The South.

HABEAS CORPUS.

"Next to personal security," says Mr. Justice Blackstone, "the law of England regards, asserts "and preserves the personal liberty of individuals. "This personal liberty consists in the power of "locomotion, of changing situation or moving "one's person to whatsoever place one's own "inclinations may direct, without imprisonment "or restraint, unless by due course of law.

"By the Petition of Right, 3 Car. 1st, it is enacted that no person shall be imprisoned or detained without cause shown, to which he may "make answer according to law. By 16 Car. 1st, "ch. 10, if any person be restrained of his liberty "by order or decree of any illegal court, or by "the command of the KING'S MAJESTY in person, "or by warrant of the council board, or of any "of the privy council, he shall upon demand of "his counsel, have a writ of *habeas corpus* to "bring his body before the Court of King's Bench "or Common Pleas, who shall determine whether "the cause of his commitment be just, and bere"upon to do as to justice shall appertain.

"To bereave a man of life or by violence to "confiscate his estate without accusation or trial "would be so gross and notorious an act of despotism as must at once convey the alarm of "tyranny throughout the whole kingdom, but "confinement of the person by secretly hurrying "him to jail where his sufferings are unknown or "forgotten is a less public, a less striking and "*therefore a more dangerous engine of arbitrary "government.* And yet sometimes, when the State "is in real danger, even this may be a necessary "measure. BUT THE HAPPINESS OF OUR OWN CONSTITUTION IS THAT IT IS NOT LEFT TO THE EXECUTIVE POWER TO DETERMINE WHEN THE DANGER OF "THE STATE IS SO GREAT AS TO RENDER THIS MEASURE "EXPEDIENT: FOR IT IS THE PARLIAMENT ONLY, OR "LEGISLATIVE POWER THAT WHENEVER IT SEES PROPER CAN AUTHORIZE THE CROWN, BY SUSPENDING "THE HABEAS CORPUS ACT FOR A SHORT AND LIMITED TIME, TO IMPRISON SUSPECTED PERSONS WITHOUT GIVING ANY REASON FOR SO DOING."—*Commentaries on the Laws of England, Vol. 1, pp.* 135—136.

So our own Chief Justice Marshall, in the case of Bollman, 4 *Cranch*, 100, says: "If at any time "the public safety should require the suspension "of the power vested by this act (the power to "grant writs of *habeas corpus*) in the Courts of "the United States, *it is for the Legislature to say.* "That question depends on political considerations on which the Legislature is to decide. "Until the Legislative will be expressed, this "Court can only see its duty and *must obey the "laws.*" This was in a case of Treason.

So Judge Story in his *Commentaries on the Constitution*, sec. 1336, says: "It would seem as the "power is granted to Congress to suspend the "writ of *habeas corpus* in case of rebellion or invasion, that the right to judge whether the exigency "had arisen must exclusively belong to that body."

So in 1807, when great alarm existed as to Burr's conspiracy, a bill was brought before the Senate in secret session to suspend the writ of *habeas corpus*. When brought into the House of Representatives, that body refused to consider it in secret session, and by a vote of 113 to 19 rejected the bill on its first reading. On that occasion Mr. Dana of Connecticut used the following language: "This bill authorizes the arrest of persons not merely by the President or other high "officers, but by any person acting under him. "*I imagine this to be wholly without precedent. If "treason was marching to force us from our seats, I "would not agree thus to destroy the fundamental "principles of the Constitution, or commit such an "act either of despotism or pusillanimity.*"

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.

"Country men! 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 COMPELLED 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 raised 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 the trifling circumstance gave birth to, in the mind of the philosopher? It was this: *That there is no animal, however weak and contemptible, but which cannot defend its own liberty, if it will only* FIGHT TO IT."—*Samuel Adams, Memoir in American Eloquence, Vol. 1.*

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 INSTANTLY PUNISHED.—*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 these tyrants 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 democratic 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 4th,* 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 infringing 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 desponding 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 Mathew, 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—here, 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.* 208, *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 most coercive 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, *in the course of fifteen 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 steps 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 *no 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 competition with the liberties of millions; *and, seeing that there is no alternative but absolute, unconditional submission, and the most abject slavery, or a defence becoming the men 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 omniscient 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 SAME 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 pleasing 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, call 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 discourage you. 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 when 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 steadfastly 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, undaunted, 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* [illegible] *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 colonies; 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 RULERS 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, pining 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 soldiery, 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 so 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 prompted no demand for political changes; no struggling aspirations of their own had invited Dunmore's interposition; no memorial of their grievances had preceded his offices."—*Bancroft's U. S., vol.* 8, *p.* 225—*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 threatened 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., 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 Governments in the several colonies. The hesitancy of so many members, especially of Dickinson, incensed John Adams, who maintained that the fifty or sixty men composing Congress should at once form a constitution for a great empire, provide for its defence, and, in that safe attitude, await the decision of the King. His letters to New England, avowing these opinions, were intercepted; 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.

"The people of Maryland, happier than that of Pennsylvania, escaped intestine dissensions and insured unanimity, by passing over the proprietary government, and intrusting the conduct of resistance to a series of conventions. The prudent, the slow, the hesitating were allowed an influence; but from the first, all parties acquiesced in the principle of deriving all power from the people; and the province, however its movement was sometimes retarded, proceeded courageously in an unbroken line. In November, 1774, it adhered to the association, adopted in the general Congress, and its patriotism was confirmed by the austerity of religious zeal. At an adjourned session in December, the Maryland convention, fifty-five members being present from sixteen counties, resolved unanimously to resist to the utmost of their power, taxation by Parliament, or the enforcement of the penal acts against Massachusetts. To this end they voted with equal unanimity a well regulated militia, to be composed of all the freemen of the colony, between fifteen and sixty. They resolved also, that all former difficulties about religion or politics from henceforth should cease, and be forever buried in oblivion; and the benign aurora of the coming republic lighted the Catholic to the recovery of his rightful political equality in the land which a Catholic proprietary had set apart for religious freedom. Charles Carroll of Carrollton, who, under the British government, had not had so much as a vote at the polls, was placed unanimously on the committee of correspondence.

"It was throughout the continent a subject of regret that the real of Dulany had grown cool. As he kept silent, the foremost man in Maryland was Samuel Chase, like Dulany a lawyer: less circumspect and less careful of appearances; but strong, downright, brave and persevering, capable of extorting in the cause which he approved. Vehement even to a fault, he did not always speak softly or shun coarse invective; but his undaunted spirit, his fierce independence of mind, his unbending energy, his scorn of semblance without substance, of servility, of plausible hypocrisy that glossed servility over, his eloquence, which sprung from his heart and expressed the vigor of his nature, his uncommon promising energy, partly won for him the confidence of Maryland."—*Bancroft's U. S., vol.* 8, *p.* 237.

Gen. Washington's Advice.

Upon the evacuation of Boston by the British General, Washington wrote a letter, from which the following is an extract to his brother, John Augustine Washington. The letter is dated "Cambridge, 31 March, 1776," and is contained in the third volume of Sparks's Writings of Washington, p. 39:

"The enemy left all their works standing in Boston and on Bunker's Hill; and formidable they are. The town has shared a much better fate than was expected, the damage done to the houses being nothing equal to report. But the inhabitants have suffered a good deal in being plundered by the soldiery at their departure. All those who took upon themselves the style and title of government-men in Boston, in short, all those who have acted an unfriendly part in this great contest, have shipped themselves off in the same hurry, but under still greater disadvantages than the King's troops, being obliged to man their own vessels, as seamen enough could not be had for the King's transports, and submit to every hardship that can be conceived. One or two have done, what a great number ought to have done long ago, committed suicide. By all accounts, there never existed a more miserable set of beings, than these wretched creatures now are. Taught to believe, that the power of Great Britain was superior to all opposition, and, if not, that foreign aid was at hand, they were even higher and more insulting in their opposition than the regulars. When the order issued, therefore, for embarking the troops in Boston, no electric shock no sudden explosion of thunder, in a word, not the last trump could have struck them with greater consternation. They were at their wits' end, and, conscious of their black ingratitude, they chose to commit themselves, in the manner I have above described, to the mercy of the waves at a tempestuous season, rather than meet their offended countrymen."

From our Second and Third Editions of yesterday.

BY THE PHILADELPHIA TRAIN.

The Administration Approves of Negro-Stealing.

General Cameron, Secretary of War, yesterday despatched the following letter to General Butler:

WASHINGTON, May 30, 1861.

SIR:—*Your action in respect to the negroes who came within your lines from the service of the Rebels is approved.* The Department is sensible of the embarrassments which must surround officers, considering military operations in a State, by the laws of which slavery is sanctioned. The Government cannot recognize the rejection by any State of the Federal obligations, nor can it refuse the performance of the Federal obligations resting upon itself. Among these Federal obligations, however, none can be more important than that of suppressing and dispersing armed combinations formed for the purpose of overthrowing its whole constitutional authority.

While, therefore, you will permit no interference by the persons under your command with their relations of persons held to service under the laws of any State, you will, on the other hand, so long as any State within which your Military operations are conducted is under the control of such armed combinations, *refrain from surrendering to alleged masters any persons who may come within your lines.* You will employ such persons in the services to which they may be best adapted, keeping an account of the labor by them performed, of the value of it, and the expenses of their maintainance. The question of their final disposition will be reserved for future determination.

SIMON CAMERON,
Secretary of War.

To Major General Butler.

From Washington.

The following despatches appear in the Philadelphia papers from Washington:

The rumor of a probable hasty retreat of the Virginians from Harper's Ferry is not credited by those who are believed to be posted upon the subject. At Norfolk, the troops are in excellent condition, fully armed, and number about ten thousand men; they are mostly from the Gulf States. The number of troops at Richmond is not below 25,000, and the city is in an almost defiant position. It will require a herculean task to dislodge the enemy from this point. The number of troops at Manassas Gap is stated, by a gentleman who passed the Junction, to be about 12,000—if anything the number was even greater. Flour, pork and bacon are plenty; and there are no complaints among the troops of their rations. Gen. Beauregard is said to have been in Norfolk and vicinity for several days.

The impression here to-day is that the Government troops will march upon Manassas Junction to-night or to-morrow, in which event they will likely be met by the Virginians, and a desperate battle ensue.

The Capitol is being evacuated by the Northern troops, preparatory to the cleansing and refurnishing of the building, which is in the most filthy condition. The troops preceding to the General Post Office Building, where their quarters will be for the present.

An order from the War Department permits the return of the Seventh Regiment to their homes, and alludes in high terms to the meritorious services they have rendered. The camping ground of the Seventh will be used hereafter by the Ninth Regiment of New York, together with all the equipage.

Rumors are current that Judge Taney has tendered to the President his resignation, though there are nothing stronger than rumors to confirm it.

Secretary Cameron has quite recovered from his illness, and was at the Department to-day.

From the Seat of War.

We find the following accounts of military movements in the Washington correspondence of the Philadelphia papers:—

The New York Twelfth yesterday advanced seven miles from Alexandria. The Quartermaster and Engineer, who were in advance, were fired upon and compelled to beat a hasty retreat, and fall back to the advance guard.

The camps are now connected by a line of telegraph, and in three hours the whole force in and around Washington can all be concentrated at one point, if necessary.

A messenger has sent word to the War Department that there are 20,000 rebels just below the Manassas Junction.

The Seventy-first New York Regiment has been ordered to be in arms to-night, ready for marching at a short notice. The military preparations to-night indicate that important events are about to transpire. The steamer *Monticello* has sailed for Old Point with instructions to Gen. Butler. A hole was knocked entirely through her by a shell from the Sewall's Point battery. To-day, a reinforcement of three hundred men was stationed along the Annapolis road.

Things in New York.

A letter from New York of yesterday's date says:

No less than five additional different regiments have received marching orders to-day. All of them are fully armed and equipped, and number in the aggregate nearly 4,000 men. They will probably depart for Fortress Monroe on Saturday. These regiments are the Third, Col. Frederick Townsend; Fourth, Col. Alfred W. Taylor; Ninth, Col. Rush C. Hawkins; Tenth, Col. Walter W. McChesney; and the Twentieth, (United Turner, Rifles,) Col. Max Weber.

The Seventh Regiment are expected back in New York on Saturday. The announcement seems to be received with coldness by the public, who were so enthusiastic in their praises of them a few weeks ago. I do not hear of any preparations to give them a reception.

The United States Marshal received a despatch from the State Department to-day, announcing that a proper person will be sent on to New York, in the course of a day or two, to make an official examination of the telegraphic despatches seized by order of the Government a few days since.

Latest from Cairo.

A gentleman who left Cairo on Monday, informs the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, that great dissatisfaction exists among the soldiers there on account of the unhealthiness of the place the low and marshy ground, and the great size and insatiable voracity of the musquitoes. He says that urgent representations have been made to Gen. McClellan to have a move made on Memphis, with a view of taking possession of that place and abandoning Cairo, and that such a movement is by no means improbable. Memphis, however is well defended. And, besides its own defences, there are numerous and well armed batteries along the banks of the Mississippi between it and Cairo, as well as at several points along the railroads in Tennessee. At other points, the railroad bridges have been destroyed; so that it will not be an easy task to take Memphis.

Still Further by the America.

At a preliminary meeting of the Great Ship Company, the Chairman said that contingent orders had been given to the Captain of the *Great Eastern*, with respect to her employment by the American Government, and the Ministers in Parliament would be asked whether she would be absolved from the penalties it chartered before the Queen's proclamation got out.

Queen Victoria held Court at Buckingham Palace on the 16th inst., at which Mr Dallas delivered his letter of recall and presented Mr Adams to Her Majesty.

FRANCE.

During a debate in the Senate, on the petition to extend the French occupation of Syria, Mons. Billault explained that France would evacuate Syria on the 5th of June, and if evil result ensued, the responsibility will rest on those who demand the withdrawal.

France will leave six vessels to cruise off Beyrout, and English and Russian ships will act in concert with them.

Kossuth had arrived at Turin. Klapka had gone to Garibaldi, and returns to meet Kossuth.

The Postmaster-General notifies the Atlantic Steamship Company, having failed to fulfil the Galway contract, the Company has forfeited the contract.

A Liverpool paper says they will continue to run the Galway boats notwithstanding.

PARIS.—Rentes closed at 69f. 40c.

Rio Janeiro dates to the 25th have been received. Coffee is quoted as follows:—Good firsts 6$800 a 7$650.

The shipments since last steamer were 84,000 bags; the stock in port 140,020 bags.

Exchange on London 26½ a 26¾.

Latest via Queenstown.

LIVERPOOL, Saturday Evening, May 18.—The sales of cotton to-day reached 10,000 bales, of which 4,000 were taken by speculators and exporters. Market closed quiet. Breadstuffs quiet. Corn closed with a declining tendency, but no actual changes in rates.

LONDON—Saturday evening—Consols closed to-day at 91½a91¾ for money, and 91¾a91¼ for accounts.

Illinois Central shares sold at 34¾a37¾ discount. Erie shares 21½a22½.

The steamship which left to-day for Halifax and Boston, took out £260,000 in specie

HAVRE COTTON MARKET.—Cotton steady at a decline of 1f.; tres ordinaire, 109; bas, 103. Sales for the week, 12,500 bales; stock in port, 280,000 bales.

The Foreign News Disappoints the New Yorkers.

A letter from New York to the Philadelphia *Ledger* says:

The European advices by the *America* creates disappointment on Change. Instead of low prices for breadstuffs, a further advance was confidently anticipated by the trade here, and the same may be said as respects cotton. Besides, the tone and drift of the debate in Parliament on the American war shows that John Bull, instead of coming round right on the privateer question, as he was expected to, as soon as he could hear of the energy of the North, is going farther astray than ever. The news, therefore, was pronounced unfavorable, all round.

The suspension of mail facilities, with the Seceding States, on and after to-morrow, is entailing a deal of trouble in advance, upon certain branches of business.

The Latest News.

The Washington correspondent of the *Tribune* says:—

I am told that notice has been sent from the Rebels to prominent Secessionists in Alexandria, to the effect that the women and children should be removed, as a large force was approaching to attack the town. I still doubt that an attack will be made, or that any considerable battle will take place before the Federal forces approach Richmond. But political expediency may override military prudence.

Col. D. P. Tyler, of Connecticut, has been appointed Brigadier-General. Capt. W. S. Sherman, late of the U. S. Army, and brother of John Sherman, of Ohio, is appointed a Colonel in the regular army.

Gen. Foot, of Vermont, will introduce a bill at the extra session authorizing the President to fill all existing vacancies at West Point by nominations at large. This is in anticipation of a permanent increase of the regular army.

A letter from a correspondent of the same paper at Newport News says:

The rebel force at Yorktown, some twenty miles distant, does not, I am persuaded, exceed 3,000 men. They have planted batteries there so as to command the river, and it is quite likely that it is a part of the plan which General Butler is placed here to carry out, to occupy Yorktown with Federal troops at an early day.

It being reported that the *Jamestown* and *Yorktown* were intending to come down the river for the purpose of attacking us, we were on the alert the whole of the night. We do not disguise our uneasiness, in view of the fact that should Beauregard take it into his head to make a dash at us, he might give us some trouble. We would be glad to see the *Cumberland* lying abreast of us.

The *Herald* of yesterday says:

We have information that Mr. Davis and his entire Cabinet took formal leave of Montgomery on Sunday last, and proceeded to Richmond, where they are no doubt now located. They brought their families with them. Gen. Davis is to take command of the Confederate army in person, and ex-Senator Wigfall, of Texas, has been appointed his chief Aid-de-Camp. General Beauregard is in command at Norfolk.

Columbiads are being mounted on the rebel batteries at Pensacola, and a raft or floating battery is about to be sent down the river. Col. Brown has notified General Bragg, however, that if he continues his hostile operations he will open fire upon him from the fort, and Bragg, has replied that he does not care for the fire, but will go on with his movements.

The veracious Washington correspondent of the *Herald* communicates the following incident:

General Scott received an ear of green corn, with the husks on, carefully enclosed in a sheet of letter paper, upon which was the following:

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
Dep't of State, Montgomery, May 22, '61.

Major General Scott, with the compliments of the Secretary of State.

W. F. ALEXANDER, Private Sec'y.

The intention of this bit of diplomacy, evidently, is to show our military chief that the blockade will not entirely cut off all means of support.

More About Baltimore.

The correspondent of the New York *Tribune* writes as follows, under date of the 29th instant:

I chanced to get an inkling, last evening, indeed I may say, a revelation, of Gen. Lee's designs on Baltimore.

His purpose is to engage Gen. Scott's attention at Manassas Gap Junction, some 30 miles south of Alexandria, by a formidable demonstration against Washington from that quarter, and, while this feint is being made, to move forward suddenly his Harper's Ferry column upon Baltimore, by rail to the Monocacy Junction, thus bringing himself within 40 miles of this city. Once at that point, which he expects to reach without the knowledge of Gen. Scott, by destroying the wires in every possible direction, he will march direct upon Baltimore, by way of the old Frederick Turnpike, and, by a forced march, get within 20 miles of the city before the news can spread of his approach. This done, the rebels are to rise in Baltimore, at a given signal, after midnight, and begin the work of slaughtering the unarmed Union men and their families, in which wholesale murder the Police authorities, led on by their plant Marshal, are to be aiders and abetters. The authors of this infamous scheme boast of their ability to let loose an armed mob of at least 8,000 desperadoes, who are to show loyal people no quarter whatever. While those deeds of darkness are being enacted, Gen Johnston's forces, numbering over 12,000 undisciplined adventurers, will be descending like an avalanche upon the town, out of which they thus it would be impossible for Gen. Scott to drive them.

When reminded of the Federal forces now stationed around the city and at Washington, and of the terrible armament at Fort McHenry, the cool assumption is that none of these obstacles can prevail against such a determined force as General Johnston commands. The men in this city acting in concert with Gen. Lee, in his purpose of cutting off Gen. Scott's communication with the North, by this proposed *coup de main*, rely greatly upon the ability of the Baltimore rebels to dispatch and hold in check the troops of the Government in the city until Gen. Johnston can form a junction with them. The Union men have no military organization, and no arms. The rebels have both, and the disarming of them by Gen. Cadwallader has gone on so indifferently that he has not gathered in one-fifth of the arms which the mob secured in the reign of terror. The purpose of Gen. Lee has been self-evident for some days, but now that it is no longer concealed by his friends, a good deal of uneasiness has sprung up in the last twenty-four hours in the breasts of loyal people, and I feel reflect that uneasiness when I say there is no assurance at all of their personal safety, as things stand at the present writing.

If Gen. Butler or Gen. Cadwallader had declared martial law, and abated the entire nuisance of the Police, all possibility of a second insurrection would now be at an end. Even if it were done now, people would be content, but instead of any prospect of it, Marshal Kane is boasting about the city that he is the guest of Gen. Cadwallader, and that the General and he are hand in glove. Of course, there is no truth in this statement, but everybody is asking why Marshal Kane is not shorn of his power to do mischief. On the other hand, loyal people are offended at the course of the District Attorney, who is shielding the rebels, by requiring loyal informants to verify their information as to the deposits of arms, the shipment of contraband goods, and all other matters looking to the discomfiture of the traitors, on oath, and thus expose themselves to the persecution of the Secessionists. The impatience of the friends of the Government at this state of things, is necessarily augmented by the open threats of the rebels, that their time for vengeance is at hand. The absence of all Government agents at the telegraph office in the city does not tend to quiet public apprehensions.

The Case of John Merryman.

The suspension of the writ of *Habeas Corpus* by Gen. Cadwallader is arousing even the people of the North to a sense of the danger which threatens their liberties. The New York *News* holds the following strong language:

President Lincoln, by his last act of usurpation, has succeeded in casting all former violations of the Constitution and of the laws into the shade. His illegal enlistments; the seizure of telegraphic dispatches; the invasion of Virginia; the infamously false pretenses under which war was forced upon the country; the massacre at St. Louis; the unconstitutional proclamation of martial law in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Missouri and Alexandria, were deserving of reprobation; but all combined have not equalled in atrocity the daring step which has been authorized, in the