The South.

The Declaration of War by the South.ern Congress.

The following is the act passed by the Southern Congress "recognizing the existence of war between the United States and the Confederate States, and concerning letters of marque, prizes and prize goods:"

Whereas, the earnest efforts made by this government to establish friendly relations between the government of the United States and the Confederate States, and to settle all questions of disagreement between the two governments upon principles of right, justice, equity and good faith, have proved unavailing, by reason of the refusal of the Government of the United States to hold any intercourse with the commissioners appointed by this government for the purposes aforesaid, or to listen to any proposal they had to make for the peaceful solution of all causes of difficulties between the two governments; and whereas the President of the United States of America has issued his proclamation, making requisition upon his States of the Union for 75,000 men, for the purpose, as therein indicated, of capturing forts and other strongholds within the jurisdiction of, and belonging to, the Confederate States of America, and has detailed naval armaments upon the coasts of the Confederate States of America, and raised, organized and equipped a large military force to execute the purpose aforesaid, and has issued his other proclamation, announcing his purpose to set on foot a blockade of the ports of the Confederate States; and whereas the State of Virginia has seceded from the Federal Union and entered into a convention of alliance, offensive and defensive, with the Confederate States, and has adopted the provisional constitution of the said States, and the States of Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas and Missouri have refused, and it is believed that the State of Delaware and the inhabitants of the Territories of Arizona and New Mexico, and the Indian Territory south of Kansas, will refuse to co-operate with the Government of the United States in these acts of hostilities and wanton aggression, which are plainly to overawe, oppress and finally subjugate the people of the Confederate States; and whereas by the acts and means aforesaid war exists between the Confederate States and the Government of the United States, and the States and Territories thereof, except the States of Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Missouri and Delaware, and the Territories of Arizona and New Mexico, and the Indian Territory south of Kansas: Therefore,

SECTION 1. *The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact*, That the President of the Confederate States is hereby authorized to use the whole land and naval force of the Confederate States to meet the war thus commenced, and to issue to private armed vessels commissions or letters of marque and general reprisal, in such forms as he shall think proper, under the seal of the Confederate States, against the vessels, goods and effects of the government of the United States, and of the citizens or inhabitants of the States and Territories thereof, except the States and Territories hereinafore named. *Provided*, however, that property of the enemy (unless it be contraband of war) laden on board a neutral vessel, shall not be subject to seizure under this Act; *and provided further*, that vessels of the citizens or inhabitants of the United States now in the ports of the Confederate States, except such as have been since the 5th of April last, or may hereafter be, in the service of the government of the United States, shall be allowed thirty days after the publication of this Act to leave said ports and reach their destination; and such vessels and their cargoes, excepting articles contraband of war, shall not be subject to capture under this Act, during said period, unless they shall have previously reached the destination for which they were bound on leaving said ports.

Sec. 2. That the President of the Confederate States shall be, and he is hereby authorized and empowered to revoke and annul, at pleasure, all letters of marque and reprisal which he may at any time grant pursuant to this Act.

Sec. 3. That all persons applying for letters of marque and reprisal, pursuant to this act, shall state in writing the name, and a suitable description of the tonnage and force of the vessel, and the name and place of residence of each owner concerned therein, and the intended number of the crew; which statement shall be signed by the person or persons making such application, and filed with the Secretary of State, or shall be delivered to any other officer or person who shall be employed to deliver out such commissions, to be by him transmitted to the Secretary of State.

Sec. 4. That before any commission or letters of marque and reprisal shall be issued as aforesaid, the owner or owners of the ship or vessel for which the same shall be requested, and the commander thereof for the time being, shall give bond to the Confederate States, with at least two responsible sureties, not interested in such vessel, in the penal sum of five thousand dollars; or if such vessel be provided with more than one hundred and fifty men, then in the penal sum of ten thousand dollars; with condition that the owners, officers and crew, who shall be employed on board such commissioned vessel, shall and will observe the laws of the Confederate States, and the instructions which shall be given them according to law, for the regulation of their conduct; and will satisfy all damages and injuries which shall be done or committed contrary to the tenor thereof, by such vessel, during her commission, and to deliver up the same when revoked by the President of the Confederate States.

Sec. 5. That all captures and prizes of vessels and property shall be forfeited, and shall accrue to the owners, officers and crews of the vessels by whom such captures and prizes shall be made; and on due condemnation had, shall be distributed according to any written agreement which shall be made between them; and if there be no such written agreement, then one moiety to the owners, and the other moiety to the officers and crew, as nearly as may be according to the rules prescribed for the distribution of prize money, by the laws of the Confederate States.

Sec. 6. That all vessels, goods and effects, the property of any citizen of the Confederate States, or of persons resident within and under the protection of the Confederate States, or of persons permanently within the Territories, and under the protection of any foreign prince, government, or State in amity with the Confederate States, which shall have been captured by the United States, and which shall be recaptured by vessels commissioned as aforesaid, shall be restored to the lawful owners, upon payment by them of a just and reasonable salvage, to be determined by the mutual agreement of the parties concerned, or by the decree of any court having jurisdiction, according to the nature of each case, agreeably to the provisions established by law. And such salvage shall be distributed among the owners, officers, and crews of the vessels commissioned as aforesaid, and making such captures, according to any written agreement which shall be made between them; and in case of no such agreement, then in the same manner and upon the principles hereinbefore provided in case of capture.

Sec. 7. That before breaking bulk of any vessel which shall be captured as aforesaid, or other disposal or conversion thereof, or of any articles which shall be found on board the same, such captured vessel, goods or effects shall be brought into some port of the Confederate States, or of a nation or State in amity with the Confederate States, and shall be proceeded against before a competent tribunal; and, after condemnation and forfeiture thereof, shall belong to the owners, officers and crew of the vessel capturing the same, and be distributed as before provided; and in the case of all captured vessels, goods and effects, which shall be brought within the jurisdiction of the Confederate States, the District Courts of the Confederate States shall have exclusive, original cognizance thereof, as in civil causes of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction; and the said courts, or the courts, being courts of the Confederate States, into which such causes shall be removed, and in which they shall be finally decided, shall and may decree restitution, in whole or in part, when the capture shall have been made without just cause; and if made without probable cause, may order and decree damages and costs to the party injured, for which the owners and commanders of the vessels making such captures, and also the vessels, shall be liable.

Sec. 8. That all persons found on board any captured vessels, or on board any recaptured vessel, shall be reported to the collector of the port in the Confederate States in which they shall first arrive, and shall be delivered into the custody of the marshal of the district, or some court or military officer of the Confederate States, or of any State in or near such port, who shall take charge of their safe keeping and support, at the expense of the Confederate States.

Sec. 9. That the President of the Confederate States is hereby authorized to establish and order suitable instructions for the better governing and directing the conduct of the vessels so commissioned; their officers and crews, copies of which shall be delivered, by the collector of the customs, to the commanders, when they shall give bond as before provided.

Sec. 10. That a bounty shall be paid by the Confederate States of $20 for each person on board any armed ship or vessel, belonging to the United States, at the commencement of an engagement, which shall be burnt, sunk or destroyed, by any vessel commissioned as aforesaid, which shall be of equal or inferior force, the same to be divided as in other cases of prize money; and a bounty of $25 shall be paid to the owners, officers and crews of the private armed vessels, commissioned as aforesaid, for each and every prisoner by them captured and brought into port, and delivered to an agent authorized to receive them, in any port of the Confederate States; and the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to pay, or cause to be paid, to the owners, officers and crews of such private armed vessels, commissioned as aforesaid, or their agent, the bounties herein provided.

Sec. 11. That the commanding officer of every vessel having a commission or letters of marque and reprisal, during the present hostilities between the Confederate States and the United States, shall keep a regular journal containing a true and exact account of his daily proceedings and transactions with such vessel and the crew thereof; the ports or places he shall put into, or cast anchor in; the time of his stay there, and the cause thereof; the prizes he shall take, and the nature and probable value thereof; the times and places, when and where taken, and in what manner he shall dispose of the same; the ships or vessels he shall fall in with; the times and places, when and where he shall meet with them, and his observations and remarks thereon; also, of whatever else shall occur to him, or any of his officers or marines, or be discovered by examination or conference with any marines or passengers of, or in any other ships or vessels, or by any other means, touching the fleets, vessels and forces of the United States; their posts and places of station and destination, strength, numbers, intents and designs; and such commanding officer shall immediately on his arrival in any port of the Confederate States, from or during the continuance of any voyage or cruise, produce his commission for such vessel, and deliver up such journal so kept as aforesaid, signed with his proper name and handwriting, to the collector or other chief officer of the customs at or nearest to such port; the truth of which journal shall be verified by the oath of the commanding officer for the time being, and such collector or other chief officer of the customs shall, immediately on the arrival of such vessel, order the proper officer of the customs to go on board and take an account of the officers and men, the number and nature of the guns, and whatever else shall occur to him on examination, material to be known; and no such vessel shall be permitted to sail out of port again, until such journal shall have been delivered up, and a certificate obtained under the hand of such collector or other chief officer of the customs, that she is manned and armed according to her commission; and upon delivery of such certificate, any former certificate of a like nature which shall have been obtained by the commander of such vessel, shall be delivered up.

Sec. 12. That the commanders of vessels having letters of marque and reprisal, as foresaid, neglecting to keep a journal as aforesaid, or willfully making fraudulent entries therein, or obliterating the record of any material transaction therein, where the interests of the Confederate States is concerned, or refusing to produce and deliver such journal, commission or certificate, pursuant to the preceding section of this act, then and in such cases, the commissions or letters of marque and reprisal of such vessels shall be liable to be revoked; and such commander, respectively, shall forfeit for every such offense the sum of $1,000, one moity thereof to the use of the Confederate States, and the other to the informer.

Sec. 13. That the owners or commanders of vessels having letters of marque and reprisal as aforesaid, who shall violate any of the acts of Congress for the collection of the revenue of the Confederate States, and for the prevention of smuggling, shall forfeit the commission or letters of marque and reprisal, and they and the vessels owned and commanded by them shall be liable to all the penalties and forfeitures attaching to merchant vessels, in like cases.

Sec. 14. That on all goods, wares and merchandise captured and made good and lawful prize of war, by any private armed ship having commission or letters of marque and reprisal under this act, and brought into the Confederate States, there shall be allowed a deduction of 33⅓ per cent. on the amount of duties imposed by law.

Sec. 15. That five per cent. on the net amount (after deducting all charges and expenditures) of the prize money arising from captured vessels and cargoes, and on the net amount of the salvage of vessels and cargoes recaptured by the private armed vessels of the Confederate States, shall be secured and paid over to the collector or other chief officer of the customs, at the port or place in the Confederate States at which such captured or recaptured vessel may arrive, or to the consul or other public agent of the Confederate States at the port which such captured or recaptured vessels may arrive. And the moneys arising therefrom shall be held and are hereby pledged by the government of the Confederate States as a fund for the support and maintainance of the widows and orphans of such persons as may be slain, and for the support and maintainance of such persons as may be wounded and disabled on board the private armed vessels commissioned as aforesaid, in any engagement with the enemy, to be assigned and distributed in such manner as shall hereafter be provided by law.

Self-Confidence a Duty.

When Leibnitz says, "the present is pregnant with the future," we are not to receive the dictum as an abstract proposition, but as one in which every individual is interested, and in the verification of which he is destined to form a part. As the child is the father of the man, so, in a moral as well as in a literal sense, the living is the parent of the unborn generation; and it should elevate us in our own estimation, as well as in our sense of the duties and powers committed to us, if we reflect that every individual mind may contain some germ, some seed, some latent principle, the development of which may sooner or later produce an important and beneficial influence upon the whole wide-spread world. Idle, not to say impious, were it to distrust God's power to work such a miracle in our own person, because our position may be humble, our means and our intelligence seemingly inadequate to the production of grand results. Neither natural nor mental expansiveness is to be measured by the capacity of the recipient. What! were not all the oak forests of the earth once contained in a single acorn? In the history of nations it would seem that some mysterious law generally deduces the greatest events from mean causes. A camel-driver founded a new religion, and changed the fortunes of whole empires; a Genevese adventurer, by discovering America, opened a new world to the conquests and commerce of the world; an obscure German, by the invention of the printing-press, widened the whole intellectual sphere of man; and an Augustine monk, by denouncing the sale of indulgences, accomplished the greatest revolution that the world had experienced since the introduction of Christianity.

'True, all very true,' sighs the supine or the desponding reader; 'but those were times in which great events could be wrought by comparatively insignificant instruments. In those days people were generally unenlightened, and therefore easily led by superior minds.' Your pardon, slothful and misgiving man. Similar miracles have been accomplished in our age and country, for, however wide may be the diffusion of intelligence, there will always arise, and often from the inferior classes, superior minds, whose indomitable energies, whether directed to scientific improvements, to the removal of political abuses, or to the reform of social institutions, will render them the benefactors not only of their own age and nation, but of all ages and all nations. May not you perchance become one of these Godsends to earth? Easy were it to multiply living instances of the giant deeds performed by apparent pigmies, but enough has been recorded to show that where his cause is good, there is no social dwarf who may not become a moral Hercules. Every individual should consider himself not only destined to promote the advancement of his species, but qualified to accomplish it, if he will but give development to the divinity that is within him. Such is the lofty faith that leads to lofty deeds; and such will be the lofty deeds that shall eventually elevate the human race, and render the moral not less perfect than the physical scheme of creation.

☞ Thomas Devecmon, Esq., of Cumberland, Md., declines to be a candidate for Congress.

News by Telegraph.

NEW ORLEANS, May 9.—The *Uriaba* arrived from Texas to-day, brings news that Gen. Van Dorn had left Victoria on the 6th instant with the McCullough regiment and other forces to intercept Col. Reeves' command of United States troops, six hundred strong, above San Antonio. Capt. Lee's company, 8th infantry, had surrendered at San Antonio. Col. Waite, successor of General Twiggs, is a prisoner of war, on parole. The crops will surpass any harvest ever reaped. Texas has made provision for large quantities of brass cannon and other arms for the defense of the State. The entrance of the channel at Pensacola Bay has been obstructed by sinking vessels to prevent the entrance of ships of war.

WHEELING, May 12.—The Convention to form a separate State west of the Alleghanies meets here to-morrow. Two companies of United States troops have been mustered into service at Wheeling by Major Oakes, late of Texas. The United States government encourages the Union movement in this section of Virginia. Two thousand Maynard rifles have been sent here for this purpose. Hon. John S. Carlisle, the leading spirit of the Union movement, is now here, closeted with prominent men perfecting a schedule for operations.

The plan is said to be the formation of a separate State, and the election of Senators, members of Congress, &c.

NEW ORLEANS, May 10th.—Advices from Montgomery state that yesterday morning a public session of Congress was held. The secretly passed act to raise additional force during the war was read; it authorizes the President to accept the services of volunteers without regard to the place of enlistment. Another act made public authorizes the Postmaster General to issue a proclamation any day he may select, taking the entire charge of the postal matters in the Confederate States.

FRANKFORT, May 11.—Mr. Machen, from the House committee on military affairs, yesterday reported a bill appropriating something near six millions of dollars for military purposes, and the organization of a standing army of ten thousand men, with proper proportions artillery and cavalry, and a reserve force of fifty thousand. Mr. Underwood offered a resolution that the bill be recommitted, with instructions to limit the appropriation to the purchase of 40,000 Belgian rifle muskets, and the equipping of 1,000 cavalry and three batteries of artillery, the committee being also instructed to appropriate $60,000 for drilling the active militia, $16,000 for the purchase of ammunition, and also to provide for the organization of a home guard. In each county arming the muskets to be purchased shall be distributed.

NEW YORK, May 12.—The steamer *North Star*, from Aspinwall, brings the Panama papers of the 4th inst. General Gustierres had gained a victory over the government forces at Tanja, New Granada. The battle lasted two days, in which the government forces lost 400 killed, including Gen. Canal. Argena escaped. Senor Calliver is now acting President.

FORT KEARNEY, May 12.—The California express has arrived, with San Francisco advices to May 1st. The steamer *Golden Age* had sailed with $488,000 in treasure, one-fourth of which goes to England. There was great excitement in consequence of the war news. The fear of the privateers of the Southern States had diminished the shipment of treasure. The troubles in Santa Clara county continue. There was no prospect of a Union between the Douglas and Breckinridge men in the Legislature.

DETROIT, May 12.—The military and volunteer relief bills have passed both branches of the Legislature by a unanimous vote. The former provides for ten regiments, to be enrolled as directed by the Governor, and transferable at the President's order into the federal service. The latter provides for raising funds by a committee for the relief of the families of volunteers. The war loan bill, providing for $1,000,000 by the issue of bonds running 25 years, drawing 7 per cent. interest, was also passed unanimously.

TRENTON, N. J., May 11.—Both houses of the Legislature adjourned sine die yesterday. The laws for raising a loan of $2,000,000, and a State tax of $100,000; to raise four new regiments; to purchase arms, artillery and munitions of war, &c., were passed.

The Collision at St. Louis.

We published on Saturday afternoon an account of a collision between the Federal forces and the people. Since then the following additional particulars have come to hand:

ST. LOUIS, May 11.—There are many very conflicting rumors relative to the cause of firing on the crowd at Camp Jackson last evening by the Federal troops. One respectable citizen, who claims to have been an eye-witness and stood a few feet behind the troops that fired, states positively that no rocks were thrown and no pistols fired by the crowd, the only provocation being abusive epithets launched at the Germans in the ranks. It is known, however, that after the firing commenced, shots were returned by parties in the crowd and several soldiers were wounded. It is understood that a thorough investigation of the matter has been ordered by Captain Lyons, when, it is hoped the truth will be known. Several of the troops are already under arrest. The United States troops are now in possession of Camp Jackson, with all the equipage, tents, provisions, &c.

ST. LOUIS, Saturday Night.—Gen. Frost's brigade have been released on their parole of honor, the men taking the oath not to serve against the general government. A report that federal troops had gone to Jefferson city to take Gov. Jackson prisoner is authoritatively denied. Troops have been stationed at the Pacific Railroad depot to prevent the transportation of troops to and from the city. Gov. Jackson caused one span of the Osage bridge to be destroyed. Two regiments of the Home Guard are patrolling the streets to-night. A large body of federal troops passed over the Alton and Chicago Railroad to Belleville, twenty miles distant, to-day.

The following are the only names of those killed that can be ascertained at this hour: Walter McDowell, Thomas A. Haven, Nicholas Noblach, Claiborne Wilson, and Truman Wright; Emily Summers, probably fatally wounded. All the gun shops in the city are guarded by bodies of armed police. About two hundred policemen have been detailed to protect the *Democrat* and *Anzeiger* offices.

FEEDING BEES.—A writer in the Ohio *Cultivator*, after descanting on the unprofitableness of feeding bees on buckwheat blossoms, states his experience in feeding them with sugar—his plan being to put a pound of brown sugar in a low tin dish, wet it with water, and lay a number of small strips of wood across for the bees to rest on while at work. In every experiment one pound of six cent sugar produced two pounds of honey. Another experimenter, per contra, says:

"Whatever bees collect and deposit in their comb, undergoes no change in consequence of anything they do to it. If they are fed with molasses they deposit molasses, if with sugar diluted with water, it is sugar, and nothing but sugar when stowed away in the cells. Of this any one can satisfy himself, by trying the experiment with these, or other sweets, as I have repeatedly done. The honey collected from flowers is the same in the hive as it was in the flower, without any modification in flavor, color, or consistency, and the patent preparations for feeding bees with a substance they are expected to change into honey, are imposition, cant, and humbug."

PROPRIA QUÆ MARIBUS.—It is curious, too, and worthy of a passing remark, that women have achieved success in every department of fiction but that of humor. They deal, no doubt, in sly humorous touches often enough; but the broad provinces of that great domain are almost uninvaded by them; beyond the outskirts, and open borders, they have never ventured to pass. Compare Miss Austen, Miss Ferriar, and Miss Edgeworth, with the lusty mirth and riotous humor of Shakspeare, Rabelais, Butler, Swift, Fielding, Smollett, or Dickens and Thackeray. It is like comparing a quiet smile with the "inextinguishable laughter" of the Homeric gods! So also on the stage,—there have been comic actresses of incomparable merit, lively, pleasant, humorous women, gladdening the scene with their airy brightness and gladsome presence; but they have no comic energy. There has been no female Munden, Listen, and Mathews, or Keeley.—*Edinburgh Review.*

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