr. Hale introduced a resolution declaring Marshal Lamon guilty of contempt of the rightful authority of that body, by excluding Senators from the Washington jail, without passes, and directing the Secretary of the Senate to transmit the resolution to the President. The resolution was laid over. The reply of the Secretary of War to the resolution of Mr. Powell, asking for information in regard to contracts, states that the Secretary had not himself made a single contract, and that the whole of the contracts entered into were made by the heads of the several bureaus of the Department. Further debate was had on the bill relating to fugitive slaves coming within the lines of the army, until the conclusion of the morning hour, when the Kansas contested-election case was resumed. On the vote being taken, the first proposition, as amended, declaring that Mr. Lane was entitled to a seat in the Senate, was carried by a vote of 24 to 16. The second proposition, declaring that Mr. Stanton was entitled to his seat, was postponed indefinitely.

The discussion in the Senate, in executive session, over the nomination of Mr. Cameron as Minister to Russia, lasted over four hours. The nomination had not been disposed of at the close of the session.

In the House of Representatives the Committee on Elections reported a resolution declaring that W. E. Lehman, of the First Congressional District of Pennsylvania, was not entitled to the seat claimed by him, and sustaining the claim of John M. Butler. After a brief discussion, and pending the previous question, the House adjourned.

In the State Senate leave was given to report a bill making an appropriation for the benefit of the Potomac Home Brigade. A bill was also reported and read for the first time, relating to the stay of execution. A bill relating to traders licenses was read a second time. In the House of Delegates, there was no business transacted of any consequence.

We take from the Boston *Courier* a graphic account of the escape of the privateer Sumter from the port of St. Pierre, in the island of Martinique, notwithstanding the vigilant blockade which was kept up off the harbor by the United States steamer Iroquois. From the statement of the officers of the Macedonian, no blame can fairly attach to the Commander of the Iroquois. He had arranged to be informed of the sailing of the Sumter, and the course she took, by a signal from the shore. This service was performed; but the Sumter adroitly doubled on her course, and repassing the mouth of the harbor before Capt. Palmer was aware of the trick that had been put upon him, hugged the coast, and under the direction of a skilful pilot pushed through a narrow channel between high rocks and took refuge in a harbor not laid down in the charts. The Iroquois steaming northward in hot pursuit, passed within six hundred yards of the hiding place of the Sumter without knowing it. When the Iroquois had disappeared, the Sumter left her sheltering haven and pursued her original course to the southward.

The European news by the Arabia is not of special importance. In England the general tone of the advices from this country had so much strengthened popular confidence that war would not grow out of the affair of the Trent, that a reaction has taken place in the funds, and, at the sailing of the Arabia, consols had advanced until they reached the quotations that were current before the trouble arising out of the seizure of Messrs. Mason and Slidell occurred. The London *Herald*, however, still calls upon the Governments of England and France to consider whether the period has not arrived when the Southern Confederacy should be recognized. At Birmingham—which, together with Sheffield, has profited largely by orders for arms from the United States—a meeting was held recently to memorialize the British Government in favor of arbitration in the Trent affair. The memorial was strenuously opposed by parties present, and was not only voted down, but resolutions were passed leaving the adjustment of the quarrel in the hands of the Government. The French Government has refused to permit merchandize to be carried to America on board of French vessels-of-war.

All sorts of rumors are afloat with regard to further changes in the Cabinet; but they appear to be rumors merely. The resignation of Mr. Welles is supposed will depend on the action of the Senate in relation to the bill now before it for the construction of iron-clad frigates. If the Senate amendment to the House bill charging Mr. Lincoln with the expenditures for these vessels, instead of the Secretary of the Navy, should be passed by that body, it is said that the latter will resign. An effort in the meantime is being made to induce Mr. Morgan, of New York, the brother-in-law of Secretary Welles, to disgorge the ninety-five thousand dollars which he has received for commissions.

Adjutant-General Thomas, whose official *exposé* of the condition of the military department of Missouri under the brief rule of Fremont, has brought him prominently be fore the public, is now charged with treasonable correspondence—either directly or indirectly—with the Confederates. There does not appear to be any positive evidence of the fact beyond what is delicately termed "irregularities," but, nevertheless, it is generally understood he is to be superseded by Brigadier-General Williams.

A portion of the Mississippi Division under General Grant has taken the field. The column under General McClernand, which, at the last advices, had reached Blandsville, a few miles south of Cairo in the direction of Columbus, had marched from there towards Mayfield, where it was to have encamped on Wednesday night last. As camp Beauregard was within striking distance of Mayfield, a battle was supposed to be imminent. The second division commanded by General Grant in person, was under marching orders from Fort Jefferson, and was to be pushed forward by forced marches; but upon what point is not stated.

Mr. W. H. Winder of this city, who was tendered his release from Fort Warren, on condition of his taking the oath of allegiance, has declined to accept of his liberty on the terms proposed. An additional furlough of ninety days was at the same time offered to Mayor Brown; but as it restricted him from going south of the Hudson river, he refused it, and has accordingly taken up his old quarters in Fort Warren.

It has been repeatedly stated that Messrs. Breckinridge and Hunter had left for Europe as Commissioners from the Confederate States. So far as Mr. Breckinridge is concerned the story appears to be untrue, as "a thoroughly reliable gentleman" declares that he saw him at Bowling Green on Friday last.

There is a strong probability, according to the Philadelphia *Press*, that the nomination of Mr. Sickles as Brigadier-General will not be confirmed by the Senate.

The new military railway from Washington to Alexandria *via* the Long Bridge, is being pushed forward with great energy. It is expected that it will be completed in the next three weeks.

Correspondence of the Maryland News Sheet.

WASHINGTON, January 16, 1862.

It is understood here that one of the objects of the visit of the commander of the French man-of-war Catinet to Norfolk was to convey, through the French consuls, the acknowledgements of the French Government for the timely aid rendered by Commodore Wm. F. Lynch, of the Confederate States Navy, to the ship wrecked crew of the French frigate Proney, off Ocracoke.

The crew of the schooner E. H. Atwood, of Boston, which put into Fortress Monroe on the 10th inst., were obliged to subsist for ten days on raisins, the extreme length of the passage from Malaga for New York, over eighty-one days, using up all the supplies.

THE EUROPEAN NEWS BY THE ARABIA.

HALIFAX, Jan. 15.—The Royal mail steamship Arabia, from Liverpool at 10 o'clock on the morning of the 4th, via Queenstown on the 5th inst., for New York and Halifax, passed Cape Race at 11 o'clock last night.

The Arabia was boarded by the news yacht of the Associated Press, and the following summary of news obtained, which is one week later.

The Arabia has on board troops for Canada, comprising two batteries of the Fifteenth Brigade of Artillery.

The steamship Anglo-Saxon, from Portland, arrived at Londonderry early on the morning of the 3d inst., and at Liverpool the same night.

The steamship Hansa, from New York, arrived at Southampton on the morning of the 3d instant.

The steamship Glasgow, from New York, arrived at Queenstown on the evening of the 3d instant.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The news by the steamships Anglo-Saxon and Hansa had materially strengthened confidence in peace.

Consols showed great buoyancy, and had further advanced about a half per cent., and closed firm on Friday, the 3d inst., at the quotations current before the Trent affair, and showed an advance of three-eighths since the 1st inst.

The London *Times* says:—"From the character of the rise in Consols on the 3d instant, it is inferred that the Hansa may have brought advices to the Government, from Lord Lyons, of some information having been given by the Cabinet at Washington that Messrs. Mason and Slidell would be given up."

The London *Herald* says:—"Speculations appear to be guided by private information from American diplomatic circles." The same journal, in an editorial, says:—"It behooves both England and France to consider whether the time has not arrived for recognizing the Southern Confederacy."

The London *Daily News* remarks:—"As yet the Washington Government has not spoken. But if the theory of some of its contemporaries be correct, that Government really resides in the New York press, the question of peace was really decided when the Hansa left." The same paper says that the arbitration principle has been ridden to death by injudicious friends, and condemns the policy of dividing English opinion at the present time.

The London *Times* professes to expose some of the strange delusions entertained by the American people in regard to their own omnipotence and invulnerability. It also gives a letter from T. N. McKay, of Liverpool, showing the difficulties America would experience in carrying out the prevailing scheme.

The coupons for the January dividends on the Virginia bonds have been returned by Messrs. Baring Bros., with the answer, "No advices to pay." The same answer is anticipated relative to the debts of the other Southern States.

The London *Morning Post* regrets that the Washington Cabinet has evinced no alacrity to avail themselves of the respite granted by England, and draws unfavorable deductions therefrom.

The *Daily News*, per contra, finds in the delay encouraging signs of moderation, and a general disposition on the part of the Washington Government to act with reason and justice.

The Paris *Temps* is assured that the United States Attorney General will give an opinion that Mason and Slidell should be delivered up.

The Cologne *Gazette* says the Prussian note to Washington does not treat the Trent affair from the point of view of public right, but urgently counsels peace. It says, should America reject the demands of England, the Powers will send a collective note to Washington urging peace.

The *Times* reproduces a letter written by Mr. Seward, in 1859, to Wm. Brown, of Liverpool, in which Mr. Seward repudiates the idea that the American Government could ever be guilty of so gross a violation of its faith as to confiscate, in time of war, money invested in American securities in time of peace.

The *Times*, in an editorial on the subject, thinks it is not an inopportune moment to bring forward this declaration, the more particularly as England has been menaced by threats of confiscation by journals evidently in communication with the Washington Government. The article concludes by expressing hopes for a peace, but declaring that threats will accomplish nothing, the only solution being the release of the prisoners.

A meeting was held at Birmingham, under the auspices of the Mayor, for the purpose of memorializing the Government in favor of arbitration in the Trent affair. After very turbulent proceedings the memorial was defeated and an amendment carried, leaving the matter in the hands of the Government. Nobody of importance took part in the meeting.

Mr. Cardwell, M. P., in a speech at Oxford, anticipated that America would accede to England's demand, but, if not, he believed that England would have just cause for war. He deprecated the attacks made on American institutions, too, and urged that the present was not the time for irritating comments.

The screw steamers John Bell, the Hope and Sarah Sands, are loading cotton at Liverpool for New York, and additional steamers were expected to be taken up.

FRANCE.

The Emperor, on New Year's Day, made an address to the Diplomatic Corps, and received as usual the various state bodies. In response to an address from the Senate, he said he counted on the Senate to assist him in perfecting the Constitution, and at the same time maintaining intact the fundamental basis on which it rests. To the Legislative body he merely expressed the hope that they would see in the recent modifications of the Constitution a new proof of his confidence in their intelligence and patriotism. To the clergy he gave assurance that they might count on his protection and lively sympathy, telling them that they knew how to render to Cæsar the things which are Cæsar's, and to God the things that are God's.

This expression had given rise to the idea that a serious attempt is about to be made to settle terms for the evacuation of Rome.

The *Moniteur de la Flotte* says that Government cannot possibly comply with the request for men-of-war to carry merchandise to America.

The Bourse had been buoyant but higher, but closed quiet at 67f. 50c.

ITALY.

On New Year's day the Pope received General Guyon and French officers. General Guyon spoke of devotion towards the Pope, and the latter thanked Guyon for the sentiments expressed. The present French soldiers at Rome would not permit the fulfilment of any irreligious or impolitic act. The Pope concluded by bestowing the Apostolic benediction on the Imperial family, the Emperor Napoleon, and the whole French company.

The National Roman Committee had placarded bills in Rome, declaring that the issue of Roman consols by the Pontifical Government after the 27th of March, 1863, would not be recognized by the Italian Government, as, from the moment the Italian Parliament declared Rome the capital of Italy, the temporal power of the Pope legally terminated.

The Chamber resumed its sittings on the 3d.

M. Ballazii had communicated a speech made by the King to a Parliamentary deputation, in which he said he hoped the Italian cause will make greater progress in the coming year than ever it has in the past.

Ricasoli had renounced the idea of seeking a colleague for the portfolio of the Interior, and the Cabinet remains unchanged.

PRUSSIA.

The King, in addressing the Ministry on New Year's day, said: "The year commences with a serious aspect throughout the world, rendering it the duty of Prussia to be prepared for any eventualities;" and he asserted that this should be done.

In reply to the congratulations of the army, he said: Prussia could calmly behold what events may arise from the state of things in non-European countries, because his army stands ready, formed and armed.

RUSSIA.

An imperial decree has been issued in consequence of the recent disturbances, sanctioning the closing of the University at St. Petersburg, and ordering the dismissal of the professors and students.

INDIA.

CALCUTTA, Dec. 3.—Cotton goods are firm; twist unchanged; indigo excited; exchange 2⅝; rice and linseed high.

At Bombay cotton and cotton goods were materially advancing.

A man was captured at Kurachee, while trying to get away from India. He is said to have been recognized as Nena Sahib.

CHINA.

PARIS, Nov. 13, via St. Petersburg.—The Emperor has arrived at Pekin.

Prince Kong has been appointed regent.

The Supreme Council, composed of members hostile to the Europeans, is dissolved. On-Shun, President of the Finance Department, was publicly executed, and two other persons of high order were strangled, by order of the Emperor.

THE LATEST BY TELEGRAPH TO QUEENSTOWN.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 5.—It is reported that Russia, at the commencement of the difficulty between the States of America, employed all her influence in favor of peace, and has recently taken steps to the same end.

The Russian Cabinet has communicated to the Great Powers all the reports received from her Representatives at Washington.

TURIN, Jan. 5.—Garibaldi, in accepting the Presidency of the Genoa Rifle Association, urged them to hasten to prepare to take up arms, "because the moment approaches for giving fresh proofs of your bravery."

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—The regular brokers' circular is not completed. The sales of the week (four days) foot up 50,000 bales, the market closing buoyant on Thursday, with a considerable advance upon all descriptions. The sales on Friday were 25,000 bales, of which 15,000 bales were to speculators and exporters, the market closing excited and ¼d. higher. The official figures call middling Orleans 12⅝@12¾d., while private authorities report an advance during the week to 13d. 10,000 bales have been purchased for export to America.

STATE OF TRADE.—Advices from Manchester are favorable. The market is firmer, though quiet.

LIVERPOOL BREADSTUFFS MARKET.—Wakefield, Nash & Co., and others, report Flour very dull, and 6d. @1s. lower. American quoted 29s. @33s. Wheat irregular and 2d. @3d. lower; red Western 11s. 5d. @12s. 4d.; red Southern 12s. 3d. @12s. 6d.; white Western 12s. 9d. @13s.; white Southern 13s. @13s. 6d. Corn dull and 1s. 6d. lower; mixed 32s. 6d.; yellow 30s. @32s. 6d.; white 35s. @37s.

LIVERPOOL PROVISION MARKET.—The same authorities report Beef quiet and steady. Pork firm. Bacon dull and 1s. @2s. lower. Lard steady at 49s. @51s. 6d. Tallow declining; sales at 49s. @50s. 6d.

LIVERPOOL PRODUCE MARKET.—Ashes firm; Pots 36s.; Pearls 35s. Rosin tending upward; common 12s. @13s. Spirits Turpentine advancing—Sales at 65s. Sugar tending upward. Coffee—No sales. Rice firm. Linseed firmer. Linseed Oil easier—sales at 34s. 6d. @35s. Cod Oil quiet. Sperm Oil £96 @96 10s.

LONDON MARKETS.—Barings' circular reports Breadstuffs quiet and tending downward. Iron dull at £5 @£5 5s. for rails and bars. Sugar firmer. Coffee advanced 6d. @1s. Rice dull and unchanged. Tea tending upward. Spirits Turpentine active at 66s. Tallow declining—sales at 50s. Sperm Oil firm at £95 @96. Cod Oil £42. Linseed Oil steady at 33s. 9d.

LONDON MONEY MARKET.—LONDON, Jan. 4.—Consols closed Friday at 92¾ @92¾ for money.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.—American Securities have nominally recovered a little, but business has been dull. There are buyers of United States fives at 67. Illinois Central shares are quoted at 45@44 discount. Erie 27¾ @28¾.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

LIVERPOOL, Sunday—Cotton.—The sales of yesterday were 10,000 bales, including 8,000 bales to speculators and exporters, the market closing active and firmer at unchanged quotations.

Breadstuffs—The market is firmer.

Provisions are firm, except Bacon, which is easier.

LONDON MONEY MARKET.—Consols closed on Saturday at 92¾@92⅞ for money.

AMERICAN STOCKS.—The latest sales were Illinois Central Railroad 43 @43¾ per cent. discount, and Erie Railroad 27½@28⅜.

HAVRE MARKET.—Cotton—The sales for the week have been 7,000 bales. Orleans *tres ordinaire* 150f.; *bas* 150f.—The total stock in port amounts to 133,000 bales.

THE ERUPTION OF VESUVIUS.

The correspondent of the London *Times*, writing from Naples, describes a visit to Torre del Greco. Speaking of the Strada Fontana, he says:

Every house in this street was in a ruined state; workmen were knocking holes in the facades at the top of some of them, in which to place the ends of poles that were to be their props; others had fallen a mass of *debris*, and several were cut down so finely that sections of them remained, exhibiting the interior. Thus I saw, tottering on the extremity, a bed, neatly folded down, and which had evidently not been slept in; the chairs were ranged round the side of the room that had been saved, and a gridiron, tomatoes, kitchen utensils of all kinds, hung against the walls of this, the section of the second floor of the ruined building. What an escape for the inhabitants! I retrace my steps, and again ascend; and, mounting a range of steps, enter on another terrace called the Strada Santo Croce. All the houses here presented a similar appearance. We walked in the middle of the street, for who could tell but that one of the cripples might fall upon us. Right and left were cross streets in the same condition, and in them several houses had fallen a mass of rubbish.

I stopped before one large house in particular, the shell of which was remaining intact, while the interior had fallen in, and the same mason work projected through the open door. Just outside, the street had been thrown up by the volcanic action, and a crater was formed ten palms in diameter. I stood on the edge and looked down, and saw that the geological formation was all of lava, the old lava of 1794, split asunder by a mysterious and irresistible power, and that the actual city was built on the city of the dead. Nine times has Torre del Greco been destroyed, and yet, with a persistence which appears like folly, the inhabitants have returned, and rebuilt, and suffered, and have been swallowed up.

The *Official Journal* of Naples publishes the latest report of M. Palmieri, director of the observatory of that city, containing an account of the decline of the present eruption up to the 17th. He states that although Mount Vesuvius has nearly subsided into its usual quiet state, yet a quantity of carbonic acid is still evolved from the soil of Torre del Greco, leading to the belief that all the crevices opened there communicate with a vast subterranean receptacle of that gas, extending far under the sea, where numerous bubbles are seen to rise, and the death of a large number of fish has been marked in consequence. This time the eruption had not been announced by the disappearance of water from the wells, but, on the contrary, by the opening of new springs strongly acidulated with carbonic acid, which has also tainted the water of several wells, which, at the same time, has risen to a higher level in them.

But the most singular phenomenon mentioned by M. Palmieri is, that the soil has risen five-eighths of a metre above the level of the sea; and since this rising has taken place above the old lava of 1794, the latter has been broken and cracked in various directions, which has caused the fall of many edifices built upon it. The true cause of the receding of the sea, so often mentioned by authors, and not credited, as no cause could be assigned for it, is now fully explained; it is not the sea that recedes, but the soil that rises. "It now remains to be seen," says M. Palmieri, "whether this rising will go down again; and I would, therefore, recommend the landowners of Torre del Greco not to set about rebuilding their houses just yet." The craters continue to emit sulphurous hydrochloric acid, and also a certain quantity of sulphuretted hydrogen. Among the sublimations may be mentioned a large amount of sulphur, the usual chlorides of iron, and a little specular iron ore.

From the London Times.

THE TRENT AFFAIR—AN ENGLISH PRECEDENT.

In two letters to the *Times*, a correspondent, who signs himself "D. C. L.," directs attention to a remarkable precedent, to which this country may appeal in its present dispute with the Federal States: "On August 7, 1777, the Dutch brig Hendric and Alida was captured on the high seas by his Britannic Majesty's ship Ardent, under the command of Lord Edgcrave, and was shortly afterwards brought into Portsmouth for adjudication as prize of war. The brig was bound, according to her ship's papers, from a port of Holland to the Dutch settlement of St. Eustatia, one of the Leeward Islands. She was laden with a cargo of arms and ammunition, and she had on board as passengers five military officers, with their servants. These officers were furnished with commissions in the rebel army, granted by Benjamin Franklin, who was at that time actively engaged as one of the Commissioners of the rebel provinces at Paris, in endeavoring to procure from M. de Vergennes the recognition of the independence of the United States.

The case of the ship and cargo came on for adjudication in the Prize Court on the 23d of November, 1777. The King's Advocate (Sir James Marriott), who was counsel for the captors, contended that the brig was not really bound to St. Eustatia, but had a hostile destination to some port of New England; that she was armed with guns, and had on board not only gunpowder, arms, and naval stores, but five military officers going avowedly to serve in the provincial army. He therefore urged upon the Court that it was its duty to condemn the vessel on the ground of false papers, and to decree the cargo to be sold as contraband of war. The Judge of the Admiralty Court (Sir George Hay) adjudged the ship and cargo to be Dutch property, and directed them to be restored to the claimants, on the ground that "the Dutch had a right to carry in their own ships to their own colonies or settlements everything they pleased, whether arms or ammunition, or any other species of merchandise, provided they did it with the permission of their own laws," and "if they act contrary to them," he added, "I am no judge of the laws of Holland."—He further went on to say that the armed state of the ship and the character of the passengers, coupled with the declaration of a former master and part owner, who was on board, as to an illicit destination of the ship, were concurring circumstances sufficient to justify the seizure and the bringing in of the vessel for adjudication as to her true destination.

It results from this case that neither the cargo, which was undoubtedly of a military nature, nor the passengers, whose character as military officers going to the provincial army was fully recognized by the Court, were, under the circumstances of the vessel having a neutral destination, regarded by the Court as contraband of war. On the other hand, the passengers were not treated as prisoners of war by the British Government, as it appears from other sources that they were set at liberty not long after the vessel was brought into Portsmouth, and some time before the case of the ship and her cargo was heard and decided in the Prize Court. * * * The judgment of Sir George Hay was one of the *causes celebres* of the last century, and the conduct of the English Government therein may be said to have been officially brought to the cognizance of all the European Powers.

The seizure and detention of the vessel and cargo gave rise at once to angry remonstrances on the part of the States-General of Holland, and a long and animated correspondence appears to have ensued between the Dutch and British Governments, which was kept up for some time after the ship and cargo had been restored to the owners. The five military officers frankly declared to Lord Mulgrave that they held commissions in the Rebel army, issued by Franklin and Deane, the Commissioners of the Rebel provinces at Paris, and that on their arrival at St. Eustatia they were to address themselves to certain agents of the American Congress, who were to forward them onwards to the Rebel army. The military character of the passengers was thus placed beyond dispute, and their ultimate hostile destination was avowed by them, but they were passengers on board a neutral ship which had sailed from a neutral port, and was bound to another neutral port. The proximate destination of the passengers was thus entitled to be regarded as an innocent destination, and they were set at liberty.

LETTER-OPENING IN AUSTRIA.

Apropos of the discussion on the law for the protection of the privacy of letters, the Vienna *Press* gives the following particulars respecting the organization of the Austrian "Black Cabinet:"—Originally letters were to be opened only in those special cases which the cypher cabinet in the Foreign office notified to the proper "lodgists," after permission granted to that effect. What are "lodgists?" the reader may ask. They are subordinates in the postal service, independent of their superiors, and placed, even without the latter suspecting it, in the most important post-offices, by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, expressly for the purpose of opening suspected letters. They take a special oath before the President of the cypher cabinet, and receive extra pay out of the secret service money.—The place to which one or more of these functionaries are attached is called a "lodge," and the whole of the lovely institution—a new and improved edition of the Black Cabinet as it was in Bach's time—is copied from the French pattern. In Bach's time the foreign and home ministries and the police long contended for the command over this interesting lodge service. If we are not mistaken, the ministry of police was the victor in this contest; more recently, however, the lodge has again become one of the attributes of the Foreign-office. Of all the lodges, that of Vienna is, for obvious reasons, the most important and busiest of all; but those of Verona and Venice also do a good stroke of work, and the names of the lodgists in the crown lands that enjoy their services are only known to the respective governors and directors of police. The business of the lodgist is this: he is to open letters directed to certain addresses which are indicated to him, or the letters of certain persons without regard to the address, and he is either to copy those letters or deliver the originals to the governor.—The opening of letters without leaving a trace of the operation requires not only very special implements, but also a very skillful hand.

The operation can only be performed in the post-office, and it must be done in such a manner that it shall be quite unknown to the other employees, that the delivery of the letters to the persons addressed shall suffer no delay, and that they shall not be able to detect any token of the letters having been opened. When a governor wants to know the contents of a letter not previously denounced, he applies by telegraph to the cypher cabinet in Vienna; and the latter, with the assent of the higher powers, sends him the requisite authority. It is not to be wondered at if the conduct of this sort of business is a good deal marked with caprice, and if badly-opened letters are destroyed instead of being sent to their addresses sealed with the official seal. It often happens that a post director, or even the ministry to which the postal service belongs, has no conception of the nature of the lodges and the functionaries who offer sacrifices in the form of opened letters to the secret all-knowingness of the Government. It has even happened to functionaries of this class to be dismissed for purloining letters, because they were prevented by the special oath they had taken from clearing themselves of the charge. They do not lose their bread for all that. Care has always been taken that these priests of the state mysteries shall have a handsome allowance for life out of the secret service money. The well-known prohibition against the sealing of letters with letter-marks, which make the opening so difficult, may have been issued, not upon financial, but simply upon logistic grounds.

FEMALE TRAITORS IN WASHINGTON.

A VISIT TO THEIR PRISON QUARTERS—SKETCHES OF ITS OCCUPANTS—HOW THE GOVERNMENT ENTERTAINS THEM.

Correspondence of the Philadelphia Press.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—This morning it was rumored that the female prisoners confined in the Sixteenth street prison were to be removed to the Old Capitol Prison, where, in consequence of their rebellious proclivities, quarters have been prepared for them. Accordingly, we visited Lieutenant N. E. Sheldon, a native of New York, and an officer of the Sturgess Rifles, the body-guard of General McClellan during his campaign in Western Virginia, who, for some time past, has been detailed as the guard of these prisoners, and were admitted, after some delay, into his quarters. It is well known that since the attempt made to rescue the prisoners, at this house, on the first of the year, the utmost vigilance has been displayed in the approach of visitors to this point. And hence it is that when we applied for admission at the quarters of Lieutenant Sheldon, we were obliged to *halt* for a few moments, until our character and the object of our visit were ascertained. The call for the Corporal was made by the guard, and our communication subsequently conveyed to the Lieutenant, by whom, as we have said before, we were admitted.

When we visited the establishment referred to, we were admitted to the parlor of the house, formerly occupied by Mrs. Greenhow, fronting on Sixteenth street. Passing through the door on the left, and we stood in the apartment alluded to.—There were others who had stood here before us—we have no doubt of that—men and women of intelligence and refinement. There was a bright fire glowing on the hearth, and a *tete-a-tete* was drawn up in front. The two parlors were divided by a red gauze, and in the back room stood a handsome rosewood piano, with pearl keys, upon which the prisoner of the house, Mrs. G., and her friends, had often performed. The walls of the room were hung with portraits of friends and others—some on earth and some in heaven—one of them representing a former daughter of Mrs. Greenhow, Gertrude, a girl of seventeen or eighteen summers, with auburn hair and light-blue eyes, who died some time since. In the picture a smile of beauty plays around the lips, and the eyes are lighted with a strange fancy—such as is often seen in the eyes of a girl just budding into womanhood.

On the east wall hangs the picture of Mrs. Fanny Moore, whose husband is now in our army, while the walls of the back room are adorned with different pictures of the men and women of our time. Just now, as we are examining pictures, there is a noise heard overhead—hardly a noise, for it is the voice of a child, soft and musical.

"That is Rose Greenhow, the daughter of Mrs. Greenhow, playing with the guard," says the lieutenant, who has noticed our distractment. "It is a strange sound here; you don't often hear it, for it is generally very quiet." And the handsome face of the lieutenant is relaxed into a shade of sadness. There are prisoners above there—no doubt of that—and may be the tones of this young child have dropped like the rains of spring upon the leaves of the drooping flowers! A moment more, and all is quiet, and, save the stepping of the guard above, there is nothing heard.

The Sixteenth street jail has been an object of considerable interest, for months past, to citizens as well as visitors. Before the windows of the upper stories were "blinded," the prisoners often appeared at these points, and were viewed by pedestrians on the other side of the way; but since the "cake affair" of New Year's Day the prisoners have been forbidden to appear at the windows, and the excitement, instead of having been allayed, has been still further increased.

The first person incarcerated at the prison was Mrs. Rose O. H. Greenhow, as she signs herself. She was arrested on the 11th of August of the last year, and has been confined in the prison ever since. Her husband was formerly employed in the State Department in this city. She is a woman of letters, and was born in the South, although brought up in Washington. She is confined in her own house, in one of the upper stories, and has the attendance of a servant, besides the company of her own daughter, an interest ng child of some twelve years. Besides these confined here were Mrs. Phillips, her sister, Mrs. Levy, and her two daughters, Misses Fannie and Lena. Mrs. Phillips is a Jewess, and her husband married her at Savannah, Ga. Mrs. Levy was a widow, and her husband, who was formerly in the army, died. Her two daughters are finely educated. These latter were, after being confined six weeks, sent to Fortress Monroe.

Next in turn comes Mrs. Betty A. Hassler, who was born and reared in Washington. She possessed the least education of any woman ever confined in this prison. Her husband is a Southern man. She is fascinating in appearance, but has not much decision of character. She was released on parole by order of the Secretary of War.

Mrs. Jackson, the mother of the assassin of Ellsworth, has also been confined at this point. She came here with nothing but a flannel gown on, and wearing slave shoes. She was incarcerated but two days and nights. She has now gone South, to Richmond, where she has been endeavoring, with but little success, to obtain funds for the support of her family. It is rumored that she is not able to collect enough funds to support her from day to day.

Miss Lilly Mackle, a daughter of Mackle, a clerk in one of the departments, and belonging to one of the most respectable families of Washington, was also confined here for two months.

Mrs. M. A. Onderdonk, who sometimes represents herself to be a widow, and sometimes a wife, was arrested in Chicago some months since, and after being confined here six weeks, was released on parole. Forty dollars were given her to pay her expenses back to Chicago, but instead of going there she went to New York. She was last heard of at St. Louis.

An English lady, Mrs. Elena Lowe, who was arrested at Boston, and whose son was with her, having come with a commission in the Confederate army, has also been confined at this institution.—The son was afterwards sent to Fort Warren, and she returned to England.

Besides the above, there were some eight or ten persons arrested at Alexandria and in this city, whose names are not remembered, and who, after being confined at this prison, were shortly afterwards liberated, on taking the oath of allegiance.

Miss Ellie M. Pool, *alias* Stewart, was arrested and brought to this prison on the 11th of August, 1861. She came from Wheeling, where, after having been confined for some time in the prison there, she made her escape, by tying the sheets together and letting herself down from the prison window. She has been in communication with the Confederate leaders in Kentucky, advising them to make certain changes in their plan of operations. When arrested the second time, within ten miles of the enemy's lines in Kentucky, $7,500 of unexpended money, furnished by the Confederates, was found upon her person. She has been a correspondent of the Richmond *Enquirer* and the Baltimore *Exchange*. Miss Poole is yet in confinement at the Sixteenth street jail.

Among the number yet confined here is Mrs. Baxley, formerly a resident of Baltimore. She was arrested on the 23d of December. She had just come from Richmond, and had been in conversation with Jeff. Davis, from whom she had obtained a commission in the Confederate army for her lover, Dr. Brown. She is, as she represents herself, a very "explosive" woman, and it was from this fact that her arrest took place on board of the boat, while approaching Baltimore from Richmond. This woman has refused to sleep under a blanket marked "U. S.," ever since her confinement here.

The above is a hurried sketch of the prisoners liberated, and now confined at the Sixteenth-street jail. Their quarters are of the most comfortable character, and, under the care of Lieutenant Sheldon, they are furnished with everything that, saving their "Secesh" principle, can make them happy.

The report that the cake sent to Mrs. Greenhow, on New Year's, came from Mrs. Douglas, to whom Mrs. G. sustains the relationship of aunt, is a mistake. The cake was sent by a party well known to the Government, upon whom a strict watch is kept.

To-day, the three last named persons will probably be sent to the jail on old Capitol Hill—an escort of the Sturgess Rifles, under command of Lieut. Sheldon, being prepared to accompany them.

There was the same patter of nimble feet overhead when we left the prison. At the windows, from the outside, we saw the face of Mrs. Green how standing within the room above. Our voices had been heard in the room beneath, we know, and even the musical tones of the piano, that had been performed upon during our presence. There may have been a memory of other days recalled by these signs of festivity, and the hearts of some above may have beat with a quicker pulsation at the thought of the circumstances that now surrounded them.

Who knows but what, then and there, there were heart-strings that were almost snapped asunder, and that there were consciences that sunk beneath the weight of ignominy imposed upon them!

From the Boston Courier, Jan. 14.

THE ESCAPE OF THE SUMTER.

The U. S. ship Macedonian, recently arrived at this port, brings some particulars of the Sumter's escape from the Iroquois, as learned from the officers of that steamer. It is satisfactory to know that Captain Palmer, to whom no little blame was attached, was unavoidably misled in the pursuit. It will be remembered that the Iroquois was obliged to watch the Sumter without entering the port of St. Pierre, as she would thereby have been prevented from following her, within twenty-four hours of her departure. Anticipating that she would leave in the night, Capt. Palmer had arranged that signals should be displayed from a house, indicating the course of the privateer, which would necessarily be north or south alongshore, after clearing the mouth of the harbor. She took the southerly course, which was duly signalized. The land along the whole shore is quite high, so that a vessel could easily crawl along under it, without being observed by another ship in the offing.

Another advantage of quite equal importance favored the Sumter. She could watch the movements of the Iroquois, between which ship and the distant horizon there was no back-ground. Accordingly, when it was seen by the sly commander of the privateer that the Iroquois steamed away to intercept him, as he should pass the southern point of the shore, he reversed his course, and passing the entrance of the harbor from whence he had just issued, kept on in a westerly direction, while his pursuer, nothing doubting, maintained his course till he arrived at the point where he found his mistake. Discovering now the trick that had been played upon her, the Iroquois turned likewise to the northward and followed the shore along, also passing the mouth of the harbor. Much time had not been lost as yet, and Captain Palmer felt pretty sure of his prize. He could see that the privateer had not re-entered the harbor, and had not got an offing; and he knew, although a stern chase is a long chase, proverbially, that the result was only a matter of time. At least he thought he knew all this—but he did not. The Sumter had on board the best pilot in the island, a fellow who, like the Irish pilot, "knew every rock about," but was not likely to prove his knowledge as Paddy did, by striking them and exclaiming: "An' there's one of 'em, yer honor."

This man had been assured of one thousand dollars by Capt. Semmes, in case he took the Sumter out safely, clear of the rocks and of the Iroquois; and he certainly earned his money. On seeing the pursuing steamer after him in hot haste, he quickly formed his resolution and shot his vessel through the narrow crevice of two high rocks into a little harbor not laid down in the charts. There he waited until the Iroquois was heard steaming along to the northward, as she passed within six hundred yards of his hiding-place. It is needless to say that when a sufficient time had elapsed, the Sumter came out in her leisure and pursued her original course to the south.

If the privateer had doubled the man's reward, it would have been no more than right in such a transaction between two such characters; but when we learn that the people of St. Pierre were so elated at this clever performance that they made up a separate purse for the pilot, we can but regret that French vanity should in this instance have caused such an inconsiderate act. We write these facts of the case, to defend the absent and inform the public, which we learn from a sufficient source; and because we see a cock-and-bull story going the rounds misrepresenting them, but which upon its face bears the evidence of both misconception, to say the least, and of self-glorification.

ABSTRACT OF THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE PHILADELPHIA, WILMINGTON AND BALTIMORE RAILROAD COMPANY.

The Twenty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad Company was held on Monday, at Wilmington, Del. The following is an abstract of the report of the Directors to the Stockholders:

Earnings of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Company for the year ending Oct. 31, 1861.

From Passengers	$1,423,655.44
From Freight and Express	303,010.23
From Rents	16,950.25
From Mails and Miscellaneous	46,847.73
	$1,401,063 65

*Earnings of the New Castle and Fren