BALTIMORE CLIPPER

"THE UNION, THE CONSTITUTION, AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE

VOLUME I.—NUMBER 12. BALTIMORE, SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 14, 1865.

Latest News by Telegraph TO THE BALTIMORE CLIPPER.

FROM THE SOUTH

REVOLUTION WITHIN REVOLUTION.

SEVERE ATTACK ON JEFF DAVIS.

The Confederacy on the Verge of the "Sloping Descent to Perdition."

A Convention of States Called to Make Lee Generalissimo!

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM GEORGIA

The People Favor a Return to the Union.

LATE NEWS FROM EUROPE

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMER CHINA.

The London Times on the Canadian Imbroglio.

HOOD'S RETREAT ACROSS THE TENNESSEE

Movement of Blockade Runners.

&c., &c., &c.

Latest from Georgia.

NEW YORK, Jan. 13.—The steamer Arago, from Port Royal on the 9th, brings reports which are important, if correct.—It is said that several counties of Georgia have recently held elections and declared in favor of a return to the Union by overwhelming majorities. It is also reported that the people are arming to protect themselves from the rebels. Gov. Brown is said to be the principal prompter of these movements, and that he has returned to his home. These rumors are all published in the Savannah Republican Extra, of the evening of the 7th.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, January 13.—The Senate in Executive session to-day confirmed the following nominations by the President:

Brigadier General W. T. Sherman, U. S. A., Major General of Volunteers, to be a Major General, August 12, 1864, vice Wool retired.

Brigadier General Philip H. Sheridan, U. S. A., Major General of Volunteers, to be a Major General, November 8, 1864, vice McClellan resigned.

Brigadier General George H. Thomas, U. S. A., Major General of Volunteers, to be a Major General, December 15, 1864, vice Fremont, resigned.

Major Warfield S. Hancock, Quartermaster U. S. A., and Major General of Volunteers, to be a Brigadier General, August 12, 1864, vice McPherson, deceased.

Captain Philip H. Sheridan, 13th U. S. Infantry, and Major General of Volunteers, to be a Brigadier General, September 20, 1864, vice Sherman appointed Major General.

Passed Assistant Surgeon, Somerset Robinson, to be Surgeon.

Captain J. L. Broome, to be Major in the Marine Corps. 1st Lieutenant W. H. Baker, to be Captain in the Marine Corps; 2d Lieut. Lewis E. Fagan, to be 1st Lieutenant in Marine Corps; F. N. Harrington, D. C., to be a 2d Lieutenant in the Marine Corps; 1st Lieut. Jno. A. Burroughs, to be a Captain in the Marine Corps.

1st Lieuts. F. D. Pete and H. E. Meeker, to be 1st Lieutenants; Acting Volunteer Lieut. W. R. Hall, to be Acting Volunteer Lieutenant Commander; Acting Masters, John S. Watson, James C. Gibson, George W. Rogers, John Rogers, Henry S. Wetmore, John W. Atkinson and Peter A. Kell, to be Acting Volunteer Lieutenants, for duty in the Mississippi squadron.

Latest from Europe

NEW YORK, Jan. 13.—The steamer China from Liverpool on the 31st, has arrived.

The London Times alluding to the present attitude of the North to Canada says: In the present state of Northern feeling, there is too much reason to apprehend some outrage which may render a rupture inevitable. Americans neither appreciate the strength of England nor understand the unanimity with which a war would be prosecuted if forced upon a reluctant Government and nation, and the first result of that war would be the immediate and irrevocable establishment of Southern independence.

COLLECTOR FOR THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF MARYLAND.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—The Senate to day confirmed the nomination of Geo. W. Sands as Collector of Internal Revenue for the Fifth District of Maryland.

Thomas Gorsuch was also confirmed as Assessor for the Fourth District.

HOOD'S RETREAT ACROSS THE TENNESSEE RIVER.

NEW YORK, Jan. 13.—The Herald publishes a dispatch from Admiral Lee to the Navy Department, explaining how Hood crossed the Tennessee river, enclosing a dispatch from General Thomas to Admiral Lee, dated 29th ult.

FALSE PASSPORTS.

BUFFALO, Jan'y 13th.—A Canadian named Samuel Smedes was arrested at the International Bridge to-day for selling false passports. It is understood that he has been ordered to Fort Lafayette.

THE CANADIAN RAIDERS.

TORONTO, Jan. 12.—Burleigh was again before the Court to-day. Jeff. Davis' manifesto was objected to because it did not bear the seal of the so-called Confederate States. A decision was reserved till Tuesday.

GEN'L SICKLES

NEW YORK, Jan'y 13.—Major General Sickles and staff sailed for California today on the steamer Costa Rica.

Important from Mexico.

Defeat of General Courtois d'Herbal by Porfirio Diaz—The Battle of Elta—Mutiny of an Imperial Garrison and Slaughter of the Prefect—Rising of an Indian Town, &c.

[From the New York Herald, 12th.]

We are in receipt of very late and interesting advices from Mexico, through reliable sources. Our dates extend to the 12th of December, from the city of Mexico. We subjoin a summary of the chief items of news:

A French force numbering four thousand five hundred, with 24 pieces of artillery, under the command of General Courtois d'Herbal, had marched upon the city of Oajaco, in the State of that name. Our former accounts gave us due notice that this expedition was in preparation to scourge that portion of the republican stronghold. Porfirio Diaz, the gallant governor of Oajaca, had been fully informed of the intentions of the French, and with the means at his disposal, made every preparation for a vigorous defence.

The date of the attack is not given; but we learn that the French forces had arrived at a town named Elta, three leagues from Oajaca, where a sanguinary fight took place, resulting in the complete rout of the French by a part of the army of General Porfirio Diaz. In consequence of this, as soon as the news was received in Mexico, three thousand more troops, with a heavy force of artillery, were despatched to reinforce d'Herbal, and in a few days after General Bazaine himself left the capital personally to conduct the campaign.

The city of Tolnca was attacked by the forces of Rivas Palacios and Romero on the 26th of December, the attacking force succeeding in capturing a part of the city, as far as San Juan de Dios. Reinforcements were, however, rapidly hurried from Mexico to the assistance of the garrison, when the liberal force retired, without any pursuit on the part of the imperialists.

The announcement of the final defeat of Arteaga turns out to be baseless, according to our present reports, inasmuch as we now learn that both Arteaga and General Echeagalay have appeared in Michoacan, with forces so considerable that Gen. Donal has found it necessary to withdraw the whole of the French garrison from Guadalajara, leaving the whole of Jalisco, with the exception of the capital in the hands of the republicans. The capital we learn by the latest advices, was also threatened by Rojas.

The whole of the South of Mexico, Puebla and Michoacan, since the defeat of Vicario, is occupied by the republicans; and, as it seems, the imperialists will not or cannot send any forces to dislodge them. The same fate has befallen the port of Manzanillo, on the Pacific, which was only occupied by the imperialists for a brief period. In consequence of this occurrence it is said here that Marquez, the ally of the French, has been deprived of his command, and that he will be sent to Paris.

In Tlalpam, a town some four leagues, or twelve miles, from the capital, the garrison revolted against the Imperial Prefect, Don Ygnacio Falcon, whom they put to death. The soldiers then joined the ranks of the liberal guerilla chief Martinez.

The Indians in Tenango have also broken out into open revolution. The first result of their fury was the stoning to death of the Imperial Prefect, Carriedo.

San Juan del Rio, a town on the road from the capital to Queretaro, was threatened by the republican forces, and its danger was considered so imminent that a force had to be hastily sent away from the capital to its relief.

It is stated that on the 27th ult. a decree was signed by the Emperor reducing the whole force of armed Mexican to four regiments, to be commanded by Gens. Tabera and Mejia.

On the 26th ult., the laws termed "Reform" were ratified. The Pope's Nuncio stated that he had brought no instructions with him from Rome. Maximillian gave him two days to consider whether he would sign the cordoral on the basis of religious tolerance, the nationalization of the property of the clergy, its transfer to the State and the establishment of the civil list. The Nuncio did not sign, and Maximilian, without further delay, signed the decree—which appeared in our paper of yesterday.

The bishops and clergy have become so disgusted with this course of action that it is said that Archbishops Labashida and Mangina have resolved to leave the country. The first named had a Frenchman for his private secretary named Pasmire, who has been arrested by the Imperial police, and directed to quit the Empire immediately. There are a thousand conjectures as to the cause of so prompt and energetic a measure.

There is no money in the country, nor do the agents of the Emperor know where to get any. The only hope of Maximilian is in the raising of funds in Europe. Don Eustaquio Barron, a wealthy capitalist, is expected to leave on this mission in a short time, and will proceed to Europe in the character of Imperial Commissioner.

It is said that Morelia has been occupied by the Liberals.

MOVEMENTS OF BLOCKADE RUNNERS.

HALIFAX, Jan. 13.—The blockade runner Chameleon, late Tallahassee, is at Bermuda. The blockade runner Col. Lamb is at Nassau, undergoing repairs. The following blockade runners, are also at Bermuda—Owl, Stag, Charlotte, Maria Campbell, Whipper, Susan, Berine and Dreppe. Out of 71 blockade runners visiting Bermuda during the past year, 43 have been lost.

REBEL RAID IN WEST VIRGINIA—CAPTURE OF BEVERLY.

WHEELING, Jan'y 13.—We learn that the garrison at Beverly, West Virginia, were attacked on the morning of the 11th, by a force of the enemy under General Rosser, and the town and a large portion of the force defending it were captured. The number of the enemy was not stated.

A later dispatch confirms the above, but states that the Rebels have again retreated whence they came.

SENATOR LANE RE-ELECTED.

LEAVENSWORTH, Jan. 13.—Gen'l J. Lane was to-day elected to the U. S. Senate for six years, by a vote of eighty-two to seventeen.

AID FOR SAVANNAH.

BOSTON, Jan. 13.—The cash contribution in aid of the Savannah fund up to last evening reached $30,000.

Reported Return of Mr. Blair from Richmond.

NEW YORK, Jan. 13.—The Times publishes a Washington dispatch, saying that Mr. Blair has returned from Richmond.

☞ A Mr. Davis, of Vineland, New Jersey, was buried alive in a well on Wednesday afternoon of last week. He had attained a depth of twelve feet when the earth caved in; suffocating him.

☞ Mrs. Anne Smith, widow of Major H. O. Smith, of the Bengal Engineers, and mother of the late Mr. Thackeray, died on the 12th ult., just a short year after her illustrious son.

☞ Mr. Henry Steiger, of Harrison county, West Virginia was murdered on last Friday night in his house by guerillas. They were tracked, one captured, and shot on the spot.

☞ Among the items added to the deficiency bill in the Senate, on Tuesday, was one appropriating $3,000 for a medal to Commodore Vanderbilt.

Department of Tennessee.

Despatches from Gen. Thomas and Admiral Lee

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—The Navy Department to-day received the following official despatch from Acting Rear Admiral S. P. Lee.

MISSISSIPPI SQUADRON,
FLAGSHIP FAIRY,
CLIFTON, Tenn., Jan. 3, 1865.

Sir:—Intelligent escaped prisoners report that Hood crossed the Tennessee at Bainbridge, six miles above Florence, above Little Muscle Shoals, and at the foot of Big Muscle Shoals. Florence is the head of steamboat navigation, and there Hood crossed last fall, securing his pontoons to the piers of the railroad bridge. General Jackson crossed either at the military ferry one mile below Florence, or above the Muscle Shoals. Bainbridge is not a regular ferry.

The rebels boasted to the escaped prisoners that the gunboats could not cross the shoals to reach them, and my pilot declared that it was impracticable for the enemy to cross there, owing to the swift water, or for me to get there with the Neosho, drawing five feet, owing to the swift and shallow water on the Little Muscle Shoals, which are rocky, uneven, and dangerous. I made a reconnoissance, however, and believe I should have succeeded in reaching Bainbridge with an effective force, capable of destroying Hood's pontoons, in spite of all the opposition he could make, had not the sudden and rapid fall of the river and the prevalence of a fog constrained the pilot to decline going on Little Muscle Shoals.

I am gratified to enclose a copy of Gen. Thomas' last despatch, dated December 30, in which he is kind enough to say that the efficient co-operation of the navy on the Tennessee has contributed largely to the demoralization of Hood's army; and the General tenders his hearty thanks for the cordial co-operation of the navy during the last thirty days.

General Smith informs me he never knew such bad weather as Gen. Thomas' army encountered in the pursuit of Hood. General Croxton, of the cavalry, makes the same report of the bad condition of the roads. Hood is indebted for the safety of his shattered army to the worst description of winter weather and roads, and to crossing the shoals when the river was falling fast and in a fog. It is confidently predicted that he will not again attempt to recross the Tennessee river.

I ought to mention that the destruction of pontoon and ferry flats at Garret's ferry, twelv miles below Florence, and indeed all along the river from the vicinity of Johnsonville to Florence, a distance of one hundred and seventy-five miles, has cut off the retreat of Hood's demoralized and scattered army, and filled the woods, as General Croxton informs me, with stragglers, whom his cavalry are constantly capturing.

The operations of the navy have been active and untiring.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully yours,

S. P. LEE, Acting Rear Admiral
Commanding Mississippi Squadron.

To Hon. Gideon Welles, Sec'y, &c.

DESPATCH FROM GEN. THOMAS.

The following is the despatch from Gen. Thomas, referred to in Admiral Lee's report:—

PULASKI, Ky., Dec. 29, 1864.

To Rear Admiral S. P. Lee, &c., Chickasaw, Alabama:

Your two telegrams have been received. We have been pressing the rear rank as hard as the condition of the roads would permit, and have succeeded in taking some few prisoners—probably some five or six hundred—since the enemy crossed Duck river.

From the best information I have at this time, Hood's losses, since he invaded the State of Tennessee, sum up as follows:—Six General officers killed, six wounded, and one taken prisoner at Franklin—thirteen in all; and about six thousand men killed, wounded and taken prisoners at the same battle. On the 5th instant, at Murfreesboro', he had one General officer wounded, about one thousand men killed and wounded, and two hundred and seven taken prisoners, and losing two pieces of artillery. In the two battles of the 15th and 16th instants, before Nashville, he had one Lieutenant General severely wounded, one Major General and three Brigadier Generals, with four thousand four hundred and sixty-two officers and men made prisoners, besides losing fifty-three pieces of artillery and over three thousand stand of small arms.

During his retreat we have captured fifteen more guns, and from fifteen hundred to two thousand prisoners, and a large number of small arms have been picked up by the way.

Citizens report that he passed this place with his army completely disorganized, except the rear guard, composed of about five thousand men. He destroyed a considerable quantity of ammunition at this place, besides abandoning an ammunition train of fifteen or twenty wagons about a mile beyond.

Your efficient co-operation on the Tennessee river has contributed largely to the demoralization of Hood's army.

G. H. THOMAS, Major General.

HOW TO DRESS FOR A PHOTOGRAPH.

A lady or gentleman, having made up her or his mind to be photographed, naturally considers, in the first place, how to be dressed so as to show off to the best advantage. This is by no means such an unimportant matter as many might imagine. Let me offer a few words of advice touching dress. Orange color, for certain optical reasons, is, photographically black. Blue is white; other shades or tones of color are proportionably darker or lighter as they contain more or less of these colors. The progressive scale of photographic color commences with the lightest. The order stands thus—white, light blue, violet, pink, mauve, dark blue, lemon, blue green, leather brown, drab, cerise magenta, yellow-green, dark-brown, purple, red, amber, morone, orange, dead black. Complexion has to be much considered in connection with dress. Blondes can wear much lighter colors than brunettes; the latter always present better pictures in dark dresses, but neither look well in positive white. Violent contrasts of color should be especially guarded against. In photography, brunettes possess a great advantage over their fairer sisters. The lovely golden tresses lose all their transparent brilliancy, and are represented black; whilst the "bonnie bine e'e," theme of rapture to the poet, is misery to the photographer, for it is put entirely out. The simplest and most effective way of removing the yellow color from the hair, is to powder it nearly white; it is thus brought to about the same photographic hue as in nature. The same rule, of course, applies to complexions. A freckle quite invisible at a short distance, is, on account of its yellow color, rendered most painfully distinct when photographed. The puff box must be called in to the assistance of art. Here let me intrude one word of general advice—Blue, as we have seen, is the most readily affected by the light, and yellow the least; if, therefore, you would keep your complexion clear and free from tan freckles whilst taking your delightful rambles at the sea-side, discard by all means the blue veil, and substitute a dark green or yellow one in its stead. Blue tulle offers no more obstruction to the actinic rays of the sun than white. Half a yard of yellow net, though perhaps not very becoming, will be more efficacious and considerably cheaper than a quart of kalydor.—*All the Year Round.*

☞ A Connecticut man has invented a watch, which is simpler in its mechanism than ordinary watches, and will run 378 days with one winding.

☞ The California papers publish "Births," "Marriages," "Divorces" and "Deaths" in regular order. This is systematizing the thing.

CALL FOR A CONVENTION OF THE REBEL STATES TO REVOLUTIONIZE THE REVOLUTION.

[From the Richmond Enquirer, Jan. 9.]

Since Secretary Seward and Gen. Grant have made the editorials of the Richmond papers the source of information and opinion for their bulletins and despatches, the public will not be surprised to learn from the next United States papers that despatches have gone to Europe from Seward to announce the final caving in of the rebellion, as foreshadowed in a call for conventions—of separate States and of all the States—to revolutionize the revolution, to depose Mr. Davis, wipe out Congress, and appoint a dictator, and, perhaps, surrender to the enemy.

This call for a convention, which finds expression for the first time in a Virginia newspaper, is by no means a new thing; that secession egg, incubated for many months by submissionists in Georgia, and lately introduced into Virginia, now for the first time comes before the people of this State with the sole object of deposing the President and making General Lee generalissimo. This paper has already expressed the earnest wish that the President and Congress would consult the public good by enlarging the authority of General Lee, and giving him the entire control and management of military affairs. But not even for this great object would we be willing to see a convention even of Virginia assembled. Of whom would it be composed? General Lee cannot spare from his army the members elect of the Legislature, even during the season of winter quarters, and before the convention could assemble the season of active operations would have commenced, and no soldier or officer could be spared from the army.

That large body of noble and gallant patriots would, therefore, be excluded.—Who, then, would compose the convention? The discontented, desponding croakers would soon have the army and the State at the disadvantage of their fears and hopes. Is the great western portion of Virginia to be excluded from that convention? And if not, where is the constituency that could elect the delegates? We protest against any such convention. The proposition is that of a wild, erratic man, driven by passion, fear and prejudice to the very verge of submission. Mr. Seward may well represent to his foreign ministers the decline of resolution in this people if he attaches any importance to this convention call.

JEFF. DAVIS CARRYING THE CONFEDERACY TO PERDITION AND THE DEVIL.

[From the Richmond Examiner, Jan. 9.]

Men are asking one another, is there no remedy? Is it a fatal necessity that we should sit still, with folded hands, and see the affairs of the Confederacy going from bad to worse, by reason of one constant system of perverse passion and obstinacy, of which we can all trace the course in the past and foresee the miserable ending? If the Confederate Congress cannot or will not constitutionally interpose to stop us on this sloping descent to perdition, or if any remonstrance action or resolution of that Congress is sure to be "constitutionally" and contemptuously baffled and subdued by a veto—what then? Have we enclosed ourselves in an iron circle of necessity, out of which egress is none! Have we put ourselves into an inexorable piece of machinery, wound up to go for six years certain; and, the spring once touched, are we bound to revolve in it like blind mice, though we know *it is whirling us to the Devil?* Men, we say, are asking themselves these questions, and especially the question, is there no remedy?

Yes; there is one remedy: conventions of the several States; and to begin with a convention of Virginia, here in Richmond. All men say that a general-in-chief is needed, but when the law is proposed, it is assumed that Congress has not the power to make it. Well, a convention has full powers. The constitution is interposed. Well, conventions make constitutions. Let us have a convention—a convention of full powers—the convention of Virginia first of all. The Legislature of Virginia is in session—let it call a convention of the State.

We know why most persons, both in Virginia and elsewhere, have been reluctant hitherto to say the word; it is because the recommendations for calling conventions, which have been lately made in two States of the confederacy, were supposed to contemplate, or seemed to contemplate, a breach of faith and base abandonment of allies in the very crisis and agony of war for our common independence; therefore such suggestions were very properly rebuked, both in Georgia and North Carolina; and in the latter State the present Governor was carried triumphantly into office expressly as the opponent and denouncer of a State convention for any such purpose.

But State Conventions are our highest political tribunals, the most potent expression of the sovereign independence which we are now banded together, to assert. If some have invoked a convention, but in vain, to offer an abject submission to the enemy, it does not follow that conventions themselves are condemned. They may be invoked for good as well as for evil, to make successful war as well as disgraceful peace. And what is now proposed is, that Virginia and the other Confederate States forthwith meet in separate State conventions—to be followed by a convention of delegates from them all, in order to consider the present and past conduct of the war, and to recommend some measures to the central agency (which is the creature of the States) with a view to its speedy and triumphant success.

Of course this proceeds upon the assumption that *there is a very general discontent with the present administration of military affairs*, and distrust and uneasiness about the result, if the present management be continued. *For the assumption that such a feeling exists there are but too good grounds.* It is in the air; it is in the eyes and voices of men; it goes with them to church; it attends them to the market; lonely pickets feel it around them at night, and black care mounts behind the horseman. Neither is it a superstition and baseless hallucination. This people is rational, logical, consequent; and while persistent effort, and indomitable conflict and defiance come natural to it, yet it requires to feel that it is not befooled. God knows the people of Virginia have shrunk from no peril, or sacrifice or hardship; neither will they shrink; but they need to be assured in their own hearts that, when they march, they are going somewhither; that when they suffer they can see their way to the reward; that when they make sacrifice there is not somebody making a sacrifice of them.

It has been with an anxious wish to see the best side of everything, and put the best face on everything, that our people have watched the progress of events thus far; but they have met with some rude shocks. Perhaps the last performance, relieving General Johnston, putting Hood in his place, and then announcing in a public speech that Hood and his army were going to make a tour, and that Sherman had *carte blanche* in Georgia, and now continuing to hold Hood in his place, and continuing to keep Johnston out of his place, in the teeth of reason and experience, was the rudest shock of all. *They had not believed Mr. Davis, with all his errors, to be utterly weak and narrow as this.*

It was a misfortune to the Confederacy, as is long since evident, that its first President was, *or thought himself to be*, a military man. If he had been some worthy planter, who never was either at West Point or Mexico, and had no special qualification save a manly, straightforward Southern spirit, then he would never have thought himself competent to plan distant campaigns and interfere with Generals in the field; he would then have been well pleased to repose the entire military control in the hands of some one great Captain, whom the unanimous voice of the army and the country would soon have designated to him.

But Mr. Davis unluckily studied at West Point, still more unfortunately, in Mexico, he one day formed his regiment of two hundred and fifty Mississippi Volunteers into the shape of a V, and received a charge of Mexicans *a la fourchette*. All the learned newspaper chroniclers of the Mexican business extolled beyond the skies that fatal *fourchette*, by reason of that tiresome *fourchette* the Colonel conceived himself indeed a military genius. We feel its evil effects to this day, and if we are to perish the verdict of posterity will be, "Died of a V." For the horns of this V are not like the horns of a dilemma, one of which you can always choose to be impaled upon; but he gores us with both horns, like a bull.

However this may be, there is a real danger, not so much that the military resources of the country, but what is more important, the military spirit of the country may be wasted, the proud resolve to go all lengths in resistance to an infamous invasion—that spirit which would have borne us and our cause triumphantly through to a glorious end, with ordinary sagacity and energy in the conduct of affairs, may grow weary, weary;—only stupidity or sycophancy would deny it—and in order that the evil may be remedied it needs that some one boldly point it out, and indicate the cause of it, and the remedy. *In one word, then, we are not afraid of being conquered by the enemy, so much as of being defeated by Mr. Davis. He despises all warnings, and constitutionally snubs Congress.* The press of the country—and we have good reason to know that the army backs the press—calls upon him with an almost unanimous voice to take his hands off, and let General Lee be generalissimo of the forces;—*he is wholly deaf to such an outcry; calls it "clamor."* At last, then, let us try what a convention will do.

Immediately following this article is an editorial ridiculing Mr. Seward for having attached undue importance to an editorial published in the Sentinel, but in which a covert and bitter attack is made upon Jeff. Davis. It reads:

If Mr. Seward has rerily attached importance to, or does place place any reliance upon, the nervous and hysteric outcries of some Confederate journals calling on England and France for God's sake to come and save us from our enemies, and to demand of us what they please in return—abolition of slavery, or renunciation of the position of States, and acceptance of that of colonies, ruled by governors from the step-mother country—then Seward incurs, for the first time, the grave suspicion of being a fool.

It is no reaction in favor of the old Union, but on the contrary, *a well founded indignation against a course of administration* which could end in throwing us back into the clutch of the Washington concern.—Far from endangering our independence, this wholesome disaffection insures it. If we went on, indeed, blindly and stupidly praising everything done by our chief magistrate, as if he were brother to the sun and moon (whereas Seward knows exactly—too well—what he is,) then that astute minister might be pleased, and say to himself, like Cromwell at Dunbar, "Now I know that the Lord hath delivered them into mine hand."

But although he is said to have had copies of all that drivel sent to European courts, by way of impressing them with the idea that the confederacy is *in articulo mortis*, yet he knows better himself. He knows, as well as any man, that many among us are sensible our affairs have been mismanaged and our resources wasted and frittered away—that there is, on this account, a good deal of dissatisfaction against the Confederate Government, which dissatisfaction moreover is increasing and coming to a head. But Seward also knows very well that all this bodes no good to him and to his "Union."

We are told, to be sure, that Seward was horribly frightened at the faintest hint of our offering ourselves to France and England as humble dependents. If they would only step in and rescue us from the Yankees. It is said "he was seized with trepidation, and rushed forward to forestall the effect." Oh, no!—That intelligent person has not yet fallen into imbecility and idiocy. He is not alarmed at all; but rather quite charmed, to find there are writers in two of the Richmond papers, proclaiming to all the earth the readiness of these Confederate States to sell themselves to the highest bidder—and that, while nobody is bidding for them at all, nor showing the least wish to have anything to do with them.

Naturally enough, he displays these miserable demonstrations of panic in the eyes of foreign Powers, hoping to produce on them the impression that after all, with all our high pretensions and loud professions, we must be a poor spirited gang of rebels, whom it would be neither safe nor creditable to them to ally themselves with. Mr. Seward is perfectly aware that such outcries are no true indication of the temper and spirit of the Confederate people; yet he does not disdain to "make capital" of them for the moment, in order to disparage our cause, to cool our friends and heat our enemies, to cast contempt on the Confederate name and discredit on Confederate securities all over the world.

☞ An Englishman has succeeded in entering Cosarea cury at Hebron, where repose the remains of Abraham and Sarah. At the door of the Mosque he was asked to take off his shoes, in deference to the sanctity of the place, and he gives a sketch of the cenotaphs of Abraham and Sarah, adding:—"The real tombs, if they exist, are in the cave below the floor. Those which are shown are covered with curtains of silk, green and red respectively, richly embroidered with gold.—They are much faded, and never could have been either so rich or beautiful in design as that which covers the tomb of Noby Daoud at Jerusalem. He declares that the Mosque of Hebron is a Crusader's church, built in 1119. The clustered pillars—there are twelve shafts to each—and the form of the roof, preclude the idea of its belonging to the first Kingdom of Jerusalem." The whole communication shows that this gentleman has been permitted to make notes and to carry away designs—in fact to have had privileges extended to him in excess of any modern travellers.

☞ A gentleman in Scotland has preserved an old number of the Greenock Advertiser, containing the following announcement:—NOTICE TO COAL-HEWERS.—T. O. The lines commencing, "On Lindan when the sun was low," are not up to our standard. Poetry is evidently not T. O.'s forte.

☞ A renewal of negotiations for a match between the prize fighters, Jem Mace and Joe Coburn is in progress.

☞ Rev. Mr. Lynch, a Methodist minister in Allegheny county, Pa., has been arrested on a charge of perjury.

☞ While the flower of the South leaves Savannah with Hardee, the four of the North hastens to enter it.

SERPENT FASCINATION.

Business led me to cross the Chilhowee Mountain, in Tennessee, on the 27th of June, 1857. When near Montodle Springs two birds were noticed at a couple of rods distance from the road, which were acting in a manner new and strange to me. They were in an open space, near the stump of a fallen tree, but did not take flight at my approach, as under ordinary circumstances they would have done. On reaching a point opposite to them it was noticed that they were the brown mocking bird or thrush, and that a very large black snake lay coiled at the side of the stump.

On seeing me it suddenly began to uncoil itself and move off as if to make its escape, the birds at the same time passing a moment in their movements. But before it had stretched itself to more than half its length they were again in motion, and flew at it in the most energetic manner. Instantly the snake once more whirled itself into coil in its former position. The male bird then commenced to run and skip with great activity, in a semi-circle, the serpent being the center, and gradually closed in until within a foot or two of its coils, when, with a sudden dart forward, the bird thrust its head toward that of the snake, and in the same instant threw itself backward, alighting on the ground at the distance of about ten feet.

Before the male had closed the feat the female had commenced a similar set of actions. All the movements of the birds were made with extended wings, as if ready to fly in a moment. By the time the female had thrown herself back from the snake, the male was in position again, repeating the same movement as at first. In the mean time my horse had carried me some four or five rods into a thicket of bushes, whither my hand guided him, and where I dismounted and secured him. All this took place in a minute or two; and as only an indistinct view had been gained of the action of the birds in passing, a favorable position for observation was taken, so that all that occurred might be noted.

The first movement of the male bird, in thrusting its head forward into close contact with the snake, impressed me with conviction that a case of the so-called fascination was enacting before me, and I determined to observe it in a philosophical manner.

It was half-past 1 o'clock, P. M. The birds were still eager at work when I turned my eye upon them after the interruption of hitching my horse. They were panting, as if greatly fatigued by long exertion, but manifested not the least disposition to remit their efforts. If not fascinated, they were at least so earnestly enlisted in the affair on hand as to disregard everything else around them.

The snake lay in its coil, with head erect and thrown back, so as to be in the best possible position to strike and seize the birds as they advanced. The many convulsions of its lengthened body moved in graceful curves, as its glittering head followed their motions. Its eyes sparkled in the sunlight like the polished diamond, while its movements gave to its ever-shifting scales the brilliant hues of the rainbow. Again and again, as the birds approached, it would strike at them with open mouth, exhibiting a malignity of disposition that portend death to them had they been seized in its jaws.

A few minutes sufficed to show that a battle and not a scene of fascination was presented before me. The birds, at each approach, struck the snake with their beaks, or with their talons, when, generally, but not always, it darted for yard at them, only to find that it was aiming at a moveable target. This can be easily explained. The snake in striking could never project itself more than about two-thirds of its length, but its defense was made with determined courage. Its position by the stump protected it in the rear, so that the birds could only approach it in the front. They were as adroit in their attacks as it was resolute in its defense. In attempting to seize them it could not curve to either side after starting, so as to follow their motions, but invariably shot forward in a straight line to the point they occupied when it made its spring.

The birds in advancing to the attack by a circular movement were certain of being away from the spot at which it aimed, and when its teeth smacked together where it expected its prey, it had nothing in its grasp.

The warfare lasted, after I reached the spot, about twenty-five minutes by the watch. Once or twice during the contest the reptile made a movement to escape up the hillside, but the birds, as at its first attempt, immediately brought it into position again. At last, seeming to despair of success in securing a dinner in that locality, it darted off down the hill toward a grove of trees and bushes, nor turned to the right or left. The birds swept after it, pecking, scratching, and striking it with their wings, as if inspired with the consciousness that victory was theirs.

At this moment I rushed forward and, after some difficulty, killed the snake and cut it open. There was not a particle of food from one end to the other of the intestinal canal. It must therefore have been hungry; and if it possessed the faculty of charming it would undoubtedly have employed its powers on such a delicacy as these birds.

When the dissection of the snake was finished the birds were not to be seen. It was the season when their young were in the nest; and doubtless the conflict which had just terminated had been waged for the protection of their offspring. Less active birds, venturing as close as they did to their enemy, must have been captured.

Remaining most of the summer in the mountains of North Carolina, frequent opportunities were afforded of inquiring of hunters and others what they knew about birds being charmed by serpents. All believed in the theory of fascination, and several had witnessed encounters such as I have described; but none had ever seen the snake seize the bird. They had looked on until the bird, as they supposed, was attempting to thrust its head, under the influence of the charm, into the serpent's mouth, when they had rushed forward and killed the serpent to save the bird from destruction.

In all the inquiries made, no instance had been related where there was any more evidence of fascination than in the one observed by myself. In all cases, however, there was a singular uniformity in the descriptions of the manner of which the birds fluttered around the snakes. So nearly did their accounts correspond with what I had witnessed, that I was convinced of the truthfulness of their statements.—*Amer. Monthly.*

☞ COLNEL J. A. EKIN.—The late order of the War Department discontinuing the purchase of horses for the army possesses a significance perhaps not generally appreciated. We are informed that this order is based upon the fact that there are now on hand, after supplying the army, some 20,000 horses. That the largest army ever sent in the field in modern times should be thus fully supplied with horses for cavalry and artillery service, and so large a surplus remain on hand to meet future exigencies, are facts that not only furnish strong evidence of the capacity of the country to meet the demands of the service in this regard, but also speak volumes in favor of the efficiency and energy of the head of this department, Col. Ekin and his subordinates, and we feel that we do but a simple act of justice to them in making this public record of their services.—*Washington Chronicle.*

☞ Mr. S. G. Holyoke, St. Alouzo, sold to Samuel Archer, of Holliday's Cove, West Virginia, the six first choice of his yearling ewes and one two year old for $2100.

☞ Wm. I. Archer, S. S. Campbell & S. M. Cowan of Grove Creek Village, Washington county, Pa., bought of E. Hammond & Son their Ram Lamb "Fortune," for $5000.

☞ Col. M. C. Taylor, 15th Regiment Veteran Infantry, has been authorized by Gov. Bramlette to recruit a mounted regiment to hunt guerillas in Kentucky.

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