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BALTIMORE.

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1862.

From the St. Mary's Beacon, May 22.

THE MARYLAND STATE PRISONERS.

The Commissioners who have had so long in charge the cases of the Maryland State prisoners confined at Fort Warren, have at last concluded their labors and reported progress. Of the twenty-nine prisoners confined at that place, twenty have been released on their parole of honor not to give aid or comfort to the enemies of the United States. Of the nine remaining, Messrs. Harrison, Gatchill, Warfield, Lyon and Hall were offered their liberty upon a similar parole, but as they refused to enter into any arrangement with the Government or its agents which did not provide for their unconditional release, they were remanded to prison. As a condition precedent to his liberation, Mayor Brown was required to abdicate his office. This he refused to do, and he also was sent back. Messrs. Wallis, Scott, Kane, Charles and Frank Key Howard to receive. They were excluded by name from the operation of this parole amnesty, the Government regarding their release, under any conditions, as particularly dangerous at this time to the order which reigns in Warsaw.

It is very far from our purpose to censure the action of those who have thought proper to purchase their liberty by compounding with the Government for the wrongs they have suffered at its hands.—There were doubtless controlling circumstances, not proper to be made public, which impelled them to make this sacrifice of their rights, and which fully justified the course they have pursued. The discredit which belongs to such a bargain attaches not to them, but to the frontless tyranny with which they have had to deal. Fully appreciating their eminent services to the State and to constitutional liberty, and their splendid sacrifices upon the altar of public duty, we cannot, however, withhold our admiration from those devoted men who have made no bargains and who still uphold, with lion heart, the majesty of law and justice and the dignity of Maryland in Fort Warren. They stand upon high vantage ground. Either they have violated the laws of the land or they have not. If they have, they are entitled to a trial. If they have not, they are entitled to an unconditional release. Under either state of the case, their right to inquisition for the outrage of arresting and detaining them without legal process is unquestionable. Mr. Seward may at present very safely mock at them and laugh to scorn the complaints of the State whose cherished children they are. But he laughs best who laughs last. He has played and is playing a dark and desperate game of tyranny. It will be well for him if he can play it to the end with success. A single blunder, a move at the wrong time or in the wrong direction, and the bitter ingredients of the poisoned chalice are straight commended to his own lips.

A BRILLIANT DASH.

HEADING OFF JACKSON—DESTROYING BRIDGES ON THE VIRGINIA CENTRAL.

[The following despatch from our correspondent with General Fremont's army came to hand yesterday afternoon, but at too late an hour to be printed.—*Eds. Evening Post.*]

[*Special Despatch to the Evening Post.*]

FRANKLIN, VA., May 21.—Colonel Crook, commanding the brigade now lying at Lewisburg, in Greenbrier county, has just returned from an expedition, of which he makes the following report. His purpose was to make a dash on the Virginia Central Railroad, which runs through from Lewisburg to Staunton, to capture a large amount of enemy's stores which were in depot at a small village on the road, called Dublin.

On the way Colonel Crook fell in with and captured one Captain Driggs and another notorious bushwacker. He also seized the telegraph office on reaching Covington, the county town of Alleghany county, which lies next to Greenbrier county. From despatches which fell into his hands there he learned that the Confederate Provost Marshal of Alleghany county had telegraphed to "Stonewall" Jackson, at Staunton, for several regiments of troops, and that General Jackson had promised to send them immediately.

On this information Colonel Crook advanced his force beyond Covington to Jackson River bridge, an important crossing on the Virginia Central Railroad, by which way Jackson must send his forces. This bridge the Colonel burned, and this will so greatly obstruct the passage of the enemy that he will be able to protect the region on this side from attack.

This brilliant dash of Colonel Crook and its result have had an excellent effect upon the Union people of the county, and he has very seriously disturbed the enemy's plans. The gallant Colonel deserves and gets great credit for the energy and ability with which he devised and executed his expedition.

[NOTE.—The Virginia Central is not completed to Jackson river, and, therefore, no railroad bridge over the river could possibly have been destroyed. There is a bridge on a county road a short distance beyond the terminus of the railway, which may possibly be the one alluded to.]

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS ON THE STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Mr. Ten Eyck, Sen tor in Congress for New Jersey, on Wednesday, presented the following communication, in the nature of a memorial, from the yearly meeting of Friends, held in Philadelphia for the States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and the Eastern Shore of Maryland, during the present month of May. As the communication is very short, and comes from a meeting representing the very large and worthy religious Society of Friends residing in four of the loyal States of this Union, it was read and attentively listened to:

To the President, Senate, and House of Representatives of the United States of America:

At the yearly meeting of Friends, held in Philadelphia for Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and the Eastern Shore of Maryland, by adjournments from the twelfth day of the Fifth month to the sixteenth of the same, inclusive, Anno Domini, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two.

The following minute was read, united with, directed to be signed by the clerks, and forwarded:

This meeting has been introduced into a deep concern relative to the present condition of our country. Our minds have been directed to those who preside over our National Government, and gratitude has been felt to the Great Ruler of nations that He has so far moved the hearts of *these* that they have decreed the District of Columbia free from slavery. We earnestly desire that the Chief Magistrate of the nation and our Congress may, in this season of deep trial, humbly seek Divine guidance, that under this influence they may act for the cause of justice and mercy, in that wisdom which is pure, peaceable, and profitable to direct, and that the effusion of blood may be stayed.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the meeting aforesaid.

MARY S. LIPPINCOTT,
Clerk of the Women's Meeting.
WILLIAM GRISCOM,
Clerk of the Men's Meeting.

From the New York Express.

IMPORTANT PRIZE CASE—RESTORATION OF THE BRITISH PRIZE STEAMER LABUAN.

U. S. DISTRICT COURT—BEFORE JUDGE BETTS.

MAY 21.—United States *agt.* The Prize Steamer Labuan and Cargo. This was a motion to confiscate vessel and cargo for an alleged violation of the blockade of Brownsville, Texas. The vessel was captured at the mouth of the Rio Grande, on the 1st of February last, by the U. S. steamer Portsmouth. The prize was laden with a cargo of cotton, consisting of two hundred and sixty seven bales owned by De Jersey & Co., of Manchester, England, and one hundred and seventy bales owned by Herman Diez, a Spanish citizen resident in Brownsville. The vessel is owned by Bailey and Latham, residents of Hull, England. The claimants in opposition contended that the vessel was lying at the mouth of the Rio Grande, between the coasts of Mexico and Texas, and that her papers and the circumstances of the case showed that she was carrying on a trade with Matamoras.

The Government claimed that the trade with Matamoras was simulated, the actual commerce being carried on with Brownsville, Texas, which is located almost immediately opposite Matamoras. The case has been on argument for several days, and was brought to a close this morning.

The Judge rendered an oral opinion, in which he ordered immediate restitution of the vessel and cargo, on the ground that they were neutral property, and not taken while in actual violation of the blockade. The Judge also held that at the time of the seizure the blockade of Brownsville was not actually effective, the United States vessel having only arrived on the day of the seizure. The question of costs and damages for detention, the Judge reserved for further consideration.

Daniel Lord, Larocque & Barlow, and Wright & Merrihew for claimants

Wm. M. Evarts and Stewart L. Woolford for Government.

BAD EFFECT OF ABOLITIONISM.—A correspondent of the Chicago *Post*, writing from Corinth, says:

There is no disguising the facts, that our army is becoming somewhat anxious in regard to our national affairs. The unnecessary and dangerous agitation of the nigger question in Congress is stirring the spirit and ardor of a great many good and brave men, whom the army cannot well spare. This agitation affords to all secession-sympathizers in the North a pretext for political onslaughts upon the Administration, which are seized upon by every Confederate in the South and published broadcast to show the people of this benighted region that this war is a crusade against slavery.—The abolitionists in and out of Congress, aided by the Northern secessionists, in and out of Congress, who put forth a ridiculous pretense of speaking for the Democratic party, are doing a great deal of injury to the cause in which the national armies are engaged. Many officers are resigning their commissions in disgust on this account. Congress ought to adjourn, or the people ought to hang the abolition and secession traitors in the North, as an essential preliminary to the hanging of those in the South.

The weather is fine and has been for ten days past, and very warm