New Orleans Daily Crescent.
MONDAY MORNING, JANUARY 13, 1862.

SEWARD'S FOLLY.

It would not be a matter of surprise if Mr. Seward had injured his cause with the British Government by the surrender of Messrs. Mason and Slidell. It would have been difficult for him to have done the thing gracefully under the circumstances, howsoever much he might have tried—but to do it in the bungling style that he did, to make the pitiable exhibition of himself that he does in his three columns of shallow sophistry, cannot but excite the disgust and contempt of all the Cabinets of Europe.

The foreign press has already commented upon the formal approval of the seizure to which the Federal Government committed itself. Their strictures upon this have come back to us, and they reason precisely as the Southern press does, that if the act of seizure had been already ordered by the Federal Government, the responsibility would be no greater. The acceptance and imprisonment of our Commissioners after they were caught is a formal endorsement of the deed—to say nothing of the approval of Congress and the congratulatory letter of the Secretary of the Navy. Mr. Seward's declaration, then, to Adams and to Lord Lyons, that the Government did not authorize the seizure is a contemptible and shallow subterfuge, which is as well understood in Europe as it is in the South. The London Times, before it heard whether the Federal Government had endorsed the seizure, declared that "whether it was an act of the American Government originally, or if it be *adopted by them now*, it is an act of war, and, as such, to be *encountered by war*." Here is a clear declaration that no distinction will be made, as none ought to be made, between an act done, as originally ordered, or *approved afterwards, whether ordered or not*. It amounts to the same thing; and the imprisonment of the Commissioners is a solemn approval, which, *alone*, is enough to show Europe that the act is an official act of the Government.

Another question likely to be asked Mr. Seward is, whether he would not have held on to the Commissioners if no demand had been made for them. Everybody here knows that he would, and the British Government knows that he would. How immeasurable, then, must be their contempt for such dishonesty and cowardice! It is as if a thief retained stolen goods as long as there was no danger of suffering for the crime, but surrendered them to avoid swinging on the gallows.

What, also, will the British people and Government think of a man who gives as an excuse for delivering up Messrs. Mason and Slidell that they were "persons of comparative insignificance," when it is known that the same man now holds in his hand a notorious women, members of the Maryland Legislature, policemen of the city of Baltimore, and private citizens of the South by scores? He imprisons and holds on to mere citizens of the South, in no wise connected with the Government, and yet alleges that one of his reasons for giving up the *Foreign Ministers* of the South is that "they are persons of comparative insignificance!" Will such a contemptible plea fail to escape detection? Most assuredly not—and Seward will be convicted of lying as well as cowardice.

His mendacity displays itself again in the same paragraph—indeed, in the same sentence. In the very same sentence he speaks of "the effectual check and wanting proportions of the existing insurrection!" Is the man a natural-born fool, to suppose he can impose upon the Governments of Europe such a falsehood as this? Everybody else in the North admits that the South is stronger and more defiant and more capable of resistance to-day than ever before. Everybody knows that the "check" of the rebellion has *not* been "effectual"—that there has been no "check" at all. Its "wanting proportions" that Seward speaks of, consist in regiment after regiment being daily added to our six hundred thousand men already in the field, and in the fact that nowhere along the line does the enemy dare to advance on us. No longer ago than yesterday we read the sorrowful admission of the Washington correspondent of that bitter sheet, the Chicago Tribune, that "*the fact is, the cause of the Union has not progressed one inch anywhere, and has constantly lost ground everywhere. It is not in the power of Mr. Seward to put Humpty on the wall where the cause of the Union has progressed an inch, either in Europe or America.*"

This is true, and the whole North feels it to be true, and yet Mr. Seward gravely asserts, in a diplomatic correspondence, that the insurrection is effectually checked, and its proportions are wanting! Will not the British Government feel it wanting! Will not the British Government feel itself insulted by having such a palpable falsehood self insulted by having such a palpable falsehood addressed to it, in a diplomatic communication which is to be placed among the archives of the country? It would be false and disgraceful enough for Mr. Seward to make such an assertion in an after-dinner stump speech to a Northern mob. It is a scandalous abuse of diplomatic privilege to address Great Britain an enormous falsehood, which she herself knows to be such. Mr. Seward says this, too, in the face of the fact that the North is constantly raising fresh troops, organizing naval expeditions, and borrowing hundreds of millions of dollars. For what? To put down an insurrection already effectually checked? What conclusion will Europe draw from such lame logic as that?

But Mr. Seward makes another point which will damage him in Europe. He argues away his whole case, as full of rents and holes as the argument is, by asserting that, notwithstanding he is right in giving up our Commissioners, he would yet have refused to do so "if the safety of this Union required the detention of the captured persons." Here is a claim that all law, all justice, all rights of persons, all rights of other nations, must yield to, "the safety of this Union." Does he suppose such a claim as that will be admitted by foreign powers? He may, but we do not. Besides the untenable position itself, it is an affront to other powers, insolently given, and something altogether out of place in an official communication.

Moreover, Lord Lyons demanded not only the delivery of the Commissioners, but a suitable apology. Seward gives up the Commissioners, but *does not* make the apology.

For these and other reasons, we reach the conclusion that Mr. Seward will "take nothing by his motion" in his long letter to Lord Lyons—on the contrary, that the effect of that letter will be injury to his own cause in Europe, and corresponding benefit to ours. We venture the prediction that the reception of that letter in England, instead of being satisfactory to Seward and the North, will only arouse a more bitter feeling of animosity. Our worst enemy, by his folly and knavery, may prove our best friend. Let us bide our time.

THE STAY LAW.

Speaking of the bill which has passed the House of Representatives, and the Senate, too, with an amendment, (of the terms of which we have no knowledge, according to the telegraph,) that highly influential journal, the Franklin (St. Mary) Planters' Banner of the 11th inst. says:

The stay law, which has passed the Lower House of our State Legislature, and perhaps by this time the Senate, we regard as one of the most pernicious laws that could possibly be crowded through the Legislature. It proposes that if property will not bring within ten per cent. of its value two years ago, when its value was from twenty-five to fifty per cent. greater than it now is, it shall not be sold for twelve months after the war, and that creditors shall pay the expense of advertising and other costs. Why did they not make a law saying distinctly that no property should be seized and sold until a year after the war? For the proposition as it stands means that, and nothing else. This will be an end to the poor man's credit during the war, at the very time when he needs credit more than ever before. Some honest debtors may be benefited by this law, but ten honest creditors will be wronged where one honest debtor will be benefited. And the law gives no lien upon the property of the debtor.

By the time the war is over a dishonest debtor may dispose of all his property, and put the proceeds out of the reach of the creditor, except where security may have been obtained already, or may be obtained at the expense of a lawsuit, the costs of which are to be paid by the creditor. There is probably no State where a stay law is less needed than in Louisiana. People here who try to pay their debts are seldom sued. The creditor here is proverbially liberal to the debtor. A stay law may benefit the few, but it will utterly ruin many an honest creditor, and we think it will prove a ruinous thing to the State.

The observations of our cotemporary are eminently just and proper; and we unhesitatingly venture the assertion that not a single honest man in the State will avail himself of the stay law, amended or otherwise. Fair dealing will have no use for stay laws, and never solicit the passage of stay laws. They can always settle with their creditors on more favorable terms than the Legislature can provide for them. They are the last people that ask for legislative interference. There is a friendly, moral stay law, prevailing in Louisiana at this moment, worth ten thousand stay laws, without a particle of the mischief they invariably inflict. Neighbor helps neighbor; the creditor renews the obligation of his debtor without a murmur; no suits are instituted against upright men; and we are all getting along very well. Legalize comparative swindling, by violating the obligation of contracts, and this auspicious state of things will be reversed, the moral tone of society will be lowered, and those the law is intended to benefit will be the largest sufferers, although honest creditors may be deprived of their just rights in some instances.

NOT RIGHTLY STATED.

The Richmond Examiner, of the 3d instant, contains an editorial article manifestly unjust to the head of the financial department of the Confederate Government, and calculated to bring discredit upon the Government itself. Speaking of the payment in coin of the interest due on Confederate bonds, the Examiner says:

Mr. Memminger's extraordinary financial scheme of paying interest on Confederate bonds with specie bought at forty or fifty per cent. premium, has been made the subject of ridicule by Mr. Seward, and has extorted a horse-laugh from Lord Lyons. The singularity of the proceeding is heightened by the *notice* advertisement of it in the newspapers. Next to Mr. Memminger's attempt to extract revenues from a tariff on imaginary importations, this one to keep up public credit by paying an eight per cent. interest, with specie costing a hundred and fifty cents, reflects much honor on Mr. Memminger's financial skill and sagacity. If holders of Confederate bonds were to be found anywhere else than within the limits of the Confederate States, there would be some propriety in paying the interest due to *them* in specie; but, as the holders of these debentures *all* reside within the confines of the Confederacy, and all can use the currency of the Government and banks just as advantageously as the great body of other people, the scheme of paying specie smacks of what our intelligent Washington correspondent aptly characterizes as "charlatanry."

If the same holders of Confederate bonds who are paid the specie, bought at forty or fifty per cent. premium, had been inclined to make additional investments in these securities, this piece of pudery and affectation would surely deter them from the purpose. When a Government consents to depreciate its own obligations so far as to pay three for two in exchange for money no more valuable, and that without necessity, is a mere freak of financial dilettantism, the fiscal officers must not be astonished if the public at large take the same view of its paper and takes itself. Strange to say, Mr. Memminger expects by this stroke of policy to *elevate* the credit of his Government issues. Unfortunate Mr. Memminger! It is another evidence of that strange infatuation in which he expects to extract revenue from his tariff, blood from his turnips and sunbeams from his cucumbers.

If there was any substantial truth in the above, the reflection upon Mr. Memminger would be just and terrible, and command his instant removal at the hands of the President.

Strange as it may appear to a cotemporary we have ever deemed honest and patriotic, there is not a word of truth in his article. We have the very highest authority for saying that the attacks upon Mr. Memminger are altogether unjustifiable, unfounded and devoid of fact.

Instead of purchasing specie to pay the interest on the Confederate bonds at fifty per cent. premium, Secretary Memminger has made an arrangement which, while it does him credit, reflects great honor upon the banks of New Orleans. The banks of this city have placed to the credit of the Treasury Department one million of dollars in coin, taking Confederate bonds bearing 8 per cent. per annum interest, at par, to enable the Government to meet its obligations. The only condition stipulated, as we understand it, was that the Government should refund the banks in specie, or its equivalent, the amount advanced prior to their resumption of specie payments. It strikes us that the banks have acted with much patriotism, and that the Secretary deserves praise instead of censure for his financial negotiations.

Mr. Memminger may be a very poor Secretary, in the opinion of our Richmond cotemporary, but if he keeps on concluding such arrangements as the one spoken of, the people generally will concede him the rank of an unequaled financier.

RELIEF FOR CHARLESTON.—The subjoined note contains an acknowledgment of the receipt of an additional sum, amounting to over three thousand dollars, contributed by New Orleans for the relief of the sufferers by the great fire in Charleston. The whole sum contributed by this city amounts to about twenty-five thousand dollars. But for the frequent demand upon our means, we doubt not much more would have been given as cheerfully as the amount that has been sent:

CHARLESTON, S. C., January 4, 1862.

J. M. SOMS, Esq., New Orleans:

My Dear Sir—I desire, in behalf of the Committee, gratefully to acknowledge your letter of the 28th ult., covering a further remittance of $3,018 27 from your generous citizens, for the relief of the sufferers by the late fire. Their prompt liberality has tended greatly to alleviate the sufferings of the poor, and has made a lasting impression upon the hearts of our people.

Yours, sincerely,
J. K. SASS, Treasurer.

ST. CHARLES HOTEL COMPANY.—Notice is given elsewhere this morning that an election will be held next Monday, the 20th inst., at the Gas Office, for Directors of this company. See notice.

ABOLITION IMPATIENCE.—The Chicago Tribune, which is for Cameron's policy of freeing and arming the slaves, don't like the slow progress of the movement towards the extermination of slavery. It says:

Plain men, who now reason from what they see, and not from what they are told, begin to believe that as long as any slaveholder in the United States pretends to be loyal to the Government, the war will be continued with special reference to his case, and in such a way that the title to the last hair on his last nigger's head may not be disturbed.

MILITARY GOODS.—We direct the attention of our military readers to the advertisement of Messrs. H. Pifer & Co., No. 122 Canal street, in which is enumerated a couple of goods especially adapted to their wants. As usual with this house, it contains just now one of the largest stocks of staple goods in the country, which they sell at very reasonable prices. We look upon it as a sure thing always, when searching for any particular article, that if it is not at Pifer's we are likely to have great difficulty in finding it at all, for that enterprising concern always keeps the run of the market, and keeps up with the demand. Go and look at this stock.

TO SHIPPERS OF FREIGHT.—Notice is given elsewhere to shippers of freight by the steamer Golden Age, that there will be a clerk at the office of Messrs. Joseph H. Shannon, Nos. 7 and 9 Poydras street, this morning, from an early hour, to sign bills of lading. Shippers of sugar are notified to return the weights at the same time.

PRINTING.—Messrs. Rea Brothers, at the Rotary Press Printing Establishment, No. 18 Magazine street, advise the public, through our columns this morning, that they are prepared to do all kinds of commercial job printing at most moderate prices than can be found elsewhere in the city, and that they have a very large stock of papers of all descriptions, upon which they are prepared to print to order. See advertisement.

CONFECTIONERY.—Mr. Ernest Turpin, No. 39 Old Levee street, manufacturer of all kinds of confectionery, syrups, etc., advises the public, through our columns this morning, that he is prepared to fill all orders with care and dispatch. See card.

McCHESNEY & LANDRY sell at auction, at 11 o'clock, at their auction mart, Masonic Hall, a general assortment of household furniture, glass and crockery ware, etc., etc.; also, 10 pieces of cocoa matting, and a Stewart cooking stove, nearly new. See advertisement.

Local Intelligence.

OFF FOR MISSOURI.—We learn that Prof. Platoez, the accomplished teacher of military tactics, who has done so much for our city military, has been appointed a Colonel in the Missouri army by Gov. Jackson, and will start some time this week to join Gen. Sterling Price's army. We are sorry, indeed, to lose so able a teacher, but knowing as we do that he will have a wide field in Missouri to display his talents, we cannot help feeling pleased that he has received the appointment. We are sure that before he has been long in that new field of action, his labors will be productive of great good to the Southern cause, and that he will win higher honors from the heroic people with whom he joins his fortunes. Success to him wherever he goes.

BALL OF THE ORLEANS CADETS, CO. D.—We understand that it is the intention of this Company to give a grand military, fancy dress and mask ball at Odd Fellows' Hall, on the 24th inst., for the purpose of raising a fund to assist the Company in getting ready to meet the emergencies of the times. We hope that our amusement-loving citizens will patronize this affair and assist the Company to the full extent of their power, for it is deserving in the highest respect.

THE REMAINS OF COL. LUBBOCK.—On Saturday afternoon the Crescent Regiment, under command of Col. Marshall J. Smith, escorted the remains of Col. Lubbock, of Texas, to the depot of the Opelousas Railroad, for transportation home. Col. Lubbock left Texas as Lieutenant-Colonel of Col. Terry's Regiment, and died only one day after he had been elected Colonel in place of his gallant commander, whose untimely fate is familiar to all. His death will prove a sad loss to the Confederacy and to his regiment.

GETTING WELL.—We learn that Mr. John Ermon, who was so seriously wounded by his slave Bill on Friday morning, is now pronounced by his physician to be recovering. The wound was a dreadful one, and his recovery is esteemed almost a miracle. The negro is in prison awaiting examination.

UNFORTUNATE OCCURRENCE.—A Mrs. Shaffer, who lived at the corner of First and St. Denis streets, Fourth District, was accidentally killed on Saturday morning by the discharge of her husband's gun. Her husband, the day before, had signified his intention of going on a hunt, and she not wishing him to do so, hid his gun. When he arose on Saturday morning and went down stairs to prepare to start, he missed his gun and demanded it of his wife, and she angrily threw it down the back stairs to him. One of the hammers came in contact with a step, the gun was discharged, and the lead entered the unfortunate woman's body, causing her death in a few minutes. Coroner Beach was sent for and empanneled a jury, who, after a careful examination of the facts, returned a verdict of accidental death. Mrs. Shaffer was a native of France, and aged about 41 years.

THE REGIMENT OF PLANTERS' LIFE GUARD.—We are pleased to learn that the Regiment of Planters' Life Guard, which has for sometime past been in course of organization for Confederate service by Colonel DeVeuve, is now rapidly approaching completion, and it is expected will be ready for service in a very short time. When it is understood that Col. DeVeuve has not only had to enlist the men, but to provide them arms, substistence and equipment, those who have wondered at the slow progress made by him will wonder no longer. Thanks to liberal aid from planters and merchants, the Colonel has now, we learn, ample means at his command to supply every want, and has also arms enough to furnish the men as rapidly as they are mustered into service. His arms are all first-class, as those companies of the Beauregard Regiment, which borrowed some from him on Wednesday last, can certify, and we are sure, in the hands of such men as Col. DeVeuve has in his command, will be made to do good service. Success to him and his regiment!

ARREST OF A BURGLAR — *Stolen Property Recovered.*—On the morning of the 9th instant, at 5 o'clock, the house of Mr. Joseph Sampas, at No. 413 Dryades street, was entered by a burglar and robbed of $125 in bank notes, $100 in gold and silver, a silver watch, a sword and other articles. Mr. Sampas at once made complaint at the police office, and special officers Miller and Farrell took the case in charge. Yesterday afternoon they arrested a well-known German thief, named George Takel, and upon searching his house on Liberty street, between Josephine and Jackson streets, they found all the small articles stolen from Mr. Sampas, together with $185 75 in bills, $20 in American gold, and $54 75 in silver coin. Takel confessed that this was the property of Mr. Sampas, but says that it is all he got; but as he has been on a spree ever since the robbery, it is but fair to suppose that he spent all that is missing. He was locked up to await examination.

FIRE.—Yesterday morning at 3 o'clock, a frame house at the corner of Louisa and Camp streets, belonging to Mr. Wagner, took fire and was half consumed before the firemen could extinguish the flames. The loss is not great.

CAUGHT AT LAST.—Special Officer Boulloss, on Saturday, succeeded in catching Leonard Dulan, the engaging young gentleman who was the bedfellow of Bernard Durroux, the butcher, one night week before last, upon which occasion he robbed him of over $800. Our readers will recollect that we gave an account of the case last Monday, and informed them at the time that Boulloss was after the fellow. Well, he had a hard search for him, as Dulan is a cunning fellow, but at last found him in a house of ill fame on Dauphine street, and took him to the calaboose. He had squandered most of the money, however, only having a gold watch and about $150 left.

ANOTHER BAPE CASE.—A man named George Borge, a Maltese, who resides on Maine street, was arraigned before Recorder Gastinel on Saturday, upon the charge of having perpetrated a rape upon Margaret Creaton, a little girl of between 10 and 11 years of age, in a house on Old Levee street. He was sent to the Parish Prison without benefit of bail, to await his examination.

ALARMING RUMORS.—We received the following letter from a lady friend, and occasional correspondent, which, as it enumerates the different reports and rumors which have been in circulation in the city during the past week, we give it as a curiosity. It is exceedingly strange what a taste some people have for the marvellous, and how greedily they swallow everything that is told them of a horrible and astounding nature. We met a man on the street a few days since who had just been told that the Yankees had possession of the railroad bridge at Pass Manchac, and that 15,000 Hessians had taken possession of Milneburg. He was making his way home to pack up and hide his valuables. We could hardly detain him long enough to find out what called him, and as to being able to undeceive him, that was an improbability. But to the letter:

My Dear Mr. Local—Do answer me a few questions. I know that your time is valuable, and that you have something else to do besides answering foolish women's questions. But you have always been so kind and *such* a polite Local, that I *must* trouble you for this.

Is there really an armed organization of Abolitionists and negroes on Metairie Ridge, who defy Gen. Lovell, and intend to burn the city and murder all the women and children? Has Gen. Moore determined upon shooting every native of Connecticut found in the State after the 15th of this month? Has Gen. Lovell really asked Gov. Moore for 40,000 men, and is it true that the Governor will order them out on Monday? If this is true, can Gov. Moore make a man who is engaged to be married leave the State for a campaign? Is it true that the Manassas was accidentally blown up by a petard in the river, opposite the forts? Have the Yankees taken Baton Rouge and liberated all the convicts in the Penitentiary, upon their promising to cut the levees and drown us all out? Did that French ship, which arrived here the other day, bring the Empress Eugenie, or was it only her mother? Is it a fact that the Yankees are digging a tunnel under the city, and if so, is there any danger in falling through?

Were all the guns in our fortifications stolen by unknown parties last Tuesday night, and has ten Lovell put large water-pipes in their places? Has martial law been declared, or is it not to be done at half past 6 on Tuesday night, in Jackson Square? Is it not true that the City Council have determined to make cannons out of the bronze statues of Jackson and Clay, and to take all the tin from the roofs of the houses for the same purpose? Is it true that the public schools are to be closed, and the lady teachers to be made do duty in the hospitals as nurses? In case Governor Moore orders out the volunteers, will it not be his duty to leave at least one regiment at home to protect the ladies and children? Have the City Council adjourned sine die, and the members formed themselves into a military company and elected the Mayor captain?

Won't you answer me these questions? I am so much alarmed and so worried that I *don't* know what to do. You have no idea how many of these reports there are in circulation, and how strongly they are insisted upon by those who told them. Let me hear from you as soon as possible.

Your friend,
KATE.

To satisfy our friend, Miss Kate, we will answer her questions to the best of our ability, remarking, at the same time, that we may possibly be mistaken on some of the points.

Although there are large numbers of Yankees and some free negroes on Metairie Ridge, they are not exactly in armed rebellion, but are secessionists of undoubted status, as they *went out*, most of them, as early as 1833. Gov. Moore is not particularly hostile to natives of the Nutmeg State, nor has he determined upon shooting them; but we understand that he has issued orders to the Quartermaster's Department not to purchase any hams from them—without being sure that they are not wooden imitations.

Gen. Lovell does not want 40,000 men, but 36,324, two boys, six vivandieres and a nigger: we have it from an undoubted source. Of course, young men engaged to be married cannot be made do service against their will—preposterous!

The Manassas only had her nose blown—to atoms by the petard. It was not her own, however, upon which she was hoisted.

Baton Rouge is still in the possession of the assembled wisdom of the State, and the convicts all under lock and key. It is an outrageous calumny upon these respectable individuals to say that they would join the enemies of the State, when it is a well-known fact that the lives of many of them are devoted to her service.

Neither the Empress Eugenie nor her mother came over on the French ship-of-war, but a lady sent by Napoleon III to Moody with the latest pattern of shirts.

The tunnel was undertaken by Phelps, (Ship Island Phelps) but he was superseded before the project could be carried out. We are awaiting breathlessly to hear of Cushing's action. All the guns were not stolen; but a Pago fisherman was caught on Lake Borgne with a pistol in his pocket, which, it is charged, he stole from one of the soldiers stationed there some time ago.

The water-pipe story is a pure fabrication. Col. Tom Murray has them all in position at the Free Market. Martial law will not be declared next Tuesday night at 6½ o'clock, in Jackson Square; but will be whenever Gen. Lovell sees proper to issue his proclamation, if Gov. Moore does not object. This we have from a particular friend of a friend of the General's. The City Council have not determined to melt down Messrs. Jackson and Clay, as they have other sources from whence they can get a supply of brass. The tin story may be true, but not exactly as stated. It is to make a circulating medium for which this article is to be used. The schools are not to be closed just yet, and the ladies can rest easy in regard to the nursing business, as the Surgeon-General of the Horse Marines has been heard to express himself strongly against the plan. Of course a regiment will be left in the city to protect helpless innocence—to be sure. The City Council, though eminently of a military cast, have not adjourned sine die. They have never said die once, nor are they likely to. Mayor Monroe is not a captain just now.

FIRST DISTRICT COURT.—The following parties previously convicted, were sentenced on Saturday by Judge Cullens:

Mrs. Fox, receiving stolen goods, three months in the Penitentiary. Mrs. Fox applied for a new trial, but her motion was overruled. Chas. Herard, alias Pitcher, larceny, one year in the Penitentiary. Hayes Hester, forgery, one year in the Penitentiary. Thomas Ford, manslaughter, one year in the Penitentiary. J. M. Larose, f. m. c., larceny, six months in the Penitentiary. Two boys, named Hickey and Bodin, sent for stealing clothing from Messrs. A. Monroe & Co., were sent to the House of Refuge for two years. Antony O'Rourke, another youthful thief, got the same sentence. James O'Rourke, brother of Anthony, was sent to the Parish Prison for one year. Michael Larkin was sent to the House of Refuge for two years, but was granted the privilege of getting out at the end of one month, provided he could get solvent security for good conduct.

Peter Ford, Thomas Walker and John Cain were tried and convicted of robbery, but recommended to the mercy of the Court. They were remanded to await sentence.

Weather and Crops.

The Baton Rouge Sugar Planter of Saturday says:

Our planters are fast finishing the rolling season. In two weeks more they will nearly all have done. It has been an unusually busy season, and unattended by fewer mishaps than might have been anticipated from the large crops. Notwithstanding the large crop, prices are about the same for sugars as they were in 1859, when there was no blockade to prevent shipment to the West; while it must be admitted molasses ranges higher than it did in that year. Taking everything into consideration, planters should be thankful that prices are no worse.

The Pointe Coupée Democrat of Saturday says:

The crops of the year 1861 are almost entirely gathered. Of the corn crop, never before was such abundance made, and so it may be said of that of sugar. The cotton crop in this parish will be a fair one. Upon the whole, never were the cultivators of the soil better rewarded for their labor.

The Iberville Sentinel, of the same date, has the following:

After a severe storm of rain on Wednesday night last and next morning, the weather has again cleared up mild and pleasant as in June. This continued fair and salubrious weather at this season, after the prevalence of a storm, is extraordinary. We have had no frosts as yet, to taint even the joints of the stubble cane. The planters are generally through with grinding, and from what we learn, a great deal of sugar is stored away indefinitely in the purgeries.

WAR WITH ENGLAND.—It must not be supposed that the surrender of Mason and Slidell does away with the probability of war with England. Harriet Martineau, in a recent letter, justly observes that however that matter may terminate, the two nations will never be on the same footing as before. The ill-feeling engendered by it will not subside with the removal of the exciting cause; and if England, evidently anxious to make our national distress her opportunity, adds additional demands to those that resulted in the rendition of the rebel Commissioners, they will be met in a very different spirit.

The report reaches us by way of Halifax that the blockading of the Southern ports with stone will create new difficulties, and that England will question our rights to do with our own ports as we please. We do not attach much credit to the rumor, but there is a possibility that, in her desire to pick a quarrel with the Government of the United States, she will make it the pretext for hostilities.

Our Local Contemporaries.

TRYING TO RALLY HIMSELF.—The Bowling Green Courier says:

In our report of the fight at Sacramento we perhaps did some injustice to Lieut.-Col. Love, of the Eleventh Kentucky, who, we then intimated, fled the field. We have learned since that though he did dash to Sacramento at the most admirable speed, sticking spurs to his horse at every jump, yet he vociferously cried "halt! halt!" every foot of the way. He was gallantly trying to rally himself.

TALLOW.—Messrs. Kearny, Blois & Co., No. 62 Magazine street, have 100 bbls of this article on hand for sale. See advertisement.

LATEST TELEGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE.

DISPATCHED TO THE NEW ORLEANS CRESCENT

Running the Blockade on the Potomac.

RICHMOND, Jan. 12.—The War Department has received an official dispatch stating that the large steamship Pensacola, from Washington, with a heavy armament on board, passed the Evansport batteries at daylight this morning. The batteries discharged some fifteen or twenty shots at the steamer as she ran. She passed Aquia Creek about 8 A. M., in charge of two gun-boats, and it is believed she was much damaged by the Evansport batteries.

Louisiana Legislature.

BATON ROUGE, Jan. 11.—In the Senate a bill offered by Mr. Lott, appropriating $150,000 in aid of the associations at Richmond and New Orleans for the relief of the Louisiana soldiers, was passed.

Mr. Texada offered a bill to incorporate a company for the improvement of the navigation of Red river.

The House bill for the relief of cotton planters was referred to the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures.

Mr. Moore offered a substitute to the joint resolution opposing the Governor's recommendation to the banks to suspend specie payment.

The House bill to regulate forced sales of property was amended and passed.

A bill to amend the act of 1861, authorizing the Recorders of New Orleans to appoint certain officers, passed.

Mr. Laidlaw offered a bill to reorganize the militia of the State, which was ordered to be printed.

A bill appropriating $26,950 to charitable institutions, was passed.

A bill relative to ship-building was passed. The bill embraces an appropriation of $40,000 to carry the act into effect.

A bill providing for the location and confirmation of the Rio Hondo claims was discussed at length and passed.

In the House, a communication was read from Governor Jackson, declining to visit the capital of the State for the present.

A bill to organize the police of New Orleans and to establish a police board therein was passed.

A joint resolution was reported from the special committee, recommending a diversification of the agricultural labor of the State, so as to produce less of cotton and more of cereals and other articles of prime necessity.

The vote taken yesterday, laying on the table all the naval bills, was reconsidered, and Tappan's substitute adopted, amended so as to tender the proceeds of the three million dollars in State bonds to the President of the Confederate States, if desired, to aid in the construction of a national navy, and as amended, was passed. Ayes, 47; noes, 7.

The bank bills are made the special order for Wednesday next.

A bill to raise money for the State Treasury is made the special order for 11 o'clock Tuesday next.

The bill from the Senate, appropriating $150,000 in aid of the Louisiana Soldiers' Relief Associations at Richmond and New Orleans, was referred to a select committee.

Letter from Virginia.

Special to the New Orleans Crescent.

RICHMOND, Jan. 5, 1862.

Mr. Editor—The year opens briskly. Mason and Slidell surrendered, Yankee-doodle fled as a pan-cake under the paw of the British lion, Picayune Butler performing at Biloxi, Brown sending the compliments of the season to Bragg, Buell back-tracking from before Bowling Green, Burnside's fleet under a full headway for Evansport or elsewhere, and Sherman's hounds bayoneted by Gregg's boys at Port Royal Ferry. Truly, a sprightly beginning for his youthful highness, 1862.

Our New Year's day was celebrated by a reception at the house of President Davis, which was largely attended by citizens and strangers, male and female, of high and low degree, and by an old-fashioned apple-toddy treat at Gov. Letcher's. The night was made memorable by the burning of the theatre and several other houses adjoining. That the fire was applied by an incendiary is proved by the fact that it broke out in almost every part of the building simultaneously, and that the incendiary was a Baltimorean is strongly conjectured. As I came away from the smoking ruins, I heard a negro boy say to his fellows: "Well, we is all here, we is. We is de real Baltymo' Plugs, ain't we?"—showing how familiar the name of Plug has become among the lower orders here. The sublime effect of the towering flames, the terror inspired by the sparks which the high wind prevailing at the time carried as far as the Basin, and the excitement of the citizens and firemen, made the scene one of appalling grandeur. The effect was heightened by the appearance in the street of one of our most beautiful city belles, clad only in a loose wrapper, her full half streaming down her marble shoulders, and her small hands clasped in an agony of affright and forgetfulness.

After the burning of the theatre in 1841, by which the Governor and sixty citizens were consumed, the projector here applied that theatre to the use of a gunboat in view on New Year's day caused more than a single gun.

While on the subject of projectiles, we may mention that quite a number of rifled shells have been found at Page's and Cunningham's Points. In length they measure 12 inches, and in diameter about 4 inches, with the wad pointed. The soldiers have ventured to open some of the many found unexploded. On the sharp point is a percussion cap, which possibly does not produce sufficient concussion in striking the carts to explode it. The interior is filled with a charge of powder and musket balls, as many as 175 of the latter having been obtained from a single shell. This is furnishing contraband of war for the Confederate States on quite a liberal scale.

Port Royal Ferry on the north side is to our army of the coast what Mason's and Masson's hills were last September to the advanced guards of the army of the Potomac. At both points the hostile sockets have frequently spoken to each other. Here is a specimen of a recent conversation at the Ferry:

Yankee—Halloo! over there.

Southron—Halloo! yourself.

Y.—So you've got Lee over there, eh?

S.—Yes, sir-ee.

Y.—Right smart man he is, too. Ain't his headquarters at Coosawatchie?

S.—Well, he is some.

Y.—Say! ain't his headquarters at Coosawatchie?

S.—Can't say, come over and see for yourself.

Y.—How are you off for tobacco and liquor?

S.—Got plenty of both.

Y.—We want some tobacco. Won't you trade some for whisky?

S.—Don't want any of your liquor.

Among some other pertinent questions was the following, which effectually broke up the strange colloquy:

S.—Halloo! over there. How many men did we kill of your men in the fight?

Y.—Halloo! I say. What made you run at Bull Run?

We have heard a touching incident related of the fight of the 1st inst. A Lieutenant in Colonel Jones' Regiment was mortally wounded by a shell, which broke his sword in half; he survived but a few minutes; but before his death, he took a gold ring from his finger, and handing it with his broken sword to Lieutenant-Colonel McGowan, made a dying request that he should forward both to his *fiancee*.

A letter from a member of the Palmetto Guard says, that a detachment of 16 men under third Lieutenant B. G. Webb, manning an eight-inch howitzer, were stationed at Port Royal Ferry, on the 1st inst., with Leake's Virginia battery, and that, notwithstanding the bombardment of that position on that day, no one of the detachment was injured. On the 2d inst., they had fallen back to the cross road leading to Page's Point, where their gun was held in position. Later accounts represent them as having moved to another point.

It is worthy of remark that three Generals of South Carolina militia are now in command of regiments encamped within sight of each other, Col. Jones, Col. Dunovant, and Col. Martin. Each of them had previously seen active service, either in Florida or Mexico.

Further Particulars of the Fight at Port Royal.

From the Charleston Mercury of the 7th we extract the following:

We have some further and very interesting accounts of the fight which took place in the neighborhood of Port Royal Ferry on Wednesday last, the 1st instant. The narrative of the affair, as published in the Mercury of Saturday last, was, in the main, correct. Our forces consisted of Col. Jones' Regiment, S. C. V., a battalion of three companies from Col. Dunovan's regiment, S. C. V., under Lieut. Col. Barnes, and a detachment of mounted men under Major Oswald, of Col. Martin's Regiment of Cavalry.

After it had been determined to attack the enemy, it became necessary to have their position, numbers and material, carefully reconnoitered. This duty was cheerfully undertaken by Orderly Sergeant Thomas B. Chaplin, of the St. Helena Mounted Rifles. On the night of the 31st, he mounted his horse and rode down to a point within sight of the Yankee camp, where he dismounted, hid his horse, and being familiar with the woods and path, approached to within forty yards of their bivouacs. He was so close as to discover that they had lanterns, with blinds on their sides, so as not to be seen either in front or on the flanks.

Following the instructions of his General, he counted the bivouacs and sentinels, and ascertained that there were about 500 men on the west side of the ferry. He then sought his horse, (which he was for some time unable to find, owing to the care with which he had secreted him) and then rode over to the other side of the ferry, where, by similar means, he ascertained that the main body of the enemy, consisting of about 3500 men, were on the east side. After gaining every possible information, he returned to headquarters at daybreak, having been in the saddle, or on foot, all night. When starting on this perilous undertaking, he left his roll-book with his Colonel, who gave him the necessary permit to pass our lines—remarking that if he was taken, he must destroy it.—"I don't intend to be taken alive," was the reply.

One of the principal features of the fight of Wednesday was the deployment of an entire regiment of the enemy as skirmishers, with the view of crossing Keans's Neck in order to turn our left. They were met by our skirmishers, conspicuous among whom was Capt. Tompkins' company, from Jones' regiment. These brave fellows left their mark upon the invaders, and many a Yankee fell before their unerring aim; but, owing to the complete arrangements and forethought of the enemy in providing litters, their killed and wounded were all rapidly removed. During their retreat, Major Oswald's infantry, with double-barrel guns and revolvers, did good service.

It is due to truth to state that the Yankees did not, as at first stated, throw away their guns. In advancing they were never beyond the range of their gunboats, and were always well covered by the forest or undergrowth. Just as the enemy had reached the shore, General A. J. Donelson, with Moore's First Regiment Tennessee Volunteers, came up—flushed with their quick march—a noble set of men. Great was their disappointment at finding the enemy gone.

Capt. Croft, Jones' Regiment, a graduate of the Citadel, occupied an advance post on Chisholm's Island, and marched his company in retreat in complete order. He remained in the rear with five others, and tore up the bridge on the causeway, which effectually prevented the crossing of the enemy's artillery. So arduous was this task, that the delay occasioned painful suspense, and at one time it was feared that he was cut off.

Soon after the fight, Col. W. E. Mer in, and Lieut.-Col. S. McGowan of Jones' Regiment, determined to reconnoiter the field. They galloped rapidly through an old field down the causeway, to the spot where the shell had burst among our troops, for the purpose of ascertaining the number of our wounded. This brought them within one hundred yards of the enemy's infantry, who were in Chaplin's house, and within range of their howitzers. They found five or six South Carolina soldiers helplessly wounded. As they could not be removed on horseback, both officers retired, and removed these brave men. Before moving off, Dr. Turnipseed had to take up an artery, and during all this time, and until under cover, the shell kept up a sharp fire of shells at the wagon and guard, fortunately without damage.

The enemy disappeared on the night of the 3d. Col. Savage, with a battery of the 16th Tennessee Regiment, went down to the causeway, and did not see them.

We learn that our men have always held Page's Point, and do so now.

Things at Cairo.

A correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial, under date of Dec. 29th, thus speaks of matters and things at Cairo:

THE FLOTILLA.—The chief fact about Cairo now—excepting its unredeemed and unredeemable ugliness—is its military importance. Soldiers occupy the town, and gunboats the river. There is nothing new to you about the former. Volunteers look much the same everywhere—careless and slovenly. But the sailors and flotilla are features. Jack, in his Scotch cap, with a dainty black ribbon floating behind, and in his neat blue shirt and flowing breeches, has a rollicksome, jaunty air of aqueous propriety, that always makes a good picture and pleases your fancy. Fresh water Jack is hardly so taut a craft as Jack on the ocean, but he is a good emblem of naval discipline a little slack. But if McClellan could get equal "smartness" infused into his volunteer army, he would probably "On to Richmond" at once. There is an elegance, a courtliness, and a gentlemanliness too, about the genuine naval officer, which has much to do in marking the distinction between sailors and volunteer soldi