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 en-"acted that no person shall be imprisoned or de-"tained 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 here-"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 des-"potism 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 CON-"STITUTION IS THAT IT IS NOT LEFT TO THE EXECU-"TIVE 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 PRO-"PER CAN AUTHORIZE THE CROWN, BY SUSPENDING "THE HABEAS CORPUS ACT FOR A SHORT AND LIMI-"TED TIME, TO IMPRISON SUSPECTED PERSONS WITH-"OUT 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* "*so*. That question depends on political consid-"erations 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 inva-"sion, 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 per-"sons 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.—*Governeur Morris, Speech in the Senate of the U. S., Feb.* 24, 1803.

"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 macebearer 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* 407, *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—'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.* 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 *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.* 177-277.

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 the 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 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* 11*th*, 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 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, (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 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 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 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, undauntedly, 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 BULLIES 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 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* 1773.

"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 commision," &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 condi-"tion of being than their former one; they had no "regrets for ancient privileges lost; their memo-"ries prompted no dreams of their own had invited "no struggling aspirations of their own had invited "Dunmore's interposition; no memorial of their "grievances had preceded his offers."—*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 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.

"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 zeal 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 error from rashness or self will, but not capable of faltering 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 uncompromising energy, justly won for him the confidence of Maryland."—*Bancroft's U. S., vol.* 8, *p.* 75-7.

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 Spark's Writings of Washington, p. 339:

"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.

From New York.

The correspondent of the Philadelphia *Ledger* says:—

A miserably cold, drizzling rain set in upon us early this morning, and continues up to this writing. Out of doors the day has been a very quiet one, in consequence. In the churches nothing remarkable took place, except a declaration from Mr. Beecher that the war would signally fail of its true purpose if peace were concluded without the emancipation of every slave in the seceded States. Better that the conflict should go on forever and forever, he thought, than that it should terminate otherwise.

As a remarkable proof of the utter prostration of business in this city, just now, it may be mentioned that the *Tribune* of to-day has but ten advertisements in a sheet of forty-eight columns, and of those ten, one is for Barnum's Museum, and another for the *Weekly Tribune!*

A meeting of colored people is to be held at Shiloh Church, on Wednesday evening, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of making some provision for the comfort of the "contraband brethren" whom the fortunes of war may bring to this city.

Ben Wood's course in Congress having given offence to some of his constituents, an indignation meeting of the democracy of his district has been called, to protest against it. The meeting will take place some day this week, in the vicinity of the Fifth Ward Hotel.

Major General Fremont will depart for his command at the West, some time during the present week. His family arrived from California yesterday, by the *North Star*. The boldness of Jeff. Davis' piratical vessels led to some apprehension here and elsewhere, as to the safety of the steamer.

There was but little astir in Wall street yesterday of special interest. The talk was that the Government loan negotiated in the earlier part of the week would tell in a diminished amount of specie, in Monday's bank statement, but as the *North Star* arrived later in the day with a round million and more, the decrease probably will only be apparent. In regard to money, there is no change worth mentioning. Rates of interest as previously quoted.

The oldest house in the provision trade, here, N. T. Hubbard & Sons, suspended payment yesterday. Their liabilities are said to be very heavy, though with assets double or treble these, if they could only be made available.

From Washington.

The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, says:

Senator Pomeroy will introduce a bill, to-morrow, confiscating all the slaves in the Seceded States, and releasing all their obligations to work for the Rebels.

Col. Heintzelman's advance have taken Springfield and erected a telegraph instrument, with a guard of 400. The Rebels had no batteries there or on the road, but have a fort and cavalry less than two miles south on the railroad, where the cuts are all filled up.

Unless something, not now anticipated, turns up, the House will adjourn on next Friday, or, at the outside, in ten days. Nothing but the business of the War and Navy Departments is tolerated.

Intelligence has been received to-day from our blockading squadron off Charleston, and from Fort Pickens. It appears that at Charleston efforts are constantly made to run the blockade, and in several instances the vessels have been successful.

The Latest News.

We are indebted to Mr. Henry Taylor, Sun Building, for New York papers of this morning.

The Washington correspondent of the N. Y. *Herald* says:

A rumor prevails here to-night that General Patterson has had a conflict with Gen. Johnston. I have taken pains to ascertain that the rumor is without foundation in truth, but according to all accounts we shall not have to wait long to hear from Patterson.

The President has telegraphed Gen. McClellan to release the prisoners and non-commissioned officers among the prisoners, not upon a simple parole of honor, but upon their taking an oath of allegiance, and a pledge not to again take up arms against the government under penalty of death. As to the commissioned officers, General McClellan is directed to exercise his own discretion, but under no circumstances is either any officer, non-commissioned officer, or private, who was formerly in the U. S. army to be released.

There is no prospect of a proposition for a compromise coming from any of the Union men of the Southern border States during the present session of Congress, even the venerable Crittenden will, it is stated authoritatively, not renew any effort in that direction now. It is rumored here that the vacancy on the bench of the Supreme Court, occasioned by the death of Judge McLean, will be offered to Hon. Jos. Holt, of Kentucky.

The *Herald* publishes a list of 41 United States vessels captured by the Confederates since March last. Of the vessels taken by the *Sumter*, seven were owned in New England and one in New York.

The Commander of the Sumter.

Captain Raphael Semmes, the commander of the Southern steamer *Sumter*, is a native of the State of Maryland, and is a person of much nautical experience, having entered the United States Navy on the 1st of April, 1826. He has had over eleven years active service at sea, and about ten years duty on shore; the balance of his time has been unemployed. His last sea duty was in the year 1849. He was appointed commander on the 14th of September, 1854. For the last two or three years he has acted as the Secretary of the Lighthouse Board. He commanded the United States brig Somers, which was capsized in a gale off Vera Cruz in 1846. It will be recollected that thirty-seven of the crew and three midshipmen were lost by the accident. Then Commander Semmes held a lieutenant's commission—a position that he also held on the United States frigate *Raritan* the year following. At the time of the Mexican war he was regarded as a brave and gallant officer, and he performed many daring acts, for which he received great praise; but, like many others of our military and naval officers, he resigned at the commencement of our present national difficulties, preferring to follow the fortunes of the Seceded States.

At the time of the Mexican war he was engaged in a lengthy correspondence with General Scott, Commodore Perry and others, relative to the release of Passed Midshipman Robert C. Rogers, who was attached to the Somers, and was made prisoner by the Mexican authorities, and kept in close confinement. He was anxious that he should be sent with an escort to the Mexican commander to arrange for the deliverance of Mr. Rogers. Gen. Scott at one time promised him that his wish should be complied with, but thought better of it afterwards, the Government taking it into its own hands.

CROPS, &c. IN GEORGIA.—From a letter dated Albany, Ga., July 6th, we make the following extract:

We shall, in this section, make plenty of corn to feed everything in this country, and to feed the army for twelve months. The Northern part of Georgia has made a great crop of wheat and an abundance to spare. With plenty of provisions and soldiers, we can whip old Abe in spite of his abolition herd. The ladies have turned their attention to making soldiers' clothing, instead of buying fine silks and satins and attending parties. For amusement, they get up concerts for the relief of soldiers and their families.

——In the special Washington correspondence of the Cincinnati *Commercial* of Saturday, we find the following:—"Unless a majority of all the people come up freely with their means, determined to sustain the immense necessities of the hour, *we are lost*, no matter how large the armies or how ardent the enthusiasm."

——Last year a farmer whose property was valued at $20,000, could pay his taxes by selling 320 bushels of corn, or 116 bushels of wheat. This year, to pay his taxes on the same amount of property, he will be compelled to sell 770 bushels of corn, or 206 bushels of wheat. This is one of the results of civil war. Think of what you have thus far gained, farmers of Ohio.—*Dayton Daily Empire.*

——From what we learn, there have now been *over three thousand names* attached to a peace petition in circulation in this county. It is stated that there are 700 in this township alone.—*St. Clairsville Gazette and Citizen, Ohio.*

The Prizes Captured by the Confederate Steamer Sumter Released by the Spanish Authorities.

BOSTON, July 16.—Capt. White, of the barque *Louisa Kilham*, one of the vessels captured by the Confederate steamer *Sumter*, writes to the owners that he was captured July 6th, the day he sailed from Cienfuegos, with 550 tons of sugar shipped on Spanish account, and bound for Falmouth, England, for orders. He also states that it is the opinion of the Governor here that Spanish laws won't let him (the *Sumter*) hold us. We expect to hear from Havana to-day. A letter from Messrs. Calinsac & Bros., at Havana, dated July 10th, says the prizes are now in the Port of Cienfuegos, but would not be allowed to remain there. No more American vessels can, at present, find a charter from this Island. Of course this caused a great excitement among American shipmasters. Another letter dated Havana, 10th, states positively that the Spanish authorities have ordered the prizes of the *Sumter* to leave immediately. A letter from the captain of the brig *Albert Adams*, another of the prizes, dated Cienfuegos, July 7th, evening, states that the Captain General has released all the *Sumter's* prizes, and that they would sail next morning.

Arrival from Fort Pickens.

NEW YORK, July 15.—The steamer *Cahawba*, from Fort Pickens on the 8th, and Key West on the 9th instant, has arrived. All was quiet at Fort Pickens. Wilson's Zouaves were encamped a mile and a half from the Fort. Captain Barry's company of Light Artillery came on the *Cahawba*. The health of the troops on the Island was good. The steamer *Colorado* was at Key West to sail on the 11th for Fort Pickens. The steamers *Niagara* and *Crusader* were also there, and were going immediately in pursuit of the Confederate privateer *Sumter*. The steamers *Mississippi*, *Water Witch* and *Vanderbilt* were at Fort Pickens.

Hon. H. May's Absence from Washington.

WASHINGTON, July 14.—A resolution has been prepared and will probably be introduced in the House to-morrow, instructing the Committee on Elections to inquire and report as to whether Hon. Henry May, a representative from Maryland, now in Richmond, has been or is now holding treasonable correspondence with the enemy, and whether his seat shall not be declared vacant. Mr. May has not yet appeared here this session.

A New Engine of War.

BOSTON, July 13.—A gentleman just from New Orleans reports that the rebels had taken a powerful tugboat, covered her with railroad iron, and put her machinery below the water line. They had also built a new boat completely of iron, very sharp, with a point under the water line, and intended to run down Federal vessels. She was to be commanded by Captain Seward Porter, formerly of Portland, Maine.

Vice President Stephens at Augusta.

AUGUSTA, GA., July 11.—Vice President Stephens delivered a powerful speech this forenoon, in this city, on the produce loan. The meeting was largely attended and unusual interest manifested. A committee was appointed to procure subscriptions. Mr. Stephens left for his residence in Crawfordville on the afternoon train.

Mails for East Tennessee.

WASHINGTON, July 15.—The Post Office Department has ordered that mail matter for East Tennessee will go to the Cincinnati distributing office.

The Reported Occupation of Fairfax.

WASHINGTON, July 15.—The result of inquiries in military quarters this morning is that Fairfax Court House is not occupied by the Federal troops.

Death of Hon. Nathan Appleton.

BOSTON, July 15.—Hon. Nathan Appleton died yesterday.

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