The South.

(FROM OUR SECOND EDITION OF YESTERDAY.)

Interesting Details by the Persia.

We have received our foreign files by the *Persia* and give some additional details of her news:

Mr. Gregory, on Saturday, introduced the three Commissioners from the Southern Confederacy to Lord John Russell. The interview was at Lord John Russell's private residence, and was considered informal. What occurred with regard to the recognition of the Southern States has not transpired.

Agents have arrived from America by the *Persia* to purchase rifled cannon of the Armstrong, Clay and Blakeley patterns; also nearly 200,000 rifles and revolvers for immediate shipment.

The London *News* of May 8th says:

America's present position is one which she never could have foreseen, and never contemplated; it is the direct contrary of all that she has ever marked out for herself, and she has consequently been industriously vindicating principles and making precedents, all of which will now go to the contraction of her own belligerent rights. She has saved from perishing the vile trade of privateering, and the existence of privateers scattered over every sea will necessitate the dividing her fleet in order to protect her commerce.

She has stretched the rights of neutrals to resistance of the once conceded right of search and visit, and she has thereby given us immunity for every character of goods which we may carry in our free neutral ships. She has even, we believe, gone further than this. If we mistake not, she, in a very recent case of an American ship seized by Neapolitan cruisers off Sicily, raised and insisted upon the point that a State cannot blockade its own ports. We speak from impression, and not from reference, but we believe we are correct in saying that the United States demanded and obtained restitution and compensation from the King of Sicily, upon the ground that, as he claimed Sicily as part of his dominions—just as Mr. Lincoln now claims the seceded States—he could not lawfully blockade the ports of Sicily.

However this may be, we have said enough to show that there is really some complication in the questions which the Government declined last night to discuss. But it is a consolation to know that in dealing with these questions we shall have to deal with a people who have always been the champions of the rights of neutrals, and who will have no difficulty in appreciating the arguments in that interest which we shall have to lay before them.

The *Post* says that there are American precedents for the conclusion the British Government has come to, of treating the Southern States as belligerents. During the continuance of the war between Spain and her colonies, and previous to the acknowledgement of the independence of the latter by the mother country, the Federal Government at Washington decided that the colonies were belligerent nations, and entitled to all the sovereign rights of war against the enemy. This doctrine the United States have adopted for their first constitution; but belligerent rights carry with them corresponding obligations. Blockades must be effectual, and privateers must be lawfully commissioned.

The Meaning of "Belligerent" Fully Settled.

The steamer *Persia* brings the full text of Lord John Russell's late speech, from which it will be seen that *the law officers, of the Crown have decided that the Southern States must be treated as belligerents and not as pirates:*

In the debate on American subjects, Lord John Russell said:—With respect to belligerent rights in the case of certain portions of a State being in insurrection, there was a precedent which seemed applicable to this purpose in the year 1825. The British Government at that time allowed the belligerent rights of the Provisional Government of Greece, and in consequence of that allowance the Turkish Government made a remonstrance. I may state the nature of that remonstrance, and the reply of Mr. Canning. "The Turkish Government complained that the British Government allowed to the Greeks a belligerent character, and observed that it appeared to forget that to subjects in rebellion no national character could properly belong."

But the British Government informed Mr. Stratford Canning that "the character of the belligerency was not so much a principle as a fact: that a certain degree of force and consistency, acquired by any mass of people engaged in war, entitled that population to be treated as belligerent, and even if their title were questionable, rendered it the interest well understood of all civilized nations so to treat them; for what was the alternative? A river or a community (call it what you will) which was at war with another, and which covered the sea with its cruisers, must either be acknowledged as a belligerent or dealt with as a pirate," which latter character, as applied to the Greeks, was loudly disclaimed. In a separate despatch of the same date (12th of October, 1825,) Mr. S. Canning was reminded that when the British Government acknowledged the right of either belligerent to visit and detain British merchant vessels having enemies' property on board, and to confiscate such property, it was necessarily implied as a condition of such acknowledgment that the detention was for the purpose of bringing the vessels detained before an established Court of prize, and that confiscation did not take place until after condemnation by such competent tribunal. The question has been under the consideration of the Government. They have consulted the law officers of the Crown. The Attorney and Solicitor General and the Queen's Advocate and the Government have come to the opinion that the Southern Confederacy of America, according to those principles which seem to them to be just principles, must be treated as a belligerent. [Hear, hear.] But further questions arise out of that question, with respect to which we are still in doubt—as what are the alterations which are to be made in the law of nations in consequence of the declarations of Paris, and those questions, being of a difficult and intricate nature, have not yet been determined upon. They are still under the consideration of the Government, and will be still further considered before any declaration is made to other Powers. [Hear, hear.]

The Programme.

The Washington correspondent of the *Tribune* says:

There is no ground for supposing that there is to be any immediate aggressive movement. "Immediate" and "very soon" mean, in military phraseology, something slower than they do in common language. Those expecting forays on detached points, where success would amount to little and failure be disastrous, are liable to disappointment. Senators and others urging this policy would substitute a guerilla warfare for a decisive campaign. General Scott boasted in Mexico that he never made a countermarch. He will move from several sides with a number of columns upon Virginia, postponing aggressive operations until they can be made upon a scale as render resistance hopeless. Jeff. Davis may hasten the battle by moving towards Arlington Heights. His advance will be known early, and measures are complete to take possession of the Heights by the forces here at a moment's warning. Although the plan of the campaign is undoubtedly this, no movement threatening positions or obstructing routes will be permitted. Hence the attack upon Sewell's Point Battery.

Secession Feeling in Missouri

A large mail contractor at the Southwest has arrived via Missouri. He reports an overwhelming Secession feeling outside of St. Louis.

Seizure of Powder.

The New York *News* of yesterday says a vessel with 3,125 kegs of powder had been seized on the North River.

The Seventh Regiment.

It is definitely stated that the 7th (N. Y.) Regiment will return home at the expiration of their thirty days. The New York papers frame elaborate excuses for this action, and assure the public that they will return to Washington when necessary.

The Commerce of the Country.

A letter from New York, dated yesterday says:

The Commerce of the country, as reported weekly at the custom house, continues steadily to diminish. Last week the imports were only $2,328,479, against $5,517,687 in the corresponding week last year. Since January 1st the total imports are only sixty-six millions, against ninety-one millions in the same time in 1860.

——A woman at Lodi, Ill., cut off the two fore-fingers of her husband while he was asleep to keep him from enlisting.

HISTORICAL PARALLELS.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these, are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established, should not be changed for light and transient causes; and, accordingly, all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But, when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security."—*Declaration of Independence.*

Yes, sir, we wish for peace, but how is that blessing to be preserved? I shall repeat here a sentiment I have often had occasion to express. In my opinion there is nothing worth fighting for but national honor; for, in the national honor is involved the national independence. *I know that a State may find itself in such unpropitious circumstances, that prudence may force a wise government to conceal the sense of indignity. But the insult should be engraven on tablets of brass, with a pencil of steel.* AND WHEN THAT TIME AND CHANCE, WHICH HAPPEN TO ALL, SHALL BRING FORWARD THE FAVORABLE MOMENT, THEN LET THE AVENGING ARM STRIKE HOME. It is only by avowing and maintaining this stern principle of honor, that peace can be preserved.—*Gouverneur Morris, Speech in the Senate of the U. S., Feb. 24, 1803.*

"Countrymen! the men who now invite you to surrender your rights into their hands, are the men who have let loose the merciless savages to riot in the blood of their brethren—WHO HAVE TAUGHT TREACHERY TO YOUR SLAVES, AND COURTED THEM TO ASSASSINATE YOUR WIVES AND CHILDREN."—*Samuel Adams, Speech in Philadelphia, 1st August, 1776.*

"A town meeting of Boston had been called at the Old South Church, in consequence of some new aggression upon the rights of the people. The different orators of the patriot party had in turn addressed the meeting, loud in complaint and accusation, but guarded and cautious on every point which might look like an approach towards treasonable expressions, or direct exhortations to resistance. Adams placed himself in the pulpit, and sat quietly listening to all their harangues; at length he rose and made a few remarks, which he closed with the following pithy apologue: "A Grecian philosopher who was lying asleep on the grass, was suddenly roused by the bite of some animal on the palm of his hand. He closed his hand quickly as he awoke, and found he had caught in it a small field mouse. As he was examining the little animal which had dared to attack him, it bit him unexpectedly a second time: he dropped it, and it escaped. Now, fellow-citizens, what think you was the reflection which this trifling circumstance gave birth to, in the mind of the philosopher? It was this: *That there is no animal, however weak and contemptible, which cannot defend its own liberty, if it will only* FIGHT FOR IT."—*Samuel Adams, Memoir in American Eloquence, Vol. I.*

Guard with jealous attention the public liberty. Suspect every one who approaches that jewel. *Unfortunately, nothing will preserve it but downright force.* WHENEVER YOU GIVE UP THAT FORCE, YOU ARE INEVITABLY RUINED.—*Patrick Henry, Speech in the Virginia Convention, June 4, 1788.*

The honorable gentleman who presided, told us, that to prevent abuses in our government we will assemble in convention, recall our delegated powers, and punish the servants for abusing the trust reposed in them. Oh, sir, we should have fine times, indeed, if to punish tyrants it were only sufficient to assemble the people. *Your arms wherewith you could defend yourselves are gone; and you have no longer an aristocratical, no longer a democratical spirit.* Did you ever read of any revolution in any nation brought about by the punishment of those in power, inflicted by those who had no power at all? You read of a riot act in a country which is called one of the freest in the world, where a few neighbors cannot assemble without the risk of being shot by a hired soldiery, the engines of despotism. *We may see such an act in America. A standing army we shall have also, to execute the execrable commands of tyranny,* and how are you to punish them? Will you order them to be punished?—Who shall obey those orders? Will your mace-bearer be a match for a disciplined regiment? In what situation are we to be?—*Patrick Henry, Speech in Virginia Convention, June 6th, 1788.*

Where are your checks in this government?—Your strongholds will be in the hands of your enemies. *It is on the supposition that your American Governors shall be honest that all its good qualities are founded, but its defective and imperfect construction puts it in their power to perpetrate the worst of mischiefs should they be bad men.* And, sir, would not all the world, from the Eastern to the Western hemisphere, blame our distracted folly in resting our rights upon the contingency of our rulers being good or bad? Show me that age and country where the rights and liberties of the people were placed on the sole chance of their rulers being good men without a consequent loss of liberty. I say that the loss of that dearest privilege has ever followed, with absolute certainty, any such mad attempt. If your American chief be a man of ambition and abilities, how easy will it be for him to render himself absolute! The army is in his hands, and, if he be a man of address, it will be attached to him; and it will be the subject of long meditation with him to seize the first auspicious moment to accomplish his design. And, sir, will the American spirit solely relieve you when this happens? I would rather, infinitely, and I am sure most of this convention are of the same opinion, have a king, lords and commons, than a government so replete with such insupportable evils. If we make a king, we may prescribe the rules by which he shall rule his people, and interpose such checks as shall prevent him from intringing them: *but the president in the field, at the head of his army, can prescribe the terms on which he shall reign master so far that it will puzzle any American ever to get his neck from under the galling yoke.* I cannot, with patience, think of this idea. If ever he violates the laws, one of two things will happen: he will come at the head of his army to carry every thing before him; or, he will give bail, or do what Mr. Chief Justice will order him. If he be guilty will not the recollection of his crimes teach him to make one bold push for the American throne? Will not the immense difference between being master of every thing, and being ignominiously tried and punished, powerfully excite him to make this bold push? But, sir, where is the existing force to punish him? Can he not, at the head of his army, beat down every opposition?

Away with your president, we shall have a king; the army will salute him monarch; your militia will assist in making him king, and fight against you; and what have you to oppose this force?—What will then become of you and your rights?—WILL NOT ABSOLUTE DESPOTISM ENSUE?—*Patrick Henry, in the Virginia Convention, June, 1788.*

"The glorious spirit of liberty is vanquished and left without hope but in a miracle," said deserting patriots. "I confess," said Samuel Adams, "we have, as Wolfe expressed it, a choice of difficulties. Too many flatter themselves that their pusillanimity is true prudence; *but in perilous times like these, I cannot conceive of prudence without fortitude.*" He persevered; but John Adams retired from the service of the people, and devoting himself to his profession, for a time ceased even to employ his pen in their defence. Otis who had returned to the legislature, disordered in mind, and jealous of his declining influence, did but impede the public cause. In Hancock, also, vanity so mingled with patriotism, that the Government hoped to separate him from its uncompromising opponents."—*Bancroft's U. S., vol. 6, page 402, year 1771.*

"Here," said Mayhew, as he lamented the cold adhesion of the timid good, and for himself, trod the thorny path of resistance to the grandeurs of the world—there, there are many who see the right, and yet the wrong pursue. But it is my fixed resolution, notwithstanding many discouragements, in my little sphere, to do all I can for the service of my country, that neither the republic nor the churches of New England may sustain any injury." And every where men began to enter into a solemn agreement not to use a single article of British manufacture; not even to wear black clothes for mourning. To encourage the growth and manufacture of wool, nearly all Boston signed a covenant to eat no lamb."—*Bancroft's U. S., vol. 5, p. 206, year 1771.*

The King, in his reply, pledged himself *speedily and effectually to enforce "obedience to the laws and the authority of the supreme legislature."* His heart was hardened. *Having just heard of the seizure of ammunition at the fort in New Hampshire,* he intended that his language should "open the eyes of the deluded Americans." "If it does not," said he to his faltering minister, "it must set every delicate man at liberty to avow the propriety of the *measures.*" "*The New England governments are now in a state of rebellion. Blows must decide whether they are to be subject to this country or to be independent.*"—*Bancroft's U. S., vol. 7, p. 177-227.*

They rushed on with headlong indiscretion, thinking not to involve the empire in a civil war, but to subdue the Americans by fear. The first step towards inspiring terror was, to declare Massachusetts in a state of *rebellion*, and to pledge the parliament and the whole force of Great Britain to its reduction; the next, by prohibiting the American fisheries, to *starve* New England; the next, to call out the savages on the rear of the Colonies; the next, *to excite a servile insurrection.*—*Bancroft's U. S., vol. 7, p. 322.*

In the Congress of 1774, there was not one member, except Patrick Henry, who appeared to me sensible of the precipice, or rather the pinnacle on which we stood, and had candor and courage enough to acknowledge it. America is in total ignorance, or under infinite deception concerning that assembly. To draw the characters of them all would require a volume, and would now be considered as a caricatured print. One third Tories, another Whigs, and the rest mongrels.

There was a little aristocracy among us of talents and letters. Mr. Dickinson was *primus inter pares*, the bell-wether, the leader of the aristocratical flock.—*John Adams, Letter to Jefferson, Nov. 12, 1813.*

As to the history of the Revolution, my ideas may be peculiar, perhaps singular. What do we mean by the Revolution? The war? That was no part of the Revolution; it was only an effect and consequence of it. *The Revolution was in the minds of the people, and this was effected from 1760 to 1775. Years, before a drop of blood was drawn at Lexington.* The records of thirteen Legislatures, the pamphlets, newspapers, in all the colonies, should be consulted during that period, to ascertain the means by which the public opinion was enlightened, and informed concerning the authority of Parliament over the colonies. *The Congress of 1774 resembled, in some respects, though I hope not in many, the Council of Nice in Ecclesiastical history.* It assembled the priests, from the east and the west, the north and the south, who compared notes, engaged in discussions and debates, *and formed results by one vote and by two votes which went out to the world as unanimous.*—*John Adams, Letter to Jefferson, August 14, 1815.*

Truth, being known, will prevail over artifice and misrepresentation. *In such case so man, who is worthy of life, liberty or property, will or can refuse to join with you in defending them to the last*, *extremity*, disdaining every sordid view, and the mean, paltry considerations of private interest and present emolument, when placed in competion with the liberties of a million; *and, seeing that there is no alternative but absolute, unconditional submission, or a defence becoming and the most abject slavery, the man born to freedom, he will not hesitate about the choice.* Although superior force may, by the permission of Heaven, lay waste our towns and ravage our country, it can never eradicate from the breasts of freemen, those principles which are ingrafted in their very nature. *Such men* WILL DO THEIR DUTY, NEITHER KNOWING NOR REGARDING CONSEQUENCES; but submitting them, with humble confidence, to the omnisicent and omnipotent Arbiter and Director of the fate of empires, and trusting that his Almighty arm, which has been so signally stretched out for our defence, will deliver them in a righteous cause.—*John Rutledge, in the South Carolina Assembly, April 11th, 1776.*

It was a maxim of the Roman people, which eminently conduced to the greatness of that State, never to despair of the commonwealth. THE MAXIM MAY PROVE AS SALUTARY TO US NOW, AS IT DID TO THEM. Short-sighted mortals see not the numerous links of small and great events which form the chain on which the fate of kings and nations is suspended.—Ease and prosperity, though purchasing for a day, have often sunk a people into effeminacy and sloth. Hardships and dangers, though we for ever strive to shun them, have frequently called forth such virtues as have commanded the applause and reverence of an admiring world. Our country loudly calls you to be circumspect, vigilant, active and brave. Perhaps, (all gracious heaven avert it,) perhaps the power of Britain, a nation great in war, by some malignant influence, may be employed to enslave you; but let not even this disclose your courage. Her arms, 'tis true, have filled the world with terror; her troops have reaped the laurels of the field; her fleets have rode triumphant on the sea; and when, or where, did you, my countrymen, depart inglorious from the field of fight? You, too, can show the trophies of your forefathers' victories and your own; can name the fortresses and battles you have won; and many of you count the honorable scars of wounds received, whilst fighting for your king and country.—*Joseph Warren, Boston, March 6th, 1775.*

But, pardon me, fellow-citizens, I know you want not zeal or fortitude. *You will maintain your rights, or perish in the generous struggle. However difficult the combat, you never will decline it while freedom is the prize.* An independence of Great Britain is not our aim. No, our wish is, that Britain and the colonies may, like the oak and ivy, grow and increase in strength together. *But whilst the infatuated plan of making one part of the empire slaves to the other is persisted in*, the interest and safety of Britain, as well as the colonies, require that the wise measures recommended by the honorable the Continental Congress be steadiastly pursued; whereby the unnatural contest between a parent honored and a child beloved, may probably be brought to such an issue, as that the peace and happiness of both may be established upon a lasting basis. *But if these pacific measures are ineffectual, and it appears that the only way to safety is through fields of blood, I know you will not turn your faces from your foes, but will, undoubtedly, press forward, until tyranny is trodden under foot.*—*Joseph Warren, Boston, March 6th, 1775.*

Upon the whole it has been the policy of the British authority to oblige us to supply our wants at their market, which is the dearest in the known world, *and to cramp and confine our trade so as to be subservient to their commerce, our real interest being ever out of the question.*—*Chief Justice Drayton, Charge to the Grand Jury, Charleston, May 23, 1776.*

Our liberties and safety cannot be depended upon if the King of Great Britain should be allowed to hold our forts and cannon, or to have authority over a single regiment in America or a single ship of war in her ports. For if he holds our forts he may turn them against us, as he did Boston against her proprietors; if he acquires our cannon he will effectually disarm the colony; if he has a command of troops among us, even if we raise and pay them, shackles will be fixed upon us—witness Ireland and her national army. The most express act of Parliament cannot give us security, for acts of Parliament are as easily repealed as made. Royal proclamations are not to be depended upon, witness the *disappointments of the inhabitants of Quebec and St. Augustine.* Even a change of ministry will not avail us, because, notwithstanding the rapid succession of ministers, for which the British Court has been famous during the present reign, *yet the same ruinous policy ever continued to prevail against America.* In short, I think it my duty to declare, in the awful seat of justice and before Almighty God, that in my opinion the Americans can have no safety but by the Divine favor, their own virtue, and their being so prudent as not to LEAVE IT IN THE POWER OF THE BRITISH SECRETS TO INJURE THEM. *Indeed the ruinous and deadly injuries received on our side, and the jealousies entertained, and which in the nature of things must daily increase against us, on the other, demonstrate to a mind the least given to reflection upon the rise and fall of empires, that true reconcilement can never exist between Great Britain and America, the latter being in subjection to the former.*—*Chief Justice Drayton, Charge to the Grand Jury, Charleston, April 23, 1776.*

"Of the inhabitants of Boston, six thousand seven hundred and fifty-three still remained in the town, piining of sorrow; deprived of wholesome food; confined to their houses after ten o'clock in the evening; liable to be robbed without redress; ever exposed to the malice of the soldiers, and chidden for tears as proofs of disloyalty.—*Bancroft's U. S., vol. 8, p. 42, year 1775.*

"They closed their statement in the words of their new member, Jefferson: 'These Colonies now feel the complicated calamities of fire, sword and famine. We are reduced to the alternative of choosing an unconditional submission to irritated ministers, or resistance by force. The latter is our choice. We have counted the cost of this contest, and find nothing so dreadful as voluntary slavery.'"—*Bancroft's U. S. vol. 8, p. 36, year 1775.*

"The loss of officers was observed to be disproportionably great; and the gloom in the quarters of the British was deepened by the reflection that they had fought not against an enemy, but against their fellow-subjects and kindred; not for the promotion of civil or religious freedom, *but for the supremacy of one part of the empire over another.*"—*Bancroft's U. S., vol. 8, pp. 25 26, Battle of Bunker Hill.*

"Here too, as every where else, preparations for resistance had been deferred, no more than four barrels of powder could be found in the city. While Washington was borne toward Cambridge on the affectionate confidence of the people, Congress which had as yet supported its commander-in-chief with nothing beyond a commission," &c., &c.—*Bancroft U. S., vol. 8, p. 24, "Not Prepared for Resistance."*

The wife of Colonel Pinckney is distinguished as one of those heroic and self-sacrificing women of the revolution, "whose intrepidity and fortitude lent no able a support to the cause of their country." An incident in her life is recorded in Garden's interesting *Anecdotes of the Revolution.* "A British officer of rank once said to Mrs. Pinckney—'It is impossible not to admire the intrepid firmness of the ladies of your country. Had your men but half their resolution, we might give up the contest. America would be invincible.'"—*American Eloquence, Vol. 1.*

"But in truth the cry of Dunmore did not rouse among the Africans a passion for freedom. To them bondage in Virginia was not a lower condition of being than their former one; they had no "regrets for ancient privileges lost; their memories preserved no demand for political changes; "no struggle aspirations of their own had invited "Dunmore's intervention; no immortal of their "grievances had preceded his others."—*Bancroft's U. S., vol. 8, p. 222—year 1775.*

"When Washington learned the fate of the rich "emporium of his own country," for so he called "Virginia, his breast heaved with waves of anger "and grief; 'I hope,' said he, 'this and the threat-"ened devastation of other places will unite the "whole country in one indissoluble bond against a "nation which seems lost to every sense of virtue "and those feelings which distinguish a civilized "people from the most barbarous savages.'"—*Bancroft U. S., 8 vol., 232—Burning of Norfolk.*

"Yet the majority of Congress, scrupulous not "to outrun the convictions and sympathies of their "constituents, and pleasing themselves by confiding "in the speedy restoration of peace, not only "made no adequate preparations for resistance, but "would not even consent to relieve the states from "anarchy by sanctioning the institution of Govern-"ments in the several colonies. The hesitancy of "so many members, especially of Dickinson, in-"censed John Adams, who maintained that the "fifty or sixty men composing Congress should at "once form a constitution for a great empire, pro-"vide for its defence, and, in that safe attitude, "await the decision of the King. His letters to "New England, avowing these opinions, were in-"tercepted; and so little were the central colonies "prepared for the bold advice, they were published "by the royalists as the surest way of destroying "his influence, and heaping obloquy on his name."—*Bancroft U. S., 8 vol., 55—year 1775.*

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CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.
POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT,
MONTGOMERY, March 27, 1861.

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at this Department until nine o'clock A. M., the 1st day of May next, for furnishing for the use of the Confederate States of America, in such quantities and at such times as may be required and ordered for the postal service, Mail Bags of the following descriptions, to wit:

CANVASS MAIL BAGS, OR SACKS.

Size No. 1, (13 inches in length and 18 inches in circumference,) to be made of cotton canvas, weighing at least fifteen ounces to the yard of 22 inches width, the threads of the warp and weft to be composed of five yarns each.

Size No. 2, (11 inches in length and 16 inches in circumference,) to be made of cotton canvas, weighing at least fourteen ounces to the yard of 22 inches width, the threads of the warp and weft to be composed of four yarns each.

Size No. 3, (32 inches in length and 24 inches in circumference,) to be made of cotton canvas, weighing at least eight ounces to the yard of 22 inches width, the threads of the warp and weft to be composed of three yarns each.

The canvass bags of sizes numbered 1 and 2 are to be made with a tubing or hem at the top of two inches wide, upon which a sufficient number (at least ten to the former and eight to the latter) of eyelet holes are to be strength, and they are to be provided with good and well-cut hemp cord to lace and tie them strongly. All are to be well marked inside and outside with "C. S. Mail," in large and distinct letters.

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Size.				
No. 1—40 inches length, and 18 inches circumference				
No. 2—41 do.	do.	18	do.	do.
No. 3—36 do.	do.	17	do.	do.
No. 4—30 do.	do.	16	do.	do.
No. 5—25 do.	do.	20	do.	do.

The body of the leather pouches are to be made of good and substantial bag leather well tanned, and weighing for sizes numbered 1 and 2, not less than eight ounces, and for the smaller sizes not less than seven ounces to the square foot, the bottom (of circular form) and flap to be of good sheeting leather, well trained, the seams to be well and strongly secured with the best iron rivets well tinned.

The canvas pouches are to be made of cotton canvas, densely woven, so as to resist water, weighing for pouches of size No. 1, not less than 25 ounces to the yard of 22 inches width, for pouches of size No. 2, not less than 20 ounces to the yard of 22 inches width, for pouches of size No. 3, not less than 16 ounces to the yard of 22 inches in width, the threads of the warp and weft to be composed of at least five yarns each. The canvas pouches of sizes numbered 4 and 5 are to be made of cotton canvas, weighing not less than 11 ounces to the yard of 19 inches width, nor less than 22 ounces to the yard of 36 inches width, the thread of the warp and weft to be composed of at least four yarns each.

LEATHER AND CANVAS HORSE MAIL BAGS.

Size No. 3—Body 45 inches long, and 18 inches wide in the widest parts, ends of bottom of same being 12 by 20 inches.

Size No. 2—Body 43 inches long and 18 inches wide in the widest parts; ends or bottoms of same being 12 by 20 inches.

Size No. 1—Body 42 inches long and 16 inches wide in the widest parts; ends of bottoms of same being 10 by 20 inches.

The leather horse mail bags are to be made of good and substantial bag leather, well tanned, weighing not less than seven ounces to the square foot, and the seams to be well and strongly sewed or riveted, to be so done as not to chafe horses or riders.

The canvas horse mail bags are to be made of cotton canvas, like that described for the larger sized pouches.

Proposals for improvements in the form of construction of any of the above described bags and pouches, or in the materials thereof, are invited, and the relative value and adaptation to the service, as well as specified prices of any such improvements, will be considered in determining the lowest and best bid.

All the articles contracted for are to be delivered at the expense of the contractors, in Charleston, S. C., Savannah, Ga., Mobile, Ala., Montgomery, Ala., and New Orleans, La., in such quantities, and at such times as the Department may require and order, and they are to be rigidly inspected before delivery, and none are to be received which shall be inferior in any respect to the specimens adopted as the standard bags.

The proposals should specify the price of each article proposed to be furnished.

No proposal will be considered, if not accompanied with specimens or samples of each article bid for, showing the construction, size and quality of materials and workmanship offered, and also with satisfactory guarantees from the persons proposed as sureties, that they will become responsible, on sufficient bond for the due performance of the contract in case such proposals shall be accepted.

The specimens or samples must be delivered at this Department on or before the first day of May next, and those which shall have accompanied the accepted proposals will, in course, be returned with such proposals form the basis of the contracts to be made. Every specimen submitted should be well and distinctly marked with the number designating its size, and have affixed to it a sample of the materials (cotton or leather) of which it is made. All specimens deposited by bidders, which may with safety and convenience be used in the mail service, will be paid for at the prices specified in the proposals relating to the same.

Bidders will state the earliest period at which they will be able to furnish supplies of the articles bid for, in the event of the contract being awarded to them, as it will have an important bearing upon the awards. But bids will not be entertained which fix a period beyond the 1st July next for the delivery of supplies.

A decision on the bids will be made on or before the 10th day of May next, and the accepted bidder or bidders will be required to enter into contract with sufficient bond or sureties on or before the 1st day of July next.

The number of the different kinds of mail bags which will probably be required has been estimated at 3,500 cotton mail pouches, 9,000 leather mail pouches, and 500 horse mail bags, but the Department reserves the right to increase or diminish the number of each size and quality according to the exigencies of the service without increase of cost for supply or delivery.

JOHN H. REAGAN,
Postmaster General.
Confederate States of America.

ap 22

PROPOSALS FOR PRINTING POSTOFFICE BLANKS AND PAPER FOR THE SAME.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA
POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT,
MONTGOMERY, March 27th, 1861.

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at this Department until the 1st day of May next, until 12 M., for furnishing for the Postoffices in the Confederate States for one year from and after the date of the contract, the following blanks, viz:

Post Bills, 18 on a sheet
Mails received for delivery
Mails sent
Account of newspapers
Accounts current
Account of forwarded printed matter
Signature post bills, 18 on a sheet
Mails received for distribution
Mails sent from distributing offices
Distribution signature post bills
Do. do. extra size
Distribution account current

Quantity of blanks sent by route agents.

The attention of bidders is directed to the following provisions of an Act approved 27th February, 1861, entitled an Act in relation to public printing, fixing the maximum rates of compensation for printing and paper, viz:

Section 9. The Postmaster General shall contract for the publication of all post bills and other blanks connected with his office, not exceeding the following rates: For composition, including rule and figure work, per 1,000 ems, fifty cents; for press work, per clean sheet, (the sheets not to be less than 16 by 26 inches,) fifty cents; for paper, ten per cent on actual cost. Nothing shall be allowed for altering the name of a Postmaster. Nothing shall be allowed for altering the name of a Postmaster on a post bill, or other blank, nor shall there be an additional charge for composition, when the name of the postoffice alone is changed. But the Printer shall be required to keep always on hand forms for postoffice blanks, and when new orders are given, the charge shall be made only for the press work and the paper, and such new composition as may be necessary.

Section 14 provides that it shall be the duty of the superintendent of public printing done under contract with any Executive department, to the quality of paper to be used, the character of type, and the general execution of the work, and also as to the time and order in which the same shall be completed.

Specimens of the various kinds of blanks and quality of paper may be seen at this department, and also at the large postoffices within the States.

Proposals will be received for the printing and paper separately, or for them jointly. The contract will be awarded to the lowest and best bidder, the best bid to be determined after a careful examination, for the purpose of ascertaining which bid will in its practical results be most advantageous to the department.

Bidders will state the earliest period at which they will be able to furnish supplies of the articles bid for, in the event of the contract being awarded to them, as it will have an important bearing upon the awards. But bids will not be entertained which fix a period beyond the 1st July next for the delivery of supplies.

Samples of the style of printing and of paper must accompany each proposal, and each bidder must furnish with his proposal evidence of his ability to comply with his bid.

Sufficient sureties will be required to a contract, and the blanks are to be delivered at the department at the expense of the contractor.

If the contract for paper be awarded separately from the contract for printing, the party so contracting will be required to deliver the paper to the contractor for the printing, without expense to the department.

Proposals must be addressed on the outside of the envelope "Proposals for printing Postoffice blanks, and paper for the same," and addressed to the Chief of the Appointment Bureau, Montgomery, Alabama.

JOHN H. REAGAN,
Postmaster General.

ap 22 d

PROPOSALS FOR WRAPPING PAPER, TWINE AND SEALING WAX.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
MONTGOMERY, March 27th, 1861.

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at this Department until the 1st day of May next, at 12 o'clock, M., for furnishing WRAPPING PAPER, TWINE and SEALING WAX for the use of the Post Offices of the Confederate States, for four years from and after the date of the execution of the contract. The quantities and articles are to be delivered free of expense, at this Department. The estimated quantities of each article, and the quantity thereof, required for one year, are as follows:

2,250 reams Manilla Wrapping Paper, 20 by 25 inches in size, and to weigh not less than 24 pounds to the ream, and each ream to contain 20 perfect quires, to be made of the same kind of Paper as is now furnished to this Department, and not less than 24 pounds to 20 by 32 inches in size, and to weigh not less than 34 pounds to the ream.

3,000 pounds Cotton Twine, 3 strands, hard twisted, and to weigh 1 pound each; 300 pounds of the same kind of twine, on spools, each spool to weigh from 1 lb to 2 pounds.

2,000 pounds of coarse Hemp Twine, about 9 yarns, of the diameter, well twisted, and to be of a strong quality, to weigh from 1 to 2 pounds each.

150 lbs. of Sealing Wax, of good quality, for office use.

Proposals will be received for each article separately, or for the whole. The contract will be awarded to the lowest bidder for the best article for the purpose for which it is intended. The Postmaster General reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Samples of the articles offered must accompany the proposals, and each bidder must furnish with his proposal evidence of his ability to comply with his bid.

Two sureties will be required to a contract. Blanks for proposals will be furnished on application to the Postmaster General, or to the Chief of the Appointment Bureau, Montgomery, Ala.

Bidders will state the earliest period at which they will be able to furnish supplies of the articles bid for, in the event of the contract being awarded to them, as it will have an important bearing upon the award. But bids will not be entertained which fix a period beyond the 1st of July next for the delivery of supplies.

The bids should be marked "Proposals for Wrapping Paper, Twine and Sealing Wax," and addressed to the "Chief of the Appointment Bureau," Montgomery, Ala.

JOHN H. REAGAN,
Postmaster General.

ap 22 d3m

PROPOSALS FOR CIRCULAR MARKING AND CANCELLING STAMPS.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
MONTGOMERY, March 27th, 1861.

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at this Department until the 1st day of May next, at 12 o'clock, M., for furnishing the following Circular Marking and Cancelling Stamps, of the following descriptions, viz:

Class 1. Circular Marking Stamps of steel, or other material equal thereto, for the use of postoffices, with the name of the town, with the name of the office and state, or the name of the railroad or route line, with type for months and days, in block or lettering, and handles the same as described in Class No. 2.

Class 2. Circular Marking stamps of box wood, or other materials of equal durability, of the same size as Class No. 1, with the name of the office and state, with type for months and days, of printers' type metal, in blocks or single letters and figures, with thumb scre