by a vote of 34 yeas to 73 nays, to submit it to the decision of the people. The ordinance was adopted by a unanimous vote, 115 members being present. It reads as follows:

"We, the people of the State of North Carolina in Convention assembled, do declare and ordain and it is hereby declared and ordained, that the ordinance adopted by the State of North Carolina in the Convention of 1789, whereby the Constitution of the United States was ratified and adopted, and also all acts and parts of acts of the General Assembly ratifying and adopting amendments to the said convention, are hereby repealed, rescinded, and abrogated. We do further declare and ordain that the Union now subsisting between the State of North Carolina and the other States under the title of the United States of America, is hereby dissolved, and that the State of North Carolina is in full possession and exercise of all those rights of sovereignty which belong and appertain to a free and independent people."

An ordinance was adopted to ratify the "Constitution of the Provisional Government of the Confederate States of America."

*The Raleigh Standard* of Wednesday gives the following account of the scenes which preceded and followed the passage of the ordinance:

"Mr. Badger offered an ordinance separating North Carolina from the Federal Government, and Mr. Craige, of Rowan, also offered an ordinance of a similar character. Considerable debate took place, not as to whether an ordinance of secession should be passed, but as to the character of the ordinance. Messrs. Badger, Craige, Ruffin, Graham, Barnes, Reid, Venable, and others took part in the debate. About six o'clock p. m. the ordinance offered by Mr. Craige was adopted unanimously, every member present voting in the affirmative. The ordinance repeals the ordinance of 1789, by which the Federal Constitution was ratified, and declares North Carolina a sovereign and independent state.

"As soon as the vote was announced one hundred guns were fired on Capitol Square, and the bells of the city were rung, amid the shouts of an excited multitude."

*The Raleigh Register*, says:

"The artillery, after firing 100 guns in honor of the passage of the ordinance, rested a few minutes. Then ten guns, one for each of the other seceded States, were fired, followed by three cheers for each of those States; then a whole battery and three cheers for North Carolina, and then the fact that the Convention had adopted the Constitution of the Confederate States being announced, twenty guns were fired in honor of that event. The enthusiasm of the large crowd that had gathered on the square was beyond our powers of description. At night the mansion of the Governor and the residences of several of our private citizens were brilliantly illuminated."

THE CHRONOLOGY OF SECESSION.

North Carolina is the eleventh in chronological order of the rebellious States. The following table shows the date of the passage of ordinances of Secession:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. South Carolina, Dec. 20. | 6. Louisiana, Jan. 26. |
| 2. Mississippi, Jan. 9. | 7. Texas, Feb. 1. |
| 3. Alabama, Jan. 11. | 8. Virginia, April 17. |
| 4. Florida, Jan. 11. | 9. Arkansas, May 6. |
| 5. Georgia, Jan. 19. | 10. Tennessee, May 6. |
| | 11. North Carolina, May 21. |

## THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

BY W. H. RUSSELL, LL. D.,
Special Correspondent of The London Times.

CHARLESTON, S. C., April 21, 1861.

I find some consolation for the disappointment of not arriving in time to witness the attack upon Fort Sumter in describing the condition of the work soon after Major Anderson surrendered it. Already I have upon my table a pamphlet entitled "The Battle of Fort Sumter and First Victory of the Southern Troops," &c.; several "poems," and a variety of versicules, songs, and rhetorical exercitations upon this event, which, however important as a political demonstration, is of small value in a military sense, except in so far as the bloodless occupation of a position commanding Charleston Harbor is concerned. It may tend to prevent any false impressions founded on imperfect information to state a few facts connected with the fire in the work, and its effects, which will interest, at least, some military readers.

In the first place, it may be well to admit that the military preparations and positions of the South Carolinians were more formidable than one was prepared to expect on the part of a small State, without any considerable internal organization or resources. This comparative efficiency was due mainly to Gen. Beauregard and his assistant engineer, Major Whiting, who are both professional engineer officers of the United States Army, and who had capacity and influence enough to direct the energies of the undisciplined masses in the proper direction, instead of allowing them to rush on their fate in the perilous essay of an escalade, as they intended. The State of South Carolina had for a long time past been accumulating arms and munitions of war, and it may be said that ever since the nullification contest she had permitted herself to dwell on the idea of ultimate secession, to be effected by force, if necessary. When Gen. Beauregard and Major Whiting came here the works intended to resist the fleet and to crush the fort were in a very imperfect state. Major Anderson and his officers had a true professional contempt for the batteries of the civilians and militiamen, which was in some measure justifiable. One morning, however, as they took their survey of their enemy's labors for the previous night, they perceived a change had come over the design of their work. That some one who knows his business is over there" was evident. Their strange relationship with those who were preparing to destroy them if possible, however, prevented their recourse to the obvious means which were then in abundance in their hands to avert the coming danger. Had Major Anderson maintained a well-regulated fire on the enemy the moment they began to throw up their batteries and prepare Fort Moultrie against him, he could have made their progress very slow and exceedingly laborious, and have marked it at every step with blood. His command over the ground was very decided, but he had, it is to be supposed, no authority to defend himself in the only way in which it could be done. "Too late"—that fatal phrase—was the echo to every order which came from the seat of Government at Washington. Meantime the South Carolinians worked at their batteries, and were soon able to obtain cover on the soft sandy plains on which they were planting their guns and mortars. They practiced their men at the guns, stacked shot and shell, and furnished their magazines, and dalled their raw levies with impunity within 1,400 yards of the fort. We all know what impunity is worth in offensive demonstrations. It is a powerful agent some times in creating enthusiasm. Every day more volunteers flocked to the various companies, or created new associations of armed men, and the heterogeneous and motley mass began to assume some resemblance to an army, however irregular. At the present moment Charleston is like a place in the neighborhood of a camp where military and volunteer tailors are at work trying experiments in uniforms, and sending in their animated models for inspection. There is an endless variety—often of fashion—in dress and equipment and nomenclature among these companies. The head-dress is generally, however, a smart cap like the French kepi; the time is of different cut, colors, facings, and materials—green with gray and yellow, gray with orange and black and white, blue with white and yellow facings, tan, brown, burnt sienna, and olive—jackets, frocks, tunics, blouses, cloth, linen, tweed, flannel. The officers are generally in blue frocks and brass buttons, with red sashes, the rank being indicated by gold lace parallelograms on the shoulder straps, which are like those in use in the Russian army. The arms of the men seem tolerably well kept and in good order. Many, however, still shoulder "White Bess"—the old smooth-bore musket with unbrowned barrel. The following is an official return, which I am enabled to present to you through the courtesy of the authorities, showing the actual number of men under arms yesterday in and around Charleston:

Morris Island—17th Regiment, 700 men; 1st Regiment, 950 men; 2d Regiment, 875 men. Total, 2,025 men.
Sullivan's Island.—5th Regiment, 1,075 men; detachment of 9th Regiment, 250 men; detachment of 6th Regiment, 240 men; cavalry and others, 225 men. Total, 1,790
Stone and other points, 700 men; Charleston, 1,000 men; Columbia 1,500 men.

| | Men. |
|---|---|
| Morris Island | 2,025 |
| Sullivan's Island | 1,790 |
| Stone and other Points | 700 |
| Total | 5,125 |
| Columbia | 1,900 |
| Charleston | 1,000 |
| Total | 8,025 |
| In field at the time of report | 3,977 |
| Total | 12,002 |

The regiments mentioned here are composed of the various companies raised in different localities with different names, but the State regulars are in expectation that they will soon be made portions of the regular army of the Confederate States which is in course of formation. There are, I believe, only 55,000 registered voters in South Carolina. The number of men furnished by them is a fair indication of the zeal for the cause which animates the population. The *physique* of the troops is undeniably good. Now and then undersized, weakly men may be met with, but the great majority of the companies consist of rank and file exceeding the average stature of Europeans, and very well built and muscular. The men run very large down here. Nothing, indeed, can be more obvious when one looks at the full-grown, healthy, handsome race which develops itself in the streets, in the bar-rooms and in the hotel halls, than the error of the argument, which is mainly used by the Carolinians themselves, that white men cannot thrive in their State. In limb, figure, hight, weight, they are equal to any people I have ever seen, and their features are very regular and pronounced. They are, indeed, as unlike the ideal American of our caricaturists and our stage as is the "*mater*" of the Porte St. Martin to the English gentleman. Some of this superiority is due to the fact that the bulk of the white population here are in all but name aristocrats or rather oligarchs. The State is but a gigantic Sparta, in which the helotry are marked by an indelible difference of color and race from the masters. The white population which is not land and slaveholding and agricultural is very small and very insignificant. The masters enjoy every advantage which can conduce to the physical excellence of a people, and to the cultivation of the graces and accomplishments of life, even though they are rather disposed to neglect purely intellectual enjoyments and tastes. Many of those who serve in the ranks are men worth from £5,000 to £10,000 a year—at least, so I was told—and men were pointed out to me who were said to be worth far more. One private feeds his company on French pâtés and Madeira, another provides his comrades with unlimited champagne, most grateful on the hard sand-hill; a third, with a more soldierly view to their permanent rather than occasional efficiency, consumes for the men of his "Guard" a complete equipment of Enfield rifles. How long the zeal and resources of these gentlemen will last it may be easy to say. At present they would prove formidable to any enemy, except a regular army on the land and in the open, but they are not provided with field artillery or with adequate cavalry, and they are not accustomed to act in concert and in large bodies.

Yesterday morning I waited on Gen. Beauregard, who is commanding the forces of South Carolina. His aides-de-camp, Mr. Manning, Mr. Chesnut, Mr. Porcher Miles, and Col. Lucas accompanied me. Of these, the former has been Governor of the State, the next has been a Senator, the third a member of Congress. They are all volunteers, and are gentlemen of position in the State, and the fact that they are not only content but gratified to act as *aides* to the professional soldier, is the best proof of the reality of the spirit which animates the class they represent. Mr. Lucas is a gentleman of the State, who is acting as aide-de-camp to Gov. Pickens. Passing through the dense crowd which, talking, smoking, and reading newspapers, fills the large hall of Mills's house, we emerge on the dirty street, sufficiently broad, and lined with trees protected by wooden sheath ings at the base. The houses, not very lofty, are clean and spacious, and provided with verandah facing the South as far as possible. The trees give the streets the air of a boulevard, and the town has somehow or other a reminiscence of the Haute about it which I cannot explain or account for satisfactorily. The headquarters are in a large, airy public building, once devoted to an insurance company's operations, or to the accommodation of the public fire companies. There was no guard at the door; officers and privates were passing to and fro in the hall, part of which was cut off by canvas screens, so as to form rooms for departments of the Horse Guards of South Carolina. In one of these we turned, and found the desks occupied by officers in uniform, waiting dispatches and copying documents with all the *aplomb* which distinguishes the true soldier when he can get at pen and ink and Government stationery. In another moment we were ushered into a smaller room, and were presented to the General, who was also seated at his desk. Any one accustomed to soldiers can readily detect the "real article" from the counterfeit, and when Gen. Beauregard stood up to welcome us it was patent he was a man capable of greater things than taking Sumter. He is a squarely-built, lean man, of about 40 years of age, with broad shoulders and legs "made to fit" a horse, of middle hight, and his head is covered with thick hair, cropped close, and showing the bump, which are reflected and confirmative, with a true Gallic air at the back of the skull; the forehead, broad and well-developed, projects somewhat over the keen, eager dark eyes, the face is very thin, with very high cheek bones, a well-shaped nose, slightly aquiline, and a large, firm, sharply cut mouth, set above a full fighting chin. In the event of any important action taking place, the name of this officer will, I feel assured, be heard often enough to be my excuse for this little sketch of a outward man. He was good enough to call his chief engineer officer to go with me over the work, and I found in Major Whiting a most able guide and agreeable companion. He is scarcely worth while to waste time in describing the position of Charleston. It is as low as Venice, the look of which it rather affects from a distance, with long, sandy islands stretching out its arms to close up the approaches, and lagoons cutting into the marshy shores. On a sandy island and spit on the left hand shore stands Fort Moultrie. On the southern side, on another sandy island, are the lines of the batteries which, probably, were most dangerous, from their proximity and position, to the unprotected face of Sumter. The fort itself is built in the fairway, on a rocky point, which has been increased by artificial deposits of granite chips. Embarked, with a few additions to our original party, on board a small steamer called the Lady Davis, we first proceeded to Morris Island, about ¾ miles from Charleston. Our steamer was filled with commissariat stores for the troops, of whom 4,000 were said to be encamped among the sandhills. Any one who has ever been at Southport, or has seen the dunes about Dunkirk or Calais, will have a good idea of the place. Our landing was opposed by a guard of stout volunteers, with crossed fire eyes; but they were satisfied by the General authority, and we proceeded, ankle-deep in the soft, white sand, to visit the batteries which played on the landward face of Sumter. They are made of sandbags for the most part, well placed in the sandhills, with good traverses and well-protected magazines, the embrasures being faced with palmetto logs, which do not splinter when struck by shot. It did not, however, require much investigation to show that these works would be greatly injured by a fire of vertical and horizontal shell from the fort, and that the distance of their armament would render it difficult to breach the solid walls which were opposed to them at upward of 1,200 yards away. However, there were two powerful mortar batteries, which could have done great damage if they were well served, and have made the terrible bay and parade of the fort a complete "shell trap" unless the mortars were injured. The civilians and militiamen set greater store on the Iron Battery at Cumming's Point, which is the part of the island nearest to the fort, but the fire of heavy guns would have soon destroyed their confidence. It consists of yellow pine logs placed as vertical uprights. The roof, of the same material, slopes from the top of the uprights to the sand facing the enemy; over it are dovetailed bars of railroad iron, of the T pattern, from top to bottom, all riveted down in the most secure manner. On the front the railroad iron and incline present an angle of about 30 degrees. There are three portholes with iron shutters. When opened by the action of a lever the muzzles of the columbiads fill up the space completely. The columbiad guns with which this battery is equipped bear on the south wall of Sumter at an angle. The inclined face of the battery has been struck by six shot, the effect of two of which is enough to demonstrate that the fire of the guns *en barbette* would have been destructive. The columbiad is a kind of Dahlgren—that is, a piece of ordnance very thick in the breech, and lightened off gradually from the trunnions to the muzzle. The platforms were rather light, but the carriages were solid and well made, and the elevating screws or hitches of the guns were in good order. The mortars are of various calibers and descriptions, mostly 8 inch and 10-inch; and it is said there were 17 of them in position and working against the fort, and that 35 guns were from time to time directed against it. Shot and shell appeared to be abundant enough. The works are all small detached batteries, with sandbag merlons, and open at the gorge, and they extend for four miles along the shore of the island. The camps are pitched most irregularly between the sandhills—tents of all shapes and sizes, in the fashion called higgledy-piggledy, here and there, in knots and groups, in a way that would drive an Indian quartermaster-general mad. Boxes of beef and mutton, champagne and wine bottles, obstructed the approaches, which were of a nature to afflict Dr. Sutherland and Sir John M'Neill most bitterly, and to suggest the reflection that the army which so utterly neglected sanitary regulations could not long exist as soon as the sun gain d full power. They say, however, the men are not sickly, and that these sandhills are the most healthy spots about Charleston. The men were occupied as soldiers generally are when they have nothing to do—lounging or lying on the straw and plank carpets, smoking, reading, sleeping. The owners of the tents give them various names, of which "The Lions' Den," "The Tigers' Lair," "The Eagles' Nest," "Mars' Delight" are fair specimens, and these are done in black on the white calico. In one which we visited, the hospitable inmates were busily engaged in brewing claret cup, and Bord eaux, lemons, sugar, ice, and Champagne, and sodas were in abundance, and at the end of the tent was a Bar, where anything like in reason could be had for the asking, though water was not so plenti ul. At one of the batteries the great object of attraction was a gun made on Capt. Blakeley's principle, by Messrs. Hawcett, Preston & Co., of Liverpool, which was only put in battery the day before the fire opened, and the effect of which on the masonry is said to have been very powerful. It is a 12-pounder—the same which was tried last year, I think—and bears a brass plate with the inscription, "Presented to South Carolina by one of her citizens." It is remarkable enough that the vessel which carried it lay in the mouth of the United States war vessels at the mouth of the harbor.

Having satisfied our curiosity as well as time and a sandstorm permitted, we got in a row-boat and proceeded to Sumter. At a distance, the Fort bears some resemblance to Fort Paul at Sevastopol. It is a truncated pentagon, with three faces armed—that which is toward Morris Island being considered safe from attack, as the work was only intended to resist an approach from the sea. It is said to have cost altogether more than £200,000 sterling. The walls are of solid brick and concrete masonry, built close to the edge of the water, 60 feet high, and from 5 to 12 feet in thickness, and carry three tiers of guns on the north, east, and west exterior sides. Its weakest point is on the south side, where the masonry is not protected by any flank fire to sweep the wharf. The work is designed for an armament of 140 pieces of ordnance of all calibers. Two tiers are under bomb-proof casemates, and the third or upper tier is *en barbette*; the lower tier is intended for 42-pounder paixhan guns; the second tier for eight and ten-inch columbiads, for throwing solid or hollow shot, and the upper tier for mortars and guns. But only 60 are now mounted. Eleven paixhan guns are among that number, nine of them commanding Fort Moultrie. Some of the columbiads are not mounted. Four of the 42-pounder *barbette* guns are on pivot carriages, and others have a sweep of 160°. The ammunition is covered everywhere for musketry. The magazine contains several hundred barrels of gunpowder, and a supply of shot, powder, and shells. The garrison was amply supplied with water from artificial wells. The war garrison of the fort ought to be at least 600 men, but only 79 were within its walls, with the laborers—109 all told—at the time of the attack.

The walls of the fort are dented on all sides by shot marks, but in no instance was any approach made to a breach, and the greatest damage, at one of the angles on the south face, did not extend more than two feet into the masonry, which is of very fine brick. The parapet is, of course, damaged but the casemate embrasures are uninjured. On landing at the wharf we perceived that the granite copings had suffered more than the brickwork, and that the stone had split up and splintered where it was struck. The ingenuity of the defenders was evident even here. They had no mortar with which to fasten up the stone slabs they had adapted as binds to the windows of the unprotected south side, but Major Anderson, or his subordinate, Capt. Foster, had closed the slabs in with lead, which he procured from some water piping, and had rendered them proof against escalade, which he was prepared also to resist by extensive mines laid under the wharf and landing-place, to be fired by friction tubes and lines laid inside the work. He had also prepared a number of shells for the same purpose, to act as hand-grenades, with friction tubes and lanyards, when hurled down from the parapet on his assailants. The entrance to the fort was blocked up by masses of masonry, which had been thrown down from the walls of the burnt barracks and officers' quarters along the south side. A number of men were engaged in digging up the mines at the wharf and others were buried in completing the ruin of the towering walls, which were still so hot that it was necessary to keep a hose of water playing on part of the brickwork. To an uninitiated eye it would seem as if the fort was untenable, but, in reality, in spite of the destruction done to it, a stout garrison, properly supplied, would have been in no danger from anything, except the explosion of the magazine, of which the copper door was jammed by the heat at the time of the surrender. Exclusive of the burning of the quarters and the intense heat there was no reason for a properly fitted and sufficient force to surrender the place. It is needless to say Major Anderson had neither one nor the other. He was in all respects most miserably equipped. His guns were without screws, scales, or tangents, so that his elevations were managed by rude wedges of deal, and his scales marked in chalk on the breech of the guns, and his distances and bearings scratched in the same way on the side of the embrasures. He had not a single fuse for his shells and he tried in vain to improvise them by filling pieces of boiled out pine with caked gunpowder. His cartridges were out, and he was compelled to detail some of his few men to make them out of sarte, stockings, and jackets. He had not a single mortar, and he was compelled to the desperate expedient of planting long guns in the ground at an angle of 45 degrees, for which he could find no shell, as he had no fuses which could be fired with safety. He had no sleepers to mount his guns, and chance alone enabled him to do so by drifting some large logs down with the tide against Sumter. Finally, he had not even one engine to put out a fire in quarters. I walked carefully over the parade, and could detect the marks of only seven shells in the ground; but Major Whiting told me the others were to burst the shells over the parapet, so as to frustrate any attempt to work the barbette guns. Two of these were injured by shot, and one was overturned, apparently by its own recoil; but there was no injury done inside any of the casemates to the guns or works. The shell sojourners had all disappeared, carried off. I am told, as "trophies." Had Major Anderson been properly provided, so that he could have at once sent his men to the guns, opened fire from those in barbette, thrown shell and hot shot, kept relays to all his casemates, and put out fires as they arose from red-hot shot or shell, he must, I have no earthly doubt, have driven the troops off Morris Island, burnt out Fort Moultrie, and silenced the enemy's fire. His loss might have been considerable; that of the Confederates must have been very great. As it was, not a life was lost by actual fire on either side. A week hence and it will be impossible for a fleet to do anything except cover the descent of an army here, and they must lie off, at the least, four miles from the nearest available beach.

## PRIVATEERS IN ENGLAND.

IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS, Friday, May 10.

The Earl of Derby—I rise to put a question upon a subject of some importance and of some urgency. The question may perhaps be considered unnecessary, inasmuch as it has been raised elsewhere in the course of yesterday, and her Majesty's Government have given some intimation of the course they intend to pursue; but it is a question of so much importance, that I trust your lordships will forgive me if I ask for an answer in your lordships' house. Your lordships are aware that the unfortunate schism which has taken place between the Northern and Southern States of America has at last resulted, for I am afraid we must consider it to have resulted in a civil war. I am not about to ask her Majesty's Government any questions with regard to the manner in which this country may be affected by the possible consequences of the war. I understand that they have already come to the conclusion, of which I do not complain, that both the Northern and Southern sections are entitled to be considered as belligerent powers, and to be regulated in respect to our relations with them by the rules which apply in the case of belligerent powers. And I understand, further, that her Majesty's Government have under their consideration, and have referred to the law officers of the crown, many great and difficult questions touching those belligerent rights. Upon that I do not wish to ask for any opinion, or to press the Government upon it; but there is one point upon which an immediate answer is very important. Your lordships are aware that among the measures adopted by the Southern Confederation is that of sending forth letters of marque and licensing privateers for the purpose of attacking the commerce of the United States; and, on the other hand, an intimation has been given by the Northern States that they would consider the issue of such letters of marque and such privateering as piracy, and that it would be treated as such. I do not stop to consider how far this proceeding accords with what took place at the conference at Paris, when the right of privateering was discovered, and the United States was the only power that refused to abandon the right. But the point to which I wish to call attention is the position in which possibly British traders may be placed in consequence of these announcements of the Southern and Northern States. If there is one mode of warfare which has more attractions for thorough seamen than another it is precisely this system of privateering. It is a sort of sea poaching. [Hear, hear.] It combines a certain amount of excitement, of daring, and risk, and a considerable chance of profit; and these are precisely the inducements which lead to all poaching in England, and precisely the attractions which would lead British seamen to enter upon sea-poaching by privateering. But unfortunately the maritime game laws are of rather a stringent character, and the American navy offers a dangerous field, because they apply capital punishment to the offence. Therefore, as British seamen may probably be led by the various inducements of excitement and pluck to enter into these privateering expeditions it is very important that they should know precisely upon what footing they will stand with regard to their rights as British subjects. I need not tell your lordships that the offence of entering into this privateering service is an offence against the Foreign Enlistment Act; but that act does not contemplate any penalty to revere as capital punishment. If a British seaman entered one of the Southern States' privateers, notwithstanding that it was an offence against the law, and if he were captured by a Northern ship of war, and threatened with capital punishment, was he entitled to claim any protection—even to his life—on the part of the Government of this country? There is nothing—I will not say more likely, but more certain to be brought with most serious and embarrassing complications with the United States, and render us almost necessarily parties in these unhappy circumstances, in which I concur with the Foreign Secretary in earnestly praying that we may never be involved. [Hear, hear.] But, on the other hand, would a seaman, by entering these privateers, forfeit all the protection of this country, which I apprehend would be the case? It is right that it should be distinctly and publicly made known to him, on the part of the Government, that if he were led into this criminal undertaking by any temptation whatever, and if it should lead to the most serious consequences, involving even loss of life by a judicial sentence, his blood would be upon his own head, and that he must not expect the slightest interference on the part of this country to save him from the consequences provoked by his own act. I understand that a proclamation is about to be issued by her Majesty's Government with regard to belligerent rights, and I hope that a most distinct and emphatic warning will be given by the proclamation, or in some other way, to seamen in her Majesty's service, of the conditions under which, if they choose to enter into that enterprise, they must engage in it. [Hear, hear.] There can then be no doubt in their minds, they will have had full warning and public notice, that they will, in entering this service, be in the extremity of peril, and entitled to expect no protection from this country. I hope the noble Earl will have no difficulty in announcing at once whether her Majesty's Government have come to any decision on the subject, and if so whether they are prepared to wish to issue a public and emphatic notification of the course which they is tend to pursue. [Hear, hear.]

Earl Granville said he a noble friend, by his manner of putting the question, showed that he appreciated the difficulties that might arise in this country from the unfortunate difficulties that had broken out in the United States. With regard to the first part of the question, as to belligerent rights, as the matter was one which at present occupies the attention of the Government, he did not think it necessary at this early moment to enter into it. Regarding the other point, whether there was any intention to issue a proclamation warning her Majesty's subjects against in any manner engaging themselves in the hostilities in America, in violation of that neutrality which her Majesty desired to observe, the noble lord was accurately informed of the answer given in another place, that the Government had decided to issue a proclamation giving a warning to all her Majesty's subjects. Of course, it required some consideration for the purpose of determining what should be the particular wording of the proclamation, and they had thought it desirable to have the very best advice with regard to it. He hoped, however, that it would be issued very shortly.

The Earl of Derby wished to know whether, in the event of a privateer being taken with British seamen on board and treated as a pirate, it would be distinctly understood that the seamen subjecting themselves to capital punishment had no claim upon the protection and interference of the Government.

Earl Granville thought it quite clear that that would be the natural result of the proclamation.

Lord Brougham said the noble earl had limited his observations to seamen in her Majesty's service, when it was quite clear that he meant them to apply to any British subject taking part in the privateering in America, which was piracy according to the laws of nations. Any interference in a foreign war, by fitting out, manning, and going on board ships to take part in the war, was a crime by the law at present, and it was most expedient that those parties who chose to commit the offence in this case should be left to suffer the penalty they incurred. The war in America was a most lamentable affair on all accounts; and, for the sake of liberal principles, and for the sake of humanity itself, he fervently trusted that the folly which had given rise to it, possibly not confined to one side, would not be attended with the calamities which usually accompanied civil war.

The Earl of Hardwicke was anxious that the House might not enter too strong a protest against a foreign vessel being fitted out by private individuals and given a letter of marque. Such a vessel was called a privateer, but it did follow that a privateer should be a pirate—if properly conducted they were no more pirates than any other man-of-war. To a nation like England, possessing a large maritime force, this was a system which was unnecessary, but a State with a little navy in a maritime war had a perfect right to take any means they could for the purpose of carrying out the war with success.

## *PUBLIC MEETINGS.*

### BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

A stated meeting of this Board was held yesterday at 3 p. m., Mr. FLOMENT in the chair.

A petition was received from Gen. D. E. Sickles, asking for an appropriation of $12,000, to be paid by the Union Defense Committee, for the purpose of meeting expenses incurred in the formation of the Sickles brigade of five regiments. The items of this expense were quarters, food, mattresses, clothing, blankets, etc.; and the amount, it was suggested, could be paid out of the $1,000,000 fund placed at the disposal of the Union Defense Committee, and on vouchers duly countersigned. Mr. TUOMEY offered a resolution in favor of granting the petition, which was met by a me disposition to postpone.

Mr. DAYTON hoped it would pass, as expenses of this nature, he frequently thought, would be a great hindrance to the formation of regiments.

Mr. FREAR said the Union Defense Committee had for a while furnished means for Sickles' Brigade, and then withdrawn their aid. He thought it should be ascertained for what reason.

Mr. BOOLE thought the resolution might safely be adopted, as if any reason subsequently appeared to exist why the appropriation was not deserved, this action could be rescinded. The resolution was adopted.

On motion of Mr. TUOMEY it was resolved that the regular meeting days of the Board for the ensuing year shall be Monday and Thursday of each week, and that the hour shall be 5 o'clock.

A petition was received from the officers of the 9th Regiment asking for an equipment of three howitzers and one long range, rifle-bored 12-pounder cannon, which was referred to the Committee on National Affairs.

A resolution directing the Street Commissioner to report the cost of opening streets in this city for the last ten years, and ordering the same to be printed, was adopted.

A communication was received from the Corporation Counsel, in reply to the question whether the Common Council had the right to retain or reduce taxes, stating that, in his opinion, such right did not exist.

*The Day Book* was struck off the list of advertising papers without discussion.

The resolution to appropriate $2,000 for the preparation, by Mr. Valentine, of a revised compilation of the laws of the State with reference to the city, favorably reported on, was opposed by Mr. DAYTON, and laid over.

Mr. BICKFORD offered a resolution directing the Street Commissioner to advertise for proposals for a stand of colors, to be presented to the 1st Regiment Washington Volunteers, Col. Jones, and appropriating $500 therefor. The matter was referred to the Committee on National Affairs. Adjourned.

### ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY.

The Anniversary exercises of the American Baptist Publication Society were commenced yesterday morning in the Strong-place Baptist Church, Degraw street, Brooklyn. There was a fair attendance of clergy and laity. The proceedings were opened with a prayer by the Rev. Mr. FULLER, who, in referring to the present aspect of national affairs, asked the Divine blessing upon the Government and the army in the present struggle. The President being absent, Mr. WILLIAM PHELPS occupied the chair, and called the meeting to order. Committees were appointed to enroll members and to nominate officers.

The Secretary read the annual report of the Publication Society, from which it appears that 41 colporteurs have been employed, and 5 of these have been sustained by the profits accruing from colporteur sales. They have put in circulation over 20,000 good books, and nearly 400,000 pages of tracts. Beside this they have preached to churches destitute of pastors, in school-houses, private dwellings, or open lots and in the woods over 4,000 sermons, and held over 1,800 prayer-meetings. They have also visited over 25,000 families, offering prayer and reading the word of God wherever circumstances permitted.

Nineteen churches and 34 Sunday-schools were organized, and 57 converts baptized. The colporteurs have reported during the last 9 years the constitution of 155 churches, the formation of 334 Sunday-schools, the baptism of 5,384 persons, beside the conversion of many others.

The report recommends that the question books in the schools should be adapted to impart not only a Christian but a denominational training. When it view the Board have had the entire series carefully revised, making many important improvements, and causing the distinctive principles of the denomination to occupy their proper prominence.

The Board not being able to publish at once as large a list of library books as are needed, have selected from the issues of other publishers a list of books that they know, from careful reading, to be entirely suitable for Baptist schools. Superintendents have complained that they could not, with all their care in selecting libraries, guard against the introduction of books teaching Pedobaptism; that to read every book entirely through, while selecting, was impossible, and that nothing short of such reading was a perfect safeguard. In the library of one of the largest city schools 30 books were found teaching Pedobaptism. This evil has been guarded against, and only such books as can be guaranteed are kept in the depository.

In relation to Slavery, the report says that two papers have been received from associated bodies, and many letters from private individuals, remonstrating against the silence of the Board on the subject of American Slavery. The reasons urged for the publication of tracts and books against the system of Slavery were all carefully considered by the Board, who, at a regular meeting, on the 15th of February, adopted the following suggestions, made by the Publishing Committee, to which a MS. on the subject of Slavery has been referred, and rejected, because it was not adapted for publication, and did not meet the entire question, viz: "We would respectfully suggest that the Board be requested to ask of the Society, at its next annual meeting, special authority to use such means and incur such expense as may, in the judgment of the Board, be necessary to secure a MS. or MSS. which shall do justice to the important subject of Slavery in the United States, and be worthy of the denomination which we serve."

The financial condition of the Society is reported as in good condition.

The missionary cause progresses favorably in Sweden.

In reference to the present crisis, the report says:

With a mysterious wand He has touched the great heart of a free North, and as a result we see patriotic feeling, as a mighty ocean, sweeping the entire land. We were not conscious of its existence, but the occasion, or God through the occasion, has called it forth. This master passion of the American heart is leading hundreds of thousands to willingly lay themselves on the altar of their country's service. And our prayers shall go with them; and we cannot but hope that the yet pent up enthusiasm of thousands upon thousands of Christian patriots will find vent in increased efforts and sacrifices in behalf of the religious condition of our beloved land.

He is indeed a patriot who seeks by all that is in him not only to defend his country from the traitor's assault, but also to fill it within and with righteousness—in a word to make it Emanuel's land. May we not hope that the trials of the year will bring to light many, very many such patriots. Men who will make sacrifices for him who gave Himself to them, the present is preeminently the time for their fast and largest offerings.

A discussion ensued upon the Book question, the members without exception agreeing with the recommendations of the report, which was then adopted, and the meeting adjourned.

### BROOKLYN COMMON COUNCIL.

THE WANTS OF THE MILITARY.

At a meeting of the Board, last night, a communication was presented from Brigadier-General Crooke, stating that he had, in connection with Major Dodge, personally inspected the Thirteenth Regiment, at Annapolis, and the Twenty-eighth Regiment, at Washington, as to their wants, and that they were in urgent need of new uniforms and shoes, some of the men being barefooted, and their clothes—of very flimsy material originally—worn out. The General passed a high compliment to the regiments as to their efficiency, and in connection therewith it was stated that the Twenty-eighth Regiment did more actual duty or the length of time in service than any other regiment. It was a company of that regiment which burned the bridges near Alexandria in Virginia, captured a train of cars, and at the present time was advanced as a picket guard some miles in the interior. Another regiment had received credit for what the Twenty-eighth had accomplished.

A Committee consisting of Aldermen Strong and Tertain, in connection with the Mayor, was appointed to proceed to Albany to see if the State authorities would not furnish the regiment with clothing, &c. If they decline to do so the city will see that their wants are attended to.

A Committee of three was appointed to confer with the New-York authorities and Chamber of Commerce in relation to the exposed condition of the harbor, with the view of making the defences secure against the possible attack of an enemy.

## *CITY ITEMS.*

GENERAL THUMB.—The original mandikin Thumb with military title and appurtenances complete is now, and has been for some time, exhibiting his pignitude at Hope Chapel, No. 720 Broadway, to large crowds. Time has brought no increase to Tom Thumb's stature, nor diminished the attractiveness of his musical and dramatic performances. The world is not large with the wonder, nor swept by the enthusiasm with which it was possessed ten years ago when Tom Thumb made his first appearance on the stage, but our surprise at seeing a perfectly formed man who can be covered by a quart-pot is no less now than it ever was.

NIAGARA BY MOONLIGHT.—George L. Brown's famous picture, "Niagara by Moonlight," is now on exhibition at the Crayon Art Gallery, No. 756 Broadway, for the benefit of the patriotic fund.

BOARD OF COUNCILMEN.—In the absence of a quorum yesterday, this Board was adjourned to Thursday evening.

REPORTED EMBEZZLEMENT BY A COLONEL.—It is rumored about town that the Colonel of one of our volunteer Zouave regiments has fled with the whole amount of funds contributed toward the equipment of his command. The amount is estimated at $24,000. We are not able to vouch for the truth of the report, but we have it from excellent authority that the supposed culprit has not been seen or heard of for ten days past.

A SELF-ENSNARED SLAVER.—By the freaks of fortune it sometimes happens to our police that the very man they are most anxious to see, and most willing to make long search for, walks into their embrace, and enables them to make an arrest without a particle of trouble. Such good luck befell U. S. Marshal Murray on Monday morning. David Reed Miller, mate of the bark Sarah, which was seized as a slaver and searched last week, was very much wanted by the District-Attorney, to stand his trial as an accomplice in fitting out the bark for the "black traffic." The search through the cargo revealed in a most satisfactory manner the fact that the Sarah was out on a voyage after slaves and an affidavit which was procured on Monday morning directly implicates the captain and mate. Marshal Murray at once prepared to find and arrest these officers, but before he had time to get out the warrants, Miller himself walked into the office and asked the Marshal if he would be kind enough to tell him when the case of the Sarah would come off. He remarked that he was anxious to have it settled up on that day, as he wanted to go to Philadelphia the next morning, and ship on a vessel about to sail from that port. The Marshal, with wonderful urbanity and politeness, informed his prize that he really couldn't say, but he thought his case would certainly be attended to before night. In fact, if Mr. Miller would have the goodness to wait a moment (there were half a dozen detectives in the room and he couldn't have escaped if he had wanted to), he would run up and ask the District-Attorney. The good-natured and self-sacrificing Marshal Murray soon returned with smiling countenance, handed a paper to a great stalwart detective, and blandly informed Miller that if he would step out with that gentleman, he would give him some information. Poor man! the information that he got after he had acknowledged that his name corresponded with the one in the paper, was, that he was under arrest on a charge of piracy; and a more miserably dejected man than he has not fallen under our observation of late years.

ARRAIGNMENT OF AN ALLEGED SECESSIONIST.—On Monday morning, a merchant doing business in Burling slip was arraigned before General Superintendent Kennedy, charged with using treasonable language at various times and places in the city, and also circulating the report that President Lincoln was a common drunkard. He also made certain statements derogatory to Mrs. Lincoln. It was understood that this man had made these assertions from actual knowledge, but when closely questioned by Mr. Kennedy, he confessed that his information in the matter was derived exclusively from the Southern papers. He claims to be a loyal and patriotic citizen, but at the same time says that while unduly excited from stimulants he may have used unbecoming and indecorous language toward President Lincoln and his lady. His partner, he says, has gone South and entered into the service of the Secessionists, which fact he considers good grounds for dissolving the partnership. After a severe reprimand from the General Superintendent and a caution to be more guarded in his expressions in future, he was released.

THE FOURTH WARD MURDER.—An inquest was held at the New-York Hospital by Coroner Jackman on the body of Henry L. Jones, second mate of the bark Genesee, whose death was the result of a stab in the abdomen by a knife in the hands of John Samuels, during an altercation in the boarding-house of Mrs. Pendergast, No. 87 Cherry street, last Friday night. The testimony against Samuels was of a positive character, and the Jury rendered a verdict that Jones came to his death by a stab wound at the hands of Samuels. Deceased was thirty-two years of age, and a native of Wales. The prisoner was committed to the Tombs.

PROBABLE MURDER IN WILLIAMSBURGH.—About 11 o'clock on Sunday night Offic