

The British Government and the Slidell and Mason Affair.

It was reported some days ago that Mr. Seward had stated publicly that Lincoln would expect some good news within ten days. The Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Herald offers the following solution of the remark:

The personal friends of Secretary Seward are confident that the remark made by him in his speech on Tuesday evening, in response to a serenade, that the country would within ten days be electrified by more welcome news than they have yet heard, referred to the probability that within that time the entire acquiescence of the British Government in the taking of Mason and Slidell would be received. It is believed that Lord Lyons has intimated to Mr. Seward that his government will assure him that they mean neutrality on board their vessels and everywhere else.

In connection with this statement we call the reader's attention to the report of a public meeting held in Liverpool immediately after the reception there of intelligence of the capture of Messrs. Slidell and Mason. Whatever may have been the effect of the capture upon the government, it is evident that the people are excited and indignant, regarding it as a violation of British rights and a gross insult. The reference made by Mr. JOHN CAMPBELL to the opinion of the law officers of the crown, had the effect of inducing the meeting to modify the resolution offered, but nevertheless it is sufficiently expressive. We repeat it here:

Resolved, That this meeting, having heard with indignation that an American federal ship of war has forcibly taken from a British mail steamer certain passengers, peaceably under the shelter of our flag, from one neutral port to another, we do earnestly call on the Government to assert the dignity of the British flag.

As an expression of the feelings of people, merchants and others, in the great cotton ports of Liverpool, this resolution is significant. It evinces the hostility they naturally feel towards a power which is at war with another whence they have drawn their chief article of trade, and indicates that they are not unwilling to prompt their Government to resist the insult, as they regard the capture of our Commissioners, even to the resort to war. Mercantile communities are generally timid and the least disposed to war, and we say it, the people of Liverpool would be little inclined to favor hostilities with the United States were it not that they believe that war would restore their trade in view of cotton now off by the blockade. Their motives may be selfish and unpatriotic, but that is a matter of little consequence to us. Their cupidity and their wants are advantages to our cause; and their action shows that the necessities of the cotton trade will begeth much to relieve us of our enemies. Let the war continue, and the supplies of American cotton be cut off for two seasons, and the Governments of Great Britain and France will find themselves hanging over a precipice from which it will be difficult to save them. Necessity will compel them to interfere in our behalf, for their own safety. We may receive the benefit of their action, whilst we despise the motive.

We learn from the Richmond Examiner that the Court of Commissioners to determine the claims for indemnity for losses by the war, is to be paid out of the sequestration fund, is to be arranged at once. The following appointments, as commissioners to compose the court, have been made by the President and confirmed by the vote of Congress in secret session: GEORGE F. SCROBODER, of Virginia; THOMAS C. REYNOLDS, of Missouri; and WALKER BROOKS, of Mississippi.

DEATH OF CAPT. MARK L. MOORE.—The N. O. Delta of Sunday, says—"Capt. Mark L. Moore, of the Blount's Guards, 5th Louisiana Regiment, who has been some time in the city, absent from his command in Virginia, on sick leave, died yesterday, at his residence on Hercules street, at the early age of 31 years. His disease was caused by a complication of disorders, brought on by exposures in camp. Capt. Moore was one of the first to raise a company in this city to fight against the enemy in Virginia. He had resided here many years, and was highly respected. He was an honored member of the Typographical Union and a prominent and efficient member of the Fire Department. Though a young man, he had filled several responsible offices, and with credit to himself and benefit to the public service. He was a native of Maury county, Tenn., and leaves a widow and several children to mourn his early death.

"Never be critical upon the ladies," was the maxim of an old Irish peer, remarkable for his brawn to the sex; "the only way in the world that a true gentleman ever will attempt to look at the faults of a pretty woman, is to shut his eyes."

Napoleon's Idea of Making War.

The following letter was written by Napoleon to Angereau, on the 21st of February, 1814. It was a peculiar point and appropriate at this time:

"What! Six hours after receiving the first troops from Spain you are not in the field! Six hours of rest is quite enough for them. I conquered at Nangis with the brigade of dragoons coming from Spain, you from Bayonne had not drawn rein. Do you say that the six battalions from Nimes want clothes and equipment, and are untrained? Angereau, what miserable excuses! I have destroyed 80,000 enemies with battalions of conscript, scarcely clothed, and without cartridge boxes. The National Guards are pitiful! I have here 4,000 from Angers and Breteigne in round hats, without cartridge boxes, but with good weapons and I have made them tell. There is no money, do you say? But where do you expect to get money but from the pockets of the enemy? You have no teams? Seize them! You have no magazines? Tut, tut! this is too ridiculous! I order you to put yourselves in the field twelve hours after you receive this letter. If you are still the Angereau of Castiglione, keep your command. If your sixty years are too much for you, relinquish it to the oldest of your general officers. The country is menaced and in danger. It can only be saved by daring and alacrity, and not by vain delays. You must have a nucleus of 6,000 picked troops? I have not so many, yet I have destroyed three armies, captured 40,000 prisoners, taken two hundred pieces of artillery, and twice saved the capital. The enemy are in full flight upon Troyes? Before them. Act no longer as of late. Remember the method and spirit of '93. When Frenchmen see your plume waving in the van, and you, first of all, exposed to the enemy's fire, you will do with them whatever you will."

Napoleon had some reputation as a military man, and yet it appears he could be in a hurry. He could go without transportation. He could move without waiting for the enemy to get ready.

The Cotton Lands of the South. We learn that the sentiment among the cotton planters is nearly unanimous for a short cotton crop the next year, and the diversion of the larger portion of their capital and labor to the replanting of our small stock of the necessities of life. Time will be ample for the consideration and discussion of this subject between now and the cotton-planting season, which will be the early part of April; and then, if our ports are not opened, there can scarcely be any doubt of the determination by the planters of the policy of abandoning in a good measure, the cotton crop, and raising other products of the soil.

We are informed that, on the assumption that the average crop of cotton for the last 5 years, has been four million bales; then there have been, probably, eight millions acres employed in the cultivation. Lands that will produce half a bale of cotton per acre will bring twenty bushels of corn; and eight million acres planted in corn instead of cotton, would add 160,000,000 bushels to the annual supply. With the grain and fodder from such a crop, one million additional head of cattle, and as many hogs, could be fattened, besides leaving a surplus for horses, mules, sheep, &c.—Richmond Examiner.

From the New Orleans Delta. The Garb of Old Gaul. Everywhere one hears the Bonnie Blue Flag, yet few know that the words are set to the air of the Irish Jaunting Car. As our singers and bands seem to admire adopted airs, suppose they take to the Garb of Old Gaul, one of the grandest and most soul-stirring pieces of martial music to be found in any land. It is of Scotch origin, and supposed to be some five hundred years old. No musician can sing it without making a remarkable discovery, namely, that it is the original of both the Marsellaise and the Hail Columbia. It is full of the music of the drum and the trumpet. The words which follow were written for Mr. Morton, who sang them to the above air at the Academy of Music, but the orchestra not remembering that soldiers never march to the sound of fiddles, failed to give it the benefit of the drum and trumpet. This is an every day mistake of orchestra leaders. The words of the original, commencing, "In the days of Old Gaul, in the days of Old Rome, were written by Sir Henry Erskine, in expectation of the invasion of England by the French under Napoleon, and the music was scored by Gen. Reid. I find this old air in a rare book of Scotch songs, among which is the original of Shakespeare's famous song put into the mouth of Iago: "King Stephen was a worthy peer, His breaches cost him hair a crown."

The great dramatist only altered a proper name and a word here and there, and made the ancient Scotch song a part of Othello's circumlocution. New combinations present themselves, but seeming originality. In the lines below the writer has only striven to furnish words scrupulously adapted to the sinking and the swelling of the air: They only are free who deserve to be free!

By the sun brilliant, and our fathers besought, By the Liberty won when their sires they beheaded! Though their blood to the ocean in torrents shall flow, Fling out our Southern banner in the thickest of the fight! Strike! cavaliers for Freedom! for Liberty and Right! Till every bayonet gleam, Shall blaze in victory's ribbon! And the nation, like a giant, shall deride the tyrant's might!

Our fathers once trod the same land which we tread; Our fathers stout heroes to battle once led; The proud lesson taught us, remember should be; That only are free who deserve to be free! Fling out, etc.

CAMP WALKER, KY., December 10th, 1861.

Editor Nashville Patriot.—Dear Sir:—As there are many men in Gen. Zollicoffer's Brigade, from whom your readers would like to hear, I have concluded to drop you a line. Nearly everybody are well, and those who have been complaining have suddenly recovered, at the idea of getting close to the enemy. Col. Stanton's, Cummins', Col. Slatham's, Col. Battle's and Col. Regiments are now this side of the Cumberland. Most of the cavalry are also over. You may look out for stirring times in a few days. I verily believe that our success in getting across without any hindrance is due to the gallant, bold and chivalrous Stanton. I speak not in praise of him to the disparagement of any other commander, for they all are brave enough for any emergency; in fact all seem to give him the honor, without jealousy too. Brave men, you know, have none of this cross in them. The enemy, several days since, were preparing to place batteries over here—had several pieces of cannon in three miles. Col. Stanton, hearing of it, took a small squad of cavalry, crossed over in an old crazy craft, made a dash up the road as though he had a thousand with him, overtook and captured three, one a major, one a captain, and a private. The major, I think, is the person who drilled all of the Camp Dick Robinson troops. This bold and daring feat spread dismay all through the ranks of our mercenary foe, who had a regiment in sight of where we are now encamped, and they fled back incontinently. Col. Stanton prevailed on Gen. Zollicoffer to permit him to cross his men at night. Col. Cummins, who by the way, is a brave man, followed him. As soon as Col. Stanton got over (which I can assure you was no small job, the river being high, banks bad, and boats indifferent), he took charge of one hundred and sixty-three cavalry and went out on a reconnoitering tour. At Fishing Creek the enemy were discovered on the opposite bank, some thirty or forty in number, but the distance being so great we could not tell how many there were; some imagined hundreds—some saw a column of infantry half a mile long, and some fancied that they could see in the month of a cannon. Col. Stanton, though nothing daunted, said, "well boys, I believe I'll charge 'em." No sooner said than every body put spurs to their steeds and off they dashed. The race was truly exciting. The enemy we saw on the hill, having so much the start, were not overtaken until within sight of the camps of the Ohio troops. Col. Stanton then ordered them to charge on a company of infantry, he discovered, it was done magnificently. Many were left dead on the field; and sixteen "live Yankees" brought back as prisoners, making 19 he has taken. The Colonel was slightly touched by a ball, doing no damage fortunately. The balls, though, whistled thick and fast around his head. Our casualties were slight. Lieut. — was wounded in the thigh; but is doing well. One or two of our horses were killed. Many fine guns were brought back as trophies. All the officers and men along deserve the highest praise. Col. S. like a true and brave man always does, claims none of the praise himself, but says it belongs to the dauntless men who did the work. Very truly, yours, A YOUNG MAN.

Another "Stone Fleet" for the South.—"Charleston Harbour to be Harri-caded." The Northern papers announce another "stone fleet" for the South. The New York Herald says: "The approaches to Charleston harbour are about to be blocked up by vessels sunk across its channels and inlets, in the same manner as the Ocracoke entrance to Albemarle sound has been dealt with. For this purpose another fleet of old whaling vessels will leave New London in a few days, carrying upward of six thousand tons of stone. They will be sunk, with their cargoes, in the ship channel between Morris and Sullivan islands, and in the Breach and Stopo inlets. This will be a quicker and more inexpensive way of shutting up the harbour than by keeping a number of war vessels before it as a blockading force, whose vigilance the privateers could easily elude. Such will also be the fate of Savannah and one or two other South ports, which counted that in this rebellion they would find a certain means of aggrandizing themselves at the expense of the North. It now depends entirely on the will of Northern men which shall be the future maritime emporiums of the South. And, unless the Confederates speedily lay down their arms, it is a question whether they will retain any property at all in their own ports. The capture of the latter by the Federals will be followed by a larger influx of Yankee settlers—a genius apt to stick wherever the swarm. The first operation of this kind, it will be recollected, was directed against Ocracoke inlet, one of the numerous entrances to Albemarle and Pamlico sounds. These rat-holes, as they have come to be called, afforded facilities for privateers to escape the vigilance of our cruisers, and enabled them to easily elude the blockade. Hatteras and Ocracoke inlets being now hermetically closed, the one by the forts which are in possession of our troops, and the other by vessels sunk in the same manner indicated, there is no longer any chance of their giving us trouble. The water approaches to Savannah have probably by this time been dealt with in the same way, and in a few days the third expedition of this character will sail for Charleston to block up that harbour. A few more operations of this kind against the Confederate ports, and we shall leave for foreign governments but little ground of complaint against the inefficiency of the blockade.

RECEPTION OF THE HANSA. ARRIVAL OF THE HANSA. Reception of the Mason and Slidell News in England. GREAT EXCITEMENT. SANDY HOOK, Dec. 12. The steamer Hansa, from Bremen via Southampton, the 27th of November, has arrived. The steamer from St. Thomas arrived at Southampton the 28th November, with the intelligence that the Southern Commissioners, Mason and Slidell, were forcibly taken from the British mail steamer Trent. LATEST BY TELEGRAPH TO SOUTHAMPTON. LIVERPOOL, Nov. 27. Most intense excitement exists here to-day, under the intelligence of the taking of the Southern Commissioners, Mason and Slidell, from the British mail steamer Trent. An indignation meeting was promptly held, and resolutions were carried by acclamation, denouncing the insult and calling upon the Government to maintain the dignity of the flag.—Some prominent merchants spoke against precipitate action, and said the matter had better be left to the Government.—The feeling of indignation is general.—Consols declined in London 1/2 per cent. The ship Helen, from Charleston, arrived here to-day, with a cargo of rosin and turpentine. The Hansa brings the London Times, of the 28th, which contains the account of the meeting in Liverpool. The following placard was posted on change: OUTRAGE ON THE BRITISH FLAG. Southern Commissioners Forcibly Removed from a British Mail Steamer. A public meeting will be held in the cotton sales' room at 3 o'clock. The room was crowded to excess. The chair was occupied by James Spence, who read the following resolutions: Resolved, That this meeting having heard with indignation that an American Federal ship-of-war has forcibly taken from a British mail steamer certain passengers, peaceably under the shelter of our flag from one neutral port to another, we do earnestly call on the Government by requiring prompt reparation for this outrage. This resolution was received with great enthusiasm. The resolution was advocated by the chairman, who considered he was expressing the feeling of the people when he said it was the duty of the people to press on the Government the imperative necessity of vindicating the honor and dignity of the British name and flag. Mr. John Campbell considered there was reason to doubt whether the facts related and acted upon by this meeting were, in reality, a breach of international law, and referred to the opinion of the law officers of the Crown as being in some measure inclined to show that such a step as taken with respect to the Southern Commissioners, was justifiable under the existing state of international law, and urged the propriety of postponing the consideration of the subject until tomorrow. Mr. Lowe sustained Mr. Campbell's views. The chairman suggested that to meet the objection of Mr. Campbell to strike out the words, "requiring prompt reparation for this outrage," and thus amended, the resolution passed almost unanimously. Several merchants expressed their views after the adjournment that the meeting and its action was premature. TURKEY.—Dervish Pacha, with eight battalions encountered 6,000 insurgents in Bosnia, slaying 800 and routing them. The European Consuls had prepared an armistice. JAPAN.—Affairs in Japan had taken a more favorable turn. SPAIN.—The Sardinian Minister had demanded his passports and leaves Madrid, the governments disagreeing on the Neapolitan archives question. LONDON, November 27. Consuls closed at 9 1/2 for money. U. S. 5's and N. Y. Central Railroad Shares had advanced. The bullion in the Bank of France has increased £1000,000. Capt. Nelson had entered his protest against the capture and destruction of the ship Harvey Birch by the rebel steamer Nashville. The Southampton magistrates refused Capt. Nelson, a warrant for the search of the Nashville, and referred him to the Secretary of State. Capt. Pegram and Mr. Yancey had returned from London together, and the latter states that it has been intimated to him by a third party that the Nashville has been recognized by the British government as a national vessel, and will be allowed to refit and repair at Southampton, as was the case with the James Adgar, so as to exercise perfect neutrality between the two contending parties. TENNESSEE.—A law has been enacted by Congress laying off the State of Tennessee into three Judicial Districts.

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