The Sun.

MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 1873.

Amusements To-Day.

Booth's Theatre—Richard III.
Bowery Theatre—Twelve Temptations.
Dan Bryant's Minstrels—Twenty-third street.
Grand Opera House—Round the Clock.
Niblo's Garden—Leo and Lotos.
Olympic Theatre—Alhambra.
St. James Theatre—San Francisco Minstrels.
Steinway Hall—Lecture.
Theatre Comique—The Mask Ball.
Tony Pastor's Opera House—Around the Block, &c.
Union Square Theatre—Alkerley Court.
Wallack's—Brother Sam.
Wood's Museum—Jarrise. Matinee.

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Shall the State Courts be Sustained?

The interference of any department of the national Government—even Congress—in the Louisiana controversy, is to be deprecated, for it is by gradual approaches in that direction that the just rights of the States are most likely to be set aside and a centralized despotism ultimately established.

The most dangerous department whence this sort of interference can emanate is the judicial, for its attacks are always insidious and generally plausible, and the American people have a profound respect for the ermine till it becomes so soiled as to be disgusting. JEFFERSON, and after him JACKSON, insisted that our republican system was more likely to be changed through the decrees of the Federal courts, rendered on specious pretexts, than from any other source.

The contest between KELLOGG and McENERY as to which was elected Governor of Louisiana is or soon will be in a position to be fairly settled in the State courts, the only proper place for its adjudication. But right at this point comes in the unseemly interference of the national Government through its courts. After KELLOGG and McENERY are sworn in the latter may bring a suit in some State court to determine which of them is entitled to the office. But, in accordance with their recent conduct, the powers at Washington will probably go to Judge DURELL, get an order restraining the State court from acting in the case, put the order in the hands of Marshal PACKARD to serve, who will call upon Col. EMORY for troops to assist him, and then, if the State Judge resists, he will be driven to jail at the point of the bayonet. This mode of ousting the State court of its jurisdiction would no doubt be novel, and certainly most effective.

The point worthy of the gravest consideration is this: Where will this resort to bayonets by way of the courts finally end? There can be but one answer: Unless the people put a stop to it now, it will end just when and where the powers at Washington choose to have it end.

We may sneer to-day at these quarrels among carpet-baggers and negroes in Louisiana. As individuals, neither WARMOTH nor PINCHBACK is entitled to special regard from a Commonwealth which they have heretofore conspired to oppress and plunder, and which perhaps cares very little which of them occupies the State Capitol, and which goes to the State Prison. But whether the national Government shall intervene through its courts and its army to uphold the one and put down the other, is a question of momentous importance whose decision may leave a deep and enduring mark upon our institutions.

What a Change!—Misfortunes Never Come Single.

PHELPS, DODGE & Co. are one of the oldest firms in this city. They have long enjoyed a good standing in other people's estimation, and not a whit less in their own. Patriotism and piety—cardinal virtues—have been a good deal paraded by them. Mr. WILLIAM E. DODGE has been a prominent speaker at public meetings, on all occasions, in season and out of season. Their capital was large, both in money and respectability.

One little year ago the prosperity of this firm was overshadowed by no cloud. To-day a nephew of one member of the firm lies in the Tombs under sentence of death for murder, to be executed upon him on the 28th day of next month; while the firm are called upon to respond to a charge of having defrauded—not piously—the Government of the United States, to which their boasted patriotism was all due, out of over a million of dollars.

We wish them a safe deliverance from all their woes, and a restoration to their former position.

High-Flown Sentimentalism.

There is a certain sum of eight hundred thousand dollars in the United States Treasury known as the Japanese indemnity fund; and there is a certain Mr. BIRDSEY GRANT NORTHROP who is very anxious to get it out. The matter evidently weighs pretty heavily on Mr. NORTHROP's mind, for he has addressed a memorial to Congress upon the subject. Now, a desire to deplete the Treasury is no unusual thing; on the contrary, it is unhappily so common as hardly to call for any special notice; but there are circumstances about this particular example of that form of mania that make it rather remarkable. In the first place Mr. NORTHROP is to be assisted in his effort by a class of men who have not before distinguished themselves in this particular direction. He seeks to enlist all the college presidents and principal school teachers of the country in his little scheme; and in the second place the money when obtained is to be devoted, of all objects in the world, to the education of Japanese girls. How Mrs. JELLABY's heart would have warmed toward this philanthropist!

But to appreciate fully Mr. NORTHROP's views it is necessary to state the circumstances under which this sum came into the Treasury. In 1863, it may be remembered, a Japanese battery in the Straits of Simonoseki opened fire, entirely without provocation, on the United States steamer Wyoming. The insult to the flag was of too flagrant a nature to be overlooked. The English, French, and Dutch had suffered other indignities at the hands of this same people, and for these varied insults no suitable reparation or apology had been made. In 1864, accordingly, the combined vessels of the powers above named joined in an attack upon the Japanese, and after several days of hostilities the latter nation agreed to pay a suitable indemnity to the insulted powers. This was fixed at three million dollars, but one-half only of that sum was finally exacted. Of the million and a half so paid, the United States received one-fourth, and that sum in gold, with premium and interest added, is the eight hundred thousand that is exercising the mind of our fellow citizen. It has occurred to his fertile brain that it would be a good thing to give back the money to Japan to be expended on the education of her young women, and this absurd idea he is seeking to impress on the schoolmasters of the country, and through them on Congress.

But a certain Massachusetts teacher seems to have anticipated both Mr. NORTHROP and Congress itself. He has got on so far in the matter as actually, on his own motion, to have made the proposal of restitution to the Japanese authorities. "Prof. JULIUS H. SEELYE of Amherst College," says Mr. NORTHROP, "in his late visit at Yeddo had an interview with Mr. OKI, the Minister of Education, and laid before him the plan of returning the Japanese indemnity fund, to be used for the purpose of female education in Japan. Describing this interview, Prof. SEELYE says, in a letter dated Yokohama, Sept. 5: 'Mr. OKI was *exceedingly pleased with the proposal*, and assured me that it would, if accomplished, be most welcome here. If Congress would appropriate the indemnity fund to this purpose it would be eminently just and wise. It would be just, because the amount originally paid was disproportionately large to the offence; and it would be wise, not only as inaugurating a work among this people which I can see plainly needs such an impulse just now, but as serving powerfully for the increase of American influence in Japan.'"

Now, it might be interesting to know just when and how Prof. SEELYE nominated and confirmed himself Minister Extraordinary to Japan, with special instructions to propose to the Minister of Education of that country a gift by the United States of the sum of eight hundred thousand dollars. This is the schoolmaster abroad in an entirely new character. Would it not be well for the learned professor to content himself with teaching his boys the correct translation of *Ne sutor ultra crepidam*, and other such scraps of learning, instead of making proposals to foreign countries which he has no authority for and no power to carry into effect?

There is no reason whatever why this large sum should be given to Japan. It is the money of the United States. It was received as indemnity for a gross outrage upon the flag, and its exaction was a proper lesson to a barbarous people. The idea of giving it back was conceived either in a morbid and mistaken sentimentalism or a desire to have a part in the notoriety and circumstance that are likely to attach to the handing over of so large a sum to be expended for a sentimental purpose. Moreover, the proposition to return it is a threefold insult, first to our own Government, in that it involves the assertion that we have practised unjustifiable extortion in compelling the payment of such an indemnity; secondly, to the English, Dutch, and French, who were partners with us in the transaction, and upon whom a slur is cast by the proposal; and finally, to the Japanese themselves, in the suggestion that they are such a poor and miserable race that they are unable to look after the education of their own people and must be helped to do so out of the treasury of a foreign country. We trust that Congress will give a speedy quietus to Mr. NORTHROP's little memorial, if ever it is brought to their attention.

Phelps, Dodge & Co. and Jay Gould.

Some of the brightest among our contemporaries saw in the surrender of nine millions of dollars by JAY GOULD on the demand of the Erie Railway Company a confession that he had defrauded the company out of that amount.

If the recent fall of snow has not impaired the vision of our keen-eyed neighbors, we should like to know from them whether the prompt offer of PHELPS, DODGE & Co. to pay up to the United States Government presents itself in the same light to their critical inspection.

Would it be too much of a stretch of charity to conclude that in settling with his prosecutors Mr. GOULD suddenly became as conscientious as PHELPS, DODGE & Co.?

The sages of the *Times* thought the settlement of the GOULD case was compounding a felony. We modestly ventured to differ from them on this point; but their essays on the subject were so vivacious and interesting that we hope they will write some more, good long ones, on the application of the doctrines which they espouse to the case of PHELPS, DODGE & Co.

To the United States District Attorney—Notice.

We trust that District Attorney BLISS will justify the good word which we spoke for him after his appointment by his conduct in the matter of PHELPS, DODGE & Co. In reference to such a case there should be nothing done which requires to be withheld from the public. Let us not only have justice, but let the justice stand forth without concealment.

Let the people know every cent that is paid by the defendants, and just what it is paid for; and whether they are let off from paying any part of what has been required of them, and why.

Silver in Utah.

The importance which the silver mining interest in Utah has assumed may be estimated from the fact that the exports of ore, bullion, and silver from that Territory during the year 1872 amounted to at least $10,000,000, while $6,000,000 more passed over the Utah Central Railroad from Pioche, just over the line in Nevada. The weight of the ore shipped by way of the same railroad for the year was 20,693,692 pounds, and of bullion 11,066,853 pounds. New smelting works are going up continually in Utah, and so many new mines are in the course of development that it is confidently predicted that the product of silver during the year 1873 will reach at least $18,000,000, which would be about ninety dollars for every man, woman, and child in the Territory.

It is said by those who are well informed on the subject that not more than one-third of the ore mined in 1872 was shipped, the other two-thirds, however, being of a lower grade than that which was exported. This kind of ore will be worked up when there are more smelting works in the Territory. The profits of silver mining in Utah are very great, as the ores are easily taken out, and miners and laborers can be more cheaply fed there than in any other mining district in the United States, while railroads connecting with the Pacific road are extending themselves in all directions, thus affording ample facilities for transportation.

There is a disposition manifested in some quarters to depreciate the ability of Honest JOHN PATTERSON, the newly elected Senator from South Carolina, probably because he found it necessary to spend money among the negroes and carpet-baggers of the Palmetto State in order to secure their votes, as if the South Carolina Legislature would vote for anybody unless they were paid for doing so. In fact, Mr. PATTERSON is a man of eminent talent, his strong point being railroad financiering, a science which he studied in Pennsylvania, where it has been brought to almost a state of perfection. Probably his most brilliant financial achievement was his manipulation of the Blue Ridge Railroad, whereby through the trifling expenditure of $18,500, exclusive of moneys paid to the members of the Legislature, Honest JOHN and his associates became the owners of stock which had cost the State of South Carolina $1,300,000, and obtained control of property which had cost the people of that State over $4,000,000. A man with the genius for such a financial operation as that must be a most valuable acquisition to the Senate, and if he is fortunate enough to escape the penitentiary and take his seat, his speeches on financial questions will doubtless excite profound attention from Senators of all shades of politics.

The *Herald* proposes as a remedy for crime that there should be a sort of general hanging bee in this city, when those accused of murder—it waives the minor question of guilt or innocence—should all be strung up together. Some of the victims might suffer unjustly, but then it would make a sensation, and newspapers would thrive. That we do no injustice to the exalted motives of our neighbor will appear by the following sentence from yesterday's *Herald* on two homicides in Connecticut:

"It would be hard if out of these two murders *the people should be denied the excitement of at least one execution!*"

It would be interesting to know what special object is in view in the effort to obtain an act of incorporation from Congress for the European and American Land and Emigration Company. In the bill introduced in the Senate for this purpose by Mr. WINDOM of Minnesota, the names of H. D. COOKE, the Governor of the District of Columbia, and one of the ruling spirits of GRANT'S Washington Ring, is introduced as one of the incorporators in sweet companionship with that of the notorious LEWIS DENT, one of the most notorious of the President's relations, which is of itself sufficient to excite suspicion of sinister designs. The land monopolists are already doing enough injury to the country without affording them special privileges by act of Congress for forestalling the best farming and mineral lands in the country. Perhaps the European and American Land and Emigration Company has a special grab in view, like that of the Lake Superior and Puget Sound Land Company, which, it is said, has bought all the town sites on the line of the Northern Pacific Railroad, one of the Directors of the railroad being President of the Land Company. It will be well for Congress to ascertain definitely what the purposes of the proposed Land and Emigration Company are before giving it the sanction of an act of incorporation.

It seems to us that the severity of the *Tribune's* attack upon Mr. WHEELER H. PECKHAM is wholly unwarranted by anything which that gentleman has done or omitted to do.

That some of the proceedings against the Ring should fall through is not to be wondered at. No human power could have insured success in all of them.

The *Tribune* will bear in mind that one batch of indictments were invalidated by the extension of the term of the Court of Sessions; and everybody remembers how Judge BEDFORD paraded the fact when this was done that he acted under the advice of CHARLES O'CONOR. If these indictments had stood, there would have been no end of the laudations of Mr. O'CONOR; but the moment they fall the blame is concentrated on Mr. PECKHAM, a comparatively young man.

The greatest lawyers are not always successful by any means; and we think Mr. PECKHAM has acquitted himself as well as any one would have been likely to in his place.

A party of over one hundred Warwickshire agricultural laborers, who were induced to emigrate to Brazil in the expectation of greatly improving their condition, appear to have been as much disappointed with the results of their experiment as the discontented Southern gentlemen who, at the close of the late war, sought in the same country a refuge from the aggressions of the abolitionists. These Warwickshire laborers were shamefully deceived by the persons who induced them to emigrate. It was represented to them that when they arrived in South America they would be received by Brazilian officials and conducted to the colony of Cananea, where they were all to live together as a happy and prosperous community on small farms to be granted by the Government, who would find tools and seeds in addition to an allowance of two shillings a day until the gathering in of the first harvest—the food to be "chiefly duck, fowl and eggs." If they wished to work for wages, instead of holding farms, they were to be paid four shillings a day for the first six months, and eight shillings a day afterward. They were further told that the soil was rich in gold, lead, and other minerals, "tons of which were dug up almost pure and abandoned because the road to the port was not completed." It may readily be imagined how tempting were these prospects to the poor laborers, who had been reared in abject poverty, and how cruel was their disappointment when on arriving in Brazil they found themselves obliged to live on black beans and rice, and to huddle for shelter into sheds poorer than the meanest cottages in England, while the fine stories of farms and profitable occupation were discovered to be as illusory as the promises of abundant duck, and gold lying around loose for want of transportation.

False pretences are still allowed to flourish in the *Congressional Globe*. In the edition for Saturday last it is stated that "a message from the President by Mr. O. E. BABCOCK, his Private Secretary," was received by the House of Representatives. Now, there is no such person as Mr. O. E. BABCOCK. The correct name is Major or Gen. O. E. BABCOCK, and he is not Private Secretary. That office is filled by Mr. R. M. DOUGLAS, and Gen. BABCOCK is merely one of the military officers whom, in violation of law, the President keeps about him. The *Congressional Globe*, being an official publication, ought at least to tell the truth on such a subject.

The people of Maine are highly delighted with the result of their efforts to attract Swedish immigrants to that State by affording aid to them on their arrival and until they are able to get a return for their labor, when the assistance rendered them is repaid by labor on works of public improvement. There are now 1,300 Swedish settlers within the borders of the State who have paid their own passage to this country, and brought hither $60,000 in money. In the colony of New Sweden, situated in the thinly settled northern portion of the State, there are now one hundred good houses and eighty-eight barns. Each settler has from five to twenty acres of land cleared, and the colony has two steam mills for making shingles, and a saw mill run by water. Thirty miles of roads have been cut through the woods, and a school has been established for the instruction of children. The amount of aid rendered by the State has been a little over $26,000, of which $4,278 has been repaid by work on the roads. The remainder, about $16,000, will be repaid hereafter by the immigrants in work on State improvements.

GOING FOR $100,000,000.

THE DEPLORABLE CONDITION OF THE ENSLAVED ALEUTS.

A Whole Community Delivered Over to Bondage—The Extraordinary Privileges Given by Government to a Trading Monopoly—Mournful Appeal of the Aleuts—A Wrong which Congress Should Right.

Correspondence of The Sun.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—The President's message to Congress was significantly silent in regard to slavery in our Arctic possessions. This silence is not to be wondered at, for the monopoly which controls the destinies of Alaska and the lives and fortunes of the Aleuts, has been notably successful in silencing criticism and blinding the eyes of public officials. Unlike the former slaves of the South, the Aleutian slaves live afar off, separated from us by deserts and mountains, and seas. No runaways come to our Northern cities with swollen limbs and welted backs to excite our sympathies for their sufferings and our hatred for their tyrants. Yet the Aleuts are

IN A STATE OF BONDAGE

even more unbearable than was that of the Southern negro. They are slaves in their native land, in the land to which their fathers emigrated willingly, and to the possession of which they are as much entitled as the descendants of the Pilgrims are entitled to the control and possession of New England.

The island of St. George was first discovered by Capt. Pribiloff, a Russian sailor, in the year 1788, and St. Paul in the year following—the former on St. George's day, the latter on St. Paul's day, which accounts for their respective names. They were found to be the principal islands of a group, which, in compliment to their discoverer, were called the Pribiloff Islands. These islands were settled by emigrants drawn thither by the prospects of a remunerative fur trade. The Russian Government extended its protection over the inhabitants, and furnished them with facilities for intercourse from without, and improvement and progress from within. They became, under the patriarchal rule of the Russian Government,

A WELL-INSTRUCTED PEOPLE.

From the year 1788 they and their descendants have occupied these islands, and those now resident thereon were all born there. As natives, therefore, they have a right alienable only by their own free act to the use and enjoyment of all the productions of the islands and surrounding seas. This right the United States has always recognized in the native Indian, and it cannot be justly denied to an intelligent and civilized people. What if the Federal Government were to farm out the scup and menhaden fisheries on the coasts and bays of New England, or give to a company the monopoly of buffalo-killing in Dakota? Does any one suppose such legislation would be tolerated by the people without indignant protest and recourse to the courts for relief?

Yet it must be plain to every fair-minded man that the native of St. Paul's Island has as much right to sell his seal skins to whomsoever he may choose, as the native of Rhode Island has to dig clams in Narragansett Bay and sell them in Silver Spring or Boston.

Any doubt which may exist as to the

SERVILE CONDITION OF THE NATIVES

of these islands can be settled by reference to the printed rules of Hutchinson, Kohl & Co. for the government of the island. These rules provide that

No persons will be permitted to kill seals for their skins on the islands except under the supervision and authority of the agents of the company.

No vessels other than those employed by the company or vessels of the United States will be permitted to touch at the islands, or to land any persons or merchandise thereon, except in cases of shipwreck or vessels in distress.

The Aleutian people living on the islands will be employed by the company in taking seals for their skins, and they will be paid for the labor of taking each skin and delivering the same at the salt house forty cents in coin.

The agents of the company will make selection of the seals to be killed, and are authorized to use all proper means to prevent the cutting of skins. The landing or manufacture on the islands of spirituous or intoxicating liquor or wine will under no circumstances be permitted by the company, and the preparation and use of fermented liquors by the inhabitants must be discouraged in every rightful manner.

The dwelling houses now being erected by the company will be occupied by the Aleutian families free of rent or other charges.

The agents and employees of the company are expected to instruct the native people in household economy, and by precept and example illustrate to them the principles and benefits of a higher civilization.

The interest of the company in the management of the seal fisheries being identical in character with that of the United States, there can be no reason why the agents of the company and the agents of the Government if all concerned faithfully perform their several duties and comply with the laws and regulations.

The company, like the late slaveholders of the South, have an interest in the physical well-being of the natives, who are required and compelled to furnish the company for forty cents skins worth at least $10, and which sell in London for $17, and the rules therefore provide that medical attendance and medicines shall be free to all persons on the islands, and that a record shall be kept of the name and ages of all the inhabitants, and of the births, marriages, and deaths which may occur on the islands.

One of the arguments adduced by the monopolists and their friends in vindication of the course of the Government toward the Aleuts, is that it is simply a continuation of the policy pursued by

THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT

previous to annexation. There could be no greater error. The Russian Government enforced rules to prevent the destruction of the fur seal, similar in tenor and effect to the laws passed by State Legislatures for the protection of birds and inland fisheries. But there was an odious monopoly, to which the natives were obliged to deliver their property at nominal rates of compensation.

But even supposing that the Russians, with their autocratic forms of home government and colonial rule, had kept the Aleutians in a condition of serfdom, that would be no excuse for the great Republic of the West maintaining a similar policy. "Who thinks it wonderful," said William H. Seward, "that the islands of the Pacific and the nearer shores of Asia should desire and demand peaceful commerce, free immigration, and material, moral, and social connection with the United States?" Instead of the peaceful commerce promised by America's great statesman, the Aleutians have had laid upon them a yoke which is at once odious and burdensome to Malays or coolies, and is much more so to a Christian and civilized race

LESSONS IN CIVILIZATION AND ECONOMY.

In the company's rules it is stated, perhaps sarcastically, that agents and employees of the company are expected to instruct the people in "household economy," and by precept and example illustrate to them "the principles and benefits of a higher civilization." Perhaps the character of the agents of Hutchinson, Kohl & Co. may be higher than that of most employees of fur traders. This class, however, is too often addicted to rum drinking and other vices, and the baneful effects of their example on the Indians of our Western territories are well known. The agents of the fur seal monopoly may, as we suggest, be exceptions, but fur traders as a rule are not the sort of people "to illustrate the principles and benefits of a higher civilization," and they are funny people to give instruction in "household economy." Considering, however, that the poor Aleutians must learn to live on forty cents, where they ought to be receiving $10, instructions in the economical use of that forty cents may not be out of place. But even the forty cents in coin is pretty sure to find its way back into the coffers of Hutchinson, Kohl & Co., for another rule of the company provides that "all provisions and merchandise required by the inhabitants for legitimate use will be furnished them from the company's stores."

Hutchinson, Kohl & Co. have doubtless an object when they talk of instructing the natives of these islands in a "higher civilization." The insinuation, of course, is that the Aleuts are not civilized. On the contrary, they are, as we have before stated,

AN INTELLIGENT AND CIVILIZED RACE,

maintaining churches and schools. They are civilized enough and intelligent enough to comprehend the condition of slavery and dependence to which they have been reduced by the Government of the United States. Their memories are good enough for them to recollect with regret the comparative freedom which they enjoyed under the Czar. In the language of Seward, they desire and demand peaceful commerce, free immigration, and material, and moral, and social connection with the United States. They claim that they should be protected in the exercise of their rights as inhabitants, that they be permitted civil rights, and as citizens the political right of self-government, free intercourse with the rest of the Republic, and the passage of laws that will protect the natural wealth of their islands from pillage by strangers like Hutchinson, Kohl & Co. This granted, they will furnish commerce with a steady stream of valuable merchandise, in exchange for the necessaries and luxuries which their clime fails to provide.

At first view, the furnishing of medicine gratis and houses rent free may appear generous in the despotic rulers of the fur seal islands. It is simply a rivet in the chain which trammels the Aleut in hopeless slavery. The natives are always in debt to the company for goods and provisions furnished from the company's stores, and they can entertain no reasonable hope of ever shaking off that indebtedness, or of saving up enough money to procure the luxuries of a "higher civilization," under existing conditions.

Another argument in favor of monopoly rule is that transportation is furnished free to any of the natives who may wish to leave the islands. In other words, if an Aleut desires to

ABANDON THE HOME OF HIS FATHERS,

around which is clustered every endearing association, he will be permitted to do so, and because he does not do so, it is to be inferred that he is happy and contented. Admitting that the company is always prompt and willing to assist in the escape of skilled seal hunters and dependants, who furnish it with skins at forty cents apiece, is the fact that the Aleuts choose to remain in serfdom in their native land—a proof that they are content with their condition. How many hundreds of thousands of colored people preferred to work as slaves for bacon and meal rather than take the risk of an escape and an uncertain livelihood in the North. Yet that did not justify slavery. Besides, the Aleuts have not yet given up hope, and trust to the sense of justice of the American people that their slavery will not be eternal.

THE ALEUTS' APPEAL.

The Aleuts have, however, spoken for themselves. The following petition was framed in 1869 and intrusted to Capt. Archimandrikoff, a native of St. George Island, who, to escape the tyranny of the Alaska Company, has exiled himself to San Francisco. The petition never reached its destination. It was again prepared and intrusted to Mr. N. Buynitski, a United States official from Washington, then present on the Island of St. George. This officer received the petition in 1870, and promised faithfully to present the same to the authorities at Washington. On his return to the island in 1871 Buynitski did not state to the natives what had been done with the petition. The following is the suppressed paper, redated:

ST. GEORGE ISLAND, Alaska, Aug. 5, 1871.

We the undersigned, natives of St. George Island, Alaska, and citizens of the United States, consider that we have been treated by the United States Government without due consideration to our wants and necessities.

That we can read and write and are capable of holding correspondence with the Government.

That Government, without consulting us or understanding our situation, wants and necessities, leased the island on which we live for twenty years, thereby virtually sentencing us to a twenty years' imprisonment.

That we recognize by this act that we have been reduced to a species of slavery, and that we are compelled to labor and to receive therefore only forty cents per fur-seal skin, or fifty cents per day for labor—when we can procure it—an amount entirely inadequate to our wants and which leaves us dependants and paupers, checking our prosperity and impeding the progress of our civilization.

That, in consequence, the education of our children, a privilege secured to other citizens of the United States, must be abandoned. Morally, religiously, socially, and commercially, our destiny is in the hands of the lessees of the Government.

We are the slaves of these lessees, and at their mercy.

We are shut out from all intercourse with other portions of the republic, and are consequently debarred from improvement by mutual correspondence with sister communities, and from learning, through such intercourse, how to advance in the common civilization of our country. Even merchants and traders are excluded from our shores by those lessees, and competition is thus cut off, and we are dependent only on the mercies of our masters. The employees of the company, lessees of our island, often beat and violently assault us, threatening to drive every Aleut from the island, and that they have that power, through this lease obtained by them from the Government, at a cost of many thousand dollars.

These employees are careless and indifferent about the fur seal, our only resource and support for ourselves and families. The lessees are permitted to kill 25,000 per annum. When we bring them skins, they select only the first-class skins, and order us to take the rest out of their sight. By this means, out of one hundred skins, about seventy five are purchased by them, and the rest, twenty-five skins, have to be thrown into the sea. The rejected skins, which are cast into the sea and destroyed, would find a ready sale with other outside traders, who are eager to purchase them, and thus we, the fur seals, gradually disappearing, our labor is partially lost, and 25 per cent. of the wealth of our industry is lost to us because no one is allowed to visit our shores or trade with us but the lessees of our island, whom we are compelled to regard as masters, and even tyrants.

In conclusion, we beg of the United States Government, and of our fellow-citizens all over the republic, to regard us not as wild Indians. We are not such, but as fellow-citizens struggling to advance in civilization, and to become worthy to be esteemed as fellow-citizens of the republic.

The petition is signed by Peter Rezantzow, Peter Rupl, and a number of others.

UNWARRANTABLE PRETENSIONS OF THE MONOPOLISTS.

If trustworthy testimony from other sources is to be credited, this petition does not overstate the miserable condition of the natives of the fur seal islands. Hutchinson, Kohl & Co. are not content with exercising exclusive jurisdiction over the Aleuts, but aim to extend their power over all the vast territory of Alaska, with little doubt that they would be able, if permitted, to do so. Ivan Kozevnikoff, Geo. Ivanoff, and other Russo-Americans residing in Fort Saint Michael, Alaska Territory, make the following statement in a communication to Agaplus Honcharenko, the sturdy advocate of Aleutian emancipation:

On the 20th day of August last, Capt. Smith, at Saint Michael, a schooner, the Eustace, belonging to the firm of Hutchinson, Kohl & Co., Capt. Smith commanding, Capt. Smith's business was to transport freight from Saint Francisco to Fort Saint Michael for local supplies and trade.

It was reported that five Russians in that place were trading with other parties than the agents of Hutchinson, Kohl & Co., with whalers, and among others, with Mr. Bean, partner of Mr. Jansen of San Francisco. The agents of the company were much displeased, and Mr. Bean was absent in San Francisco on the 17th of June. Capt. Smith, during the evening of that day, took the man who was in charge of Mr. Bean's store on board, made himself very intoxicated, and learned from him at what place the Russian fur traders had deposited their skins. At midnight Capt. Smith and his crew went ashore and took by force the property of said traders, amounting to 13,541 skins of various kinds, and transported them to his vessel. Only 200 skins escaped him, and these were left, because not passed in boxes, and inconvenient to transport in a loose state. At the same time he also abducted the clerk in charge of the property, named Jacob Komaroff, made him work and transported boxes of skins across the bay, opposite St. Michael, and left him in a barren wilderness. On the next day, when Komaroff became sober, he returned to his place and found everything stolen and destroyed.

A few days afterward Fred. Smith, the resident agent of Hutchinson, Kohl & Co., sent five men to Jacob Komaroff to see what remained. But Komaroff said: "I cannot sell them to you, as they are not mine. They belong to the Russian traders, who have only put me in charge of them, as they are trading in the interior of Alaska. The Russian traders have robbed all the rest, you might as well take these by force also." They, on hearing this, were ashamed to take them by force, and left.

The Russo-Americans further complain that Hutchinson, Kohl & Co. try to drive other traders from the country, that that company may have a monopoly of the business. They ask that their deplorable condition may be announced to the citizens of the American republic and to the whole world.

Mr. Honcharenco is also authority for the statement that a native Alaska woman was rigidly questioned for three hours at the office of the Alaska Commercial Company by Gen. Miller, Mr. Gerstle, Mr. Adams, Mr. Kruger, and a notary public. The inquiry was relative to the long suppressed petition which is given above. This woman was not only versed in the Russian and Aleutian languages, but had some knowledge of English and German, and showed herself to be highly intelligent and well-informed in regard to the oppression of the Aleuts.

SUBSERVIENT GOVERNMENT OFFICERS.

Hutchinson, Kohl & Co. are assisted by Government officials and detectives in maintaining their supremacy. Any infraction of the rules of the Treasury regulations or revenue laws by the monopoly is winked at, other traders are prosecuted in the most vexatious way. We give two instances out of many: The ship Cesarewitch, which arrived in San Francisco from Kodiak, and in her cargo a package of eighty fur seals for Hutchinson, Kohl & Co. The package, without delay, was transferred to the store of the Alaska Commercial Company. D. Shirpser, an Russian who had received the package of twenty-seven fur seal skins from Kodiak, and the package was seized and carried to the Appraiser's store. It cost Mr. Shirpser more than the value of the skins to get them out of the hands of the Custom House authorities.

The bark Hattie Jackson, the property of a San Francisco merchant, was doing a legitimate and valuable business in the Yukon country. One Ridel, an agent of the Alaska Commercial Company, made an affidavit that the vessel was guilty of a violation of the revenue laws, and, on the strength of that affidavit, the Hattie Jackson was condemned and sold.

Other instances might be quoted in which the United States authorities have shown themselves the tools of this monopoly, but we think that enough proof has been given to leave no doubt that Hutchinson, Kohl & Co. control not only the Aleutian Islands, but the whole immense territory of Alaska, and that citizens of the United States, resident on the Islands of St. Paul and St. George, have had their liberties bartered away by the Government, and are in a state of dependence and slavery.

There is another circumstance which has a somewhat curious bearing on the relations between the Alaska Commercial Company and the Aleuts. In his message to Congress Grant asked for legislation to prevent citizens of the United States from owning slaves abroad. In the case of Aleutians,

CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES ARE OWNED AS SLAVES BY FOREIGNERS.

The real head of the Alaska Commercial Company is in Europe, though the nominal headquarters of the company are in San Francisco.

It is a question whether the lease of the fur-seal islands to the Alaska Commercial Company is a profitable financial transaction for the Government. The islands are leased at an annual rental of $50,000, a specific tax being exacted of $2.62 for each pelt, and 65 cents for each gallon of oil. The number of seals to be slain is restricted to 100,000 per annum. The company has given bonds in the sum of $500,000 that the seal rookeries shall not become worthless. The law expressly forbids the killing of female seal and young pups.

Now, in the first place, the company do not return a gallon of oil, and a revenue of $60,000 per annum is thus lost to the Government. If the natives were engaged in capturing and skinning seals more than four months in the year, they would receive remunerative employment in procuring wood and making oil during the other eight months. Not only would the manufacture of oil be profitable to the Government, but it is important that the carcasses of the slaughtered seals should in some way be disposed of. From the report of Capt. Koskull, the Russian Commissioner, and of others who have visited the islands, the stench of the dead carcasses of the seals is so great as to be a nuisance to persons on vessels many miles from the islands, and must breed discomfort and disease among the unfortunate natives. These facts were represented to Secretary Boutwell by Mr. Louis Goldstone in 1870, but notwithstanding that the Government is fully aware of the facts, 200,000 gallons of oil are annually wasted at a loss to the Treasury of $60,000.

EXTERMINATING THE SEALS.

It is also understood that the number of seals killed is largely in excess of 100,000 per annum, though in 1871 the company returned only 40,000. Many skins are rejected, and numbers are perhaps smuggled. But were the company to keep strictly within its contract and kill only 100,000 seals in a season, the slaughter of that number must within a few years make the rookeries worthless. During forty-four years, ending in 1869, there were only 705,857 fur seals killed, making an average of 16,000 per annum, which is stated by the Russian authorities to be a maximum of the supply, short of an eventual destruction of the race. The slaughter of 100,000 seals annually would in eight years cause the destruction of more seals than were formerly slaughtered in forty-four years. Of course at this rate the seals must soon become extinct, and Government cease to receive any return. The sum of $500,000, it is stated by competent persons, is merely a straw bond compared to the value of the rookeries and to the profits which Hutchinson, Kohl & Co. are realizing.

This indemnity bond is of but little more consequence to the company than the provisions of their contract. With boundless wealth at their command they can, with equal ease, pay the one and violate the other.

The Treasury has an agent and three assistant agents stationed on the islands to prevent the indiscriminate destruction of the seal. Their chief occupation, however, is to frame some excuse to the Government for the wanton slaughter and gradual extinction of those animals. Capt. Charles Bryant, special agent, in his report to the Secretary, ascribes the disappearance of the seal to the sharks. The natives assert, on the contrary, that

THE FIRST SHARKS EVER SEEN

by them on their coasts were the agents and employees of the Alaska Commercial Company. The extermination of the seal will be much hastened unless the slaughter of pups and females is rigidly prevented.

In June, 1868, the steamer Alexander and bark Cyane brought to Hutchinson, Kohl & Co. 100,000 fur-seal skins, valued at about $1,000,000. Half of these were the skins of female seals and young pups, and the cargo was consequently seized, but afterward released by Gen. Miller, then Collector of the Port. Gen. Miller is now President of the Alaska Commercial Company.

THE CHEROKEE CADMUS.

George Guess, the Inventor of the Cherokee Alphabet—Some Interesting Facts About a Remarkable Savage.

To the Editor of The Sun.

SIR: In a recent number of THE SUN I saw a notice of George Guess or Sequoyah, inventor of the Cherokee alphabet. The account is no doubt substantially correct, but differs in one or two particulars from that derived from another source. Col. Boudinot states that Guess invented the alphabet in about two weeks' time, and afterward wandered off to Mexico.

There is now living in Morristown, Tenn., a venerable maiden lady, Miss Nancy Thompson, in the eighty-second year of her age. She was connected for fifty years with the missionary work among the Cherokee and Creek Indians. The writer has received from her much valuable information and many interesting reminiscences relating to the Indians, the missionaries, and their operations.

Miss Thompson's account of Guess is that he was

A BIGOTED HEATHEN INDIAN,

violently opposed to the Gospel and the missionaries. He concluded that if he could invent a method by which the Indians could talk on paper, like the white men, the effect would be to unite his people in support of their heathen superstitions and customs, and to fortify them against the Gospel and the influence of the missionaries. She says that he got hold of an old English spelling book, and spent two or three years in forming and perfecting his alphabet. He first explained the meaning of the characters to the members of his own family. One day, being with a company of Indians not far from his house, he announced to them that he could talk on paper the same as the white man. In order to prove it, he proposed that some one present should designate an article or implement of any kind at his house, when he would send for it, and it should be brought. Some household utensil was mentioned, whereupon he wrote a few characters on a piece of board, despatched a messenger to his family, and in a short time the latter returned bearing the thing asked for. The Indians were astonished at the feat. The news of his invention spread like wild-fire through the nation, and many came to behold the wonderful production.

But the result was directly the reverse of what Guess had desired or expected. One of the missionaries and Col. Boudinot, a converted Cherokee, obtained possession of the alphabet, which supplied a want deeply felt. They modified and improved some of the characters, and sent them all to Boston, where metallic types were cast suitable for use in printing. They printed copies of the Word of God, hymn books, spellers, religious tracts, and other publications. A new power was put in their hands, which they wielded for promoting Christianity, to the surprise, mortification, and disgust of Guess. His own battery was turned against himself and his heathen allies.

Miss Thompson says that Guess was so enraged that he

LEFT THE CHEROKEE NATION,

went off, and died, she thinks, among the Creek Indians. Col. Boudinot avers that he went to Mexico. I am inclined to think that what Guess did was to leave the old Cherokee country and go to the Cher