

NEW YORK HERALD.

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MUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway, opposite Bond street. - ENTERTAINMENT - REGULAR FIX.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery. - TEN NIGHTS IN A BALLOON - JOHN JOHNSON - MEGALAN'S DAUGHTER.

BARON'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway. - Day and Evening. - PATRIOT HEART OF HUNTER - CROSS OF GOLD - BEARS, SEA LION AND OTHER CURIOSITIES.

BRANT'S MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadway. - BRANT'S SONGS, DANCES, &c. - BUCKED PATH.

NEILO'S SALOON, Broadway. - LEVY'S MINSTRELS IN BULLDOG, BONGS, DANCES, &c. - SHIVER TRUMPET.

IRVING HALL, Fourteenth street. - GEO. CHRISTIE'S MIXED ENSEMBLE OF SONGS, DANCES, BULLDOGS, &c. - WAY DOWN IS DREAM.

MELRODDE CONCERT HALL, No. 69 Broadway. - BONGS, DANCES, BULLDOGS, &c.

CANTERBURY MUSIC HALL, 65 Broadway. - SONGS, DANCES, BULLDOGS, &c.

STUYVESANT SQUARE, 606 Broadway. - MRS. ANNA BISHOP'S CHAMBER CONCERTS.

GALETTI CONCERT ROOM, 616 Broadway. - DRAWING ROOM ENTERTAINMENTS, BALLET, PASTORALS, FANCES, &c.

New York, Monday, May 20, 1861.

THE SITUATION OF AFFAIRS.

From the fact that the steamship Parana brought no newspaper mail from England, a perplexing obscurity still exists relative to the actual declarations of Lord John Russell in the House of Commons with regard to the policy which the British government has decided to pursue towards the Southern confederacy; but we are disposed to think, from the statements received in a few papers which the Parana brought, that the government of England is inclined to play a game of fast and loose upon the question. For instance, the London Morning Post, Lord Palmerston's organ, from which we gave an article a few days ago, was explicit in declaring that England would remain neutral; that the secessionists could only be regarded as "simple rebels," and that the privateering system of the Southern party was piracy, and nothing more. But we find in a condensed report of Lord John Russell's speech, delivered on the 6th inst. (subsequent to the publication of the Post's article), which appears in an English paper received in Boston, and published in the Transcript of that city that Lord John Russell is reported to have said: "As to the letters of marque, there was a precedent in the case of Greece when it separated from Turkey. The right of that country to issue letters of marque was allowed, and the law officers of the Crown, who had been consulted, had declared that such a right would belong to the Southern confederacy."

Moreover, we find it stated in the Dublin News that the Foreign Secretary declared in the same speech that the government would not recognize the blockade of the Southern ports by the federal government unless it was rendered effective, but that it would recognize the privateering system of Mr. Davis. Until we receive a full report of Lord John Russell's speech it is not easy to tell what the actual intention of the British ministry may be. If, indeed, any policy is as yet definitely decided upon.

The government has decided to establish two large camps on the French system, partly for instruction and for the purposes of a reserve force. The camps will consist of from fifteen to twenty thousand men each. One will be formed at Gettysburg, Pa., near the Maryland border, and the other in the vicinity of New York, most probably at Staten Island. The troops at Gettysburg are designed for action on the Southern border when necessary, and those at Staten Island will be required for coast service, to be used at any moment and at any point the government may direct. For this purpose orders have been issued for a fleet of transports to be kept in readiness in the harbor.

Gettysburg, the location of one of these cantonments, is the capital of Adams county, Pennsylvania, on the turnpike road from Philadelphia to Pittsburg, one hundred and fourteen miles west of the former, and thirty-six miles west of Harrisburg. It stands on elevated ground, in the midst of a fertile farming country; its selection, therefore, for a military camp is most judicious. It has an elegant brick court-house and public offices, and numerous private dwellings, built in a neat and substantial manner. The Lutheran Theological Seminary of Gettysburg, founded in 1826, has a library of 7,000 volumes. The town is also the seat of Pennsylvania College, a flourishing institution. The buildings occupied by these institutions are large and beautiful edifices. The town contains a bank, seven churches, four newspaper offices and ten carriage manufactories. The manufacture of carriages is carried on more extensively than any other mechanical business. In 1851 copper mines were opened in several places near this town. The population of Gettysburg is about 4,000. The garrisons at Fortress Monroe and at Cairo are also strong and efficient. There are altogether not less than 220,000 men enrolled in different quarters in the service of the government ready to strike at any point.

The brilliant and successful feat by detachments of the Eight and Thirteenth regiments now at the seat of war, in their expedition to the York river and the recovery of the lightships stolen by the revolutionists from the Chesapeake Bay, of which we give full details in our despatches in another column, has been warmly applauded. The York river is a small river which rises in Sussex county, Delaware, and flows southwestward through Somerset county, Maryland, and empties into Flushing Bay, an arm of the Chesapeake.

The rebel leaders have exhibited a great deal of sagacity until now in concealing their grand movements from the United States officers; but it has been discovered within a few days that in addition to the occupation of Harper's Ferry and Norfolk, they are assembling large columns of troops at Yorktown, Lynnhub, Fredericksburg, Staunton and West Point. Yorktown is situated on the

York river, seventeen and a half miles from Fortress Monroe. The camp of the secessionists appears to be for the purpose of meeting any land movement that may be made by the federal forces from the latter fort.

The camps near Lynchburg, Richmond, Fredericksburg and Charlottesville are equidistant about fifty miles, making a quadrilateral of that distance. All these camps are on the lines of railroad converging towards Washington and Norfolk, and being equidistant from those places are available at whichever of those points their services may be needed.

The concentration of troops at Fortress Monroe under General Butler, it is alleged, is for the purpose of forming a grand entrenched camp. The Norfolk Herald of the 10th instant, in alluding to this movement says: "We learn that additional operations have been entered upon by the federal forces at Fort Monroe, embracing the seizure of the farms of Jos. Segar, Judge Clopton, and indeed all the territory constituting the peninsula between Hampton and Mill creeks. It is said, further, that they have been making surveys preparatory to the erection of out-works. A portion of the farms will probably be appropriated to the accommodation of horses, mules and cattle required for the use of the garrison. It is said that General Mansfield is to conduct the hostile movement upon Virginia with a force of 25,000 volunteers and 5,000 regulars. General Butler has gone to Annapolis previous to his departure for headquarters at Fortress Monroe. A despatch received last night says that the new military department is to comprise Eastern Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee, but it is more probable that previous intelligence was correct, which included South Carolina, and not Tennessee, as it is evident that active demonstrations are to be made by sea as part of the contemplated aggressive movement on the South.

A detachment of the Seventy-first regiment, just returned from a cruise down the Potomac, report that a heavy battery has been erected by the rebels at Aquia Creek. As they passed down, the battery was masked by trees, but on their return it was exposed to view. Measures will be immediately taken to dislodge it.

Mr. Lincoln occupied himself yesterday in making a personal reconnoitre on the banks of the Potomac. He visited Great Falls, sixteen miles above Washington, crossed the chain bridge, and passed the pickets of the secessionists twice without being recognized.

From the West we learn that reports were prevalent of active military preparations going on in the State of Mississippi for home defence against an expected servile insurrection.

It is stated by the Montgomery Advertiser, an official organ of the Confederate government, that the seat of government is to be transferred from that city to Richmond immediately.

The News.

A percussion cap manufactory has been started in Nashville, Tenn., which it is said turns out twenty thousand per day.

The Charleston papers say that the city is suffering for the want of small change. Some think there is also a lack of large change at that locality. The Common Council are to issue shillings.

The North Carolina Secession State Convention will meet to-day in Raleigh. They will probably pass the ordinance of secession on the rush principle. Their action will be final. The people have nothing more to say.

An ordinance is before the Arkansas State Convention which orders the confiscation of all debts due from citizens of that State to those of the Northern States.

The Congressional Convention of the Fourth district of Maryland has nominated for representative Hon. Henry Winter Davis. Some dissatisfaction in Baltimore is created thereby.

A man named Underhill, a newspaper reporter from this city, was taken from the cars at Harper's Ferry on the 17th inst., and is now in confinement at that place. He was on his way from Wheeling to New York.

The Board of Trade of St. Joseph, Mo., emphatically deny that citizens of the Northern or other loyal States have been molested in that city. They consider it their duty to "protect from insult or outrage all law-abiding or peaceful citizens of the United States, visiting them for any proper or lawful purpose." Emigrants are also to meet with courteous treatment and good faith. Their action in this matter has been endorsed by the City Council.

The election in Virginia will take place next Thursday. Several important propositions are to be voted upon that day; among them the ratification or rejection of the ordinance of secession, and the adoption or rejection of a proposition to amend the constitution of the State so as to tax all property according to its value. On the same day members of the Legislature are to be chosen. It is also the usual time for the election of members of Congress; but an ordinance of the State Convention declares that no such election will take place. One or two Union candidates, however, are in the field in the western section of the State, and one at least in the eastern section.

The Military Movements of the Government - Enlarging the Line of Operations.

The recent action of the government in converting Eastern Virginia and the Carolinas into a military department, and placing General Butler in command thereof, gives us a pretty clear insight into the progressive military policy about to be inaugurated. In extending this new department only to the Blue Ridge, the government has shown that they place perfect reliance upon the loyalty of the whole of Western Virginia—a loyalty which she will be able to maintain with the efficient assistance of the troops of the free border States of Ohio and Indiana, and the camps established in Southern Pennsylvania.

With Maryland restored to a sense of its duty; with not a rebel in arms left on its soil, and the mob spirit of Baltimore so subdued that an unobstructed passage is now secured for the federal troops en route to Washington, the first important point has been gained. The future of Virginia is next to be looked after; and between the Union sentiment existing in the western portion of that State and the establishment of a military department in the eastern portion, it cannot be long before Virginia also must be compelled to assume a loyalty not the less valuable to the cause of the government because it may be enforced, but on the contrary giving additional prestige to the Northern arms. The presence of an army of occupation, advanced from the outposts which protect the federal capital, must soon follow the establishment of a military command in Virginia and the Carolinas; and although it may be resisted, probably at two or three points, where rebel troops are concentrated, it can hardly be repelled, with the immense force behind which the united ardor of the whole North is impetuous to hurry forward in defence of the Union.

Missouri and Kentucky, though distracted by a divided sentiment, have still enough of Union men to prevent open secession, while the federal forces at Cairo and in Southern Ohio and Indiana are sufficient to overawe any power the rebellious portions of the former States may be able to exercise. The city of St. Louis, like the city of Baltimore, has been saved by the prompt and vigorous action of a loyal officer; and the presence of General Harney in Missouri, and Colonel Anderson in Kentucky, each at the head of a body of federal troops, renders these two States perfectly secure.

From Cairo, then, in the Far West, down to Fortress Monroe, at the mouth of the Chesapeake, the government have established so formidable a military line along the Southern frontier as to render a progressive movement comparatively safe. That it will prove a bloodless one is not to be expected, for there are probably not less than forty thousand men scattered throughout Virginia. They have come there to fight, and fight they will, but against fearful odds.

The movements of General Scott, though cautious, have been wisely and skillfully made. The upper Mississippi and Ohio rivers are safely provided for by Western troops, while the blockade established on the lower Mississippi must harass and damage the Southern river States immensely. Large bodies of men are posted at Harrisburg, York, Perryville, Annapolis, the Relay House and Baltimore, while Washington itself is securely garrisoned. Alexandria is in a state of quiescence, if not wholly deserted. Fortress Monroe, the base of operations for the aggressive movement on Virginia, will have an army of fifteen thousand men in and around it; within a day or two, the Chesapeake is held by our squadron from Cape Henry to the Patuxent; and the Potomac, from Point Lookout to the capital, is swept by our steamers of light draught, while the whole Atlantic coast, from Norfolk to the Rio Grande, is in a state of efficient blockade.

With such a disposition of our troops, the government is well prepared to undertake an advance movement, and bring the contest to a speedy issue.

THE EFFECT OF THE REVOLUTION IN IMPROVING A NEW ERA IN AMERICAN LITERATURE AND ART.

The English journals have for some months past been pointing to the United States as an example of the failure of republican institutions; but they are mistaken. The strongest governments in the world have had to contend with rebellion in their own dominions, and been none the weaker for it in the end. Only if the rebellion headed by Mr. Jeff. Davis were successful would republican institutions prove to be a failure in this country. And as there is no likelihood whatever of this being the case, the conclusions of the English press are decidedly fallacious. In so speaking, however, the British organs of public opinion are guided by the feeling against this form of government which prevails more or less in all monarchical countries, and especially in England. It is a triumph to the British Tory if he can say of the United States, "Look there; what have you to say in defence of republicanism now?" But the British Tory, unfortunately, flies to conclusions too hastily. Because we are without a king or queen he thinks we are without the power to control the State in times of emergency. "You have no properly organized standing army," he remarks, "and if you were to attempt to support one it would be fatal." No worse reasoning could be employed. We have an army in our people capable of being swelled to millions of able-bodied men, and herein alone is demonstrated the strength of republican institutions.

When an English journal says that, "Whatever may happen, remotely or immediately, it is clear that the Union is as dead as the Haparchy," it is evident that the writer was ignorant of the subject upon which he pronounced such an unqualified and erroneous judgment. That the Union is not dead the spirit of the people and the acts of the administration sufficiently testify. Moreover, when President Lincoln has succeeded, as he is morally certain to succeed, in re-establishing the federal authority in the rebellious States, the Union will rest on a firmer basis than ever, and the triumph of republican institutions will produce such an effect in their favor over the whole of Europe as was never known before. Just as the old Revolution of 1776 led to the Revolution in France, and subsequently to all the other European revolutions that have since taken place, the result of the present one will probably lead to important dynastic changes, and give a fresh impetus, renewed strength and additional permanence to the republican form of government throughout the world. Meanwhile we can go on cherishing our patriotism and defending our flag, in the full knowledge of our power to preserve to ourselves as a nation

the rights which are guaranteed to us by that glorious constitution for which our fathers fought, and in the perfect confidence that whatever false ideas are at present entertained of our national strength abroad will soon be dispersed, and that as completely as we rebels our troops may encounter are likely to be in the campaign which is soon to lead them on to a certain victory.

The Law of Treason and Misprision of Treason.

The republican journals of this city are giving utterance to the most downright absurdities about treason, showing such an utter ignorance of the plain provisions of the constitution that they are laughed at by the whole community. But as the United States District Attorney of the Southern District of New York, has announced his intention to prosecute all parties within his jurisdiction, against whom he possesses evidence of treason or misprision of treason, it is important that all should know the law, lest any misguided individual should become entangled in its meshes. Happily, in the United States, it has been hitherto a crime of rare occurrence, and the precise meaning of the law and the various applications of which it is capable, have not been judicially much canvassed, since the famous trial of Aaron Burr.

The constitution defines treason as follows: "Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in open court. The Congress shall have power to declare the punishment of treason. But no attainder of treason shall work corruption of blood, or forfeiture, except during the life of the person attainted." Article III, section 2, of the constitution, provides, however, that "the trial of all crimes, except in cases of impeachment, shall be by jury; and such trial shall be held in the State where the said crimes shall have been committed." Therefore the manifest treason which has been committed by such individuals as Jefferson Davis, General Beauregard, and all others who have been concerned in taking "places or properties," belonging to the United States, or in attacking Fort Sumter, or fortresses or arsenals elsewhere, cannot be punished as it deserves, excepting in the localities where their rebellion has made itself manifest. Individuals guilty of high treason in Mississippi and South Carolina might pass through Broadway to-morrow, with perfect impunity, unless their crime could be proved to have extended actively to this State. They could be arrested it is true; but, although such a measure might find reasonable advocates, it would be contrary to custom, because the end of the law can never be attained, until judges and juries can be found to try them, in the States where alone, according to the constitution, they can be legally condemned.

No expression of opinion, however strong against the government, can amount to treason. Treason consists of acts. There must be an actual levying of war. A conspiracy to subvert the government by force is not treason; nor is the mere enlistment of men who are not assembled a levying of war. And no man can be convicted of treason who is not present when the war was levied. (Ex parte Bolman, 4 Cr. 75; United States vs. Hanway, 2 Wall Jr., 140; ibid 136; 4 Am. L. J., 83; 2 Burr's Trial, 401, 439.) To constitute a levying of war there must be an assemblage of persons for the purpose of carrying into effect, by force, a treasonable purpose; enlistment of men to serve against government is not enough. But words showing the prisoner's intention to join the enemy are proper as evidence to explain the motives upon which the intent was afterwards carried into effect. The travelling of individuals to the place of rendezvous is not enough; but the meeting of particular bodies of men, and then marching from places of partial to places of general rendezvous, is considered a treasonable assemblage. (Ex parte Bolman, 4 Cranch, 75; 1 Dall, 33.)

When war is levied all those who take any part in it, however minute or however remote from the scene of action, and who are actually leagued in the general conspiracy, are regarded as traitors. The going from an enemy's squadron to the shore, in order peaceably to procure provisions for the enemy, does not amount to an act of treason, as this conduct rests in the intention, and mere intention is not punishable by the laws of the United States. But if a citizen approach the shore for the purpose of procuring provisions for the enemy, by joining with him in hostilities against the United States, that would be an overt act of favoring the enemy, though no other act was committed. (United States vs. Pryor, 3 Wash. C. C., 234.) Sending the enemy arms, ammunition, or letters conveying intelligence to him against the government, is treason. But merely selling arms or ammunition as merchandise to men of the Southern States, is not treason nor any offence whatever; and in the case of our present unhappy national troubles, there is a legal distinction between sending such articles to the State authorities at war against the central government, and to citizens in the same States against whom there is no proof of participation in the treason; for, in order to constitute the offence of treason the parties must be among the conspirators to resist generally and publicly by force, and there must further be an actual resistance by force, or by intimidation of numbers assembled against a law of the United States. (See report United States vs. Hanway, 2 Wallace, Jr., 159.)

According to the doctrine of John C. Calhoun which is generally received throughout the South, treason cannot be committed against the United States by the citizens of a State which has formally seceded from the Union, and it is claimed that the first allegiance is due to the State; otherwise, when there was conflict, the citizens would be placed between two fires, and the State authorities might hang all who rebelled against them, while the United States authorities might hang all who obeyed the State, and thus, between the two authorities, the whole of the citizens might be disposed of. A different opinion, however, prevails among the legal authorities of the North, who insist that the allegiance of the United States is paramount. In New York State the case does not arise, as allegiance to the State and to the United States do not conflict, but coincide.

The third section of the third article of the constitution, which says, "Congress shall

have power to declare the punishment of treason." In pursuance of the power thus conferred, Congress passed an act, which was approved April 20, 1790, which provides, in section one, "that if any person or persons, owing allegiance to the United States of America, shall levy war against them, or shall adhere to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort, within the United States or elsewhere, and shall be thereof convicted, on confession in open court, or on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act of treason, whereof he or they shall stand indicted, such person or persons shall be adjudged guilty of treason against the United States, and shall suffer death." Misprision of treason is thus defined by the statute: "If any person or persons having knowledge of the commission of treason shall conceal, and not, as soon as may be, disclose and make known the same to the President of the United States, or some one of the judges or justices thereof, such person or persons, on conviction, shall be adjudged guilty of misprision of treason, and shall be imprisoned not exceeding seven years, and fined not exceeding one thousand dollars."

There can be no confiscation of goods, as is ignorantly asserted by some of our republican journals, who follow the law of England instead of the constitution of the United States, which expressly forbids "bills of attainder." The property of a man convicted of treason is not affected, and his family inherit it after his death. The "forfeiture" incidental to treason, by the common law of England, is abolished by the constitution, and the right of confiscation of slave property, threatened by republican papers against the slaveholders is a mere *brutum fulmen*. Journals which propose such extreme measures as this, and the breaking down of the levee of the Lower Mississippi to destroy the property of the States lying in its valley, and to drown, by wholesale murder, men, women and children indiscriminately by the inundation, advocate what is at direct variance with the fundamental law of the land, calculated to bring odium upon the cause of the Union, and to defeat the government, by alienating from its support the best men at the North, and every man at the South. Such a human and fiendish barbarity would be more worthy of cannibals than of a civilized people. It behooves every man to be careful how he may commit himself in these excited times; for though, under our glorious free government, there can be no such thing as constructive treason, and a guilty intent and an overt act must be proved by two witnesses, yet in periods of great public danger, neither judges nor juries nor governments are likely to be lenient to those who are proved guilty of such offences.

IMPATIENCE AT THE TARDY WAR MOVEMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT.—Whatever justice there may have been in the complaints against the tardiness of the federal government in arriving at the decision to act vigorously against the revolutionists of the South, the administration and General Scott are certainly not open to attack for want of energy from the time that Mr. Lincoln made up his mind to put down the rebellion by force of arms. Ever since the ball was put in motion it has rolled onwards with as much speed as was compatible with safety. Yet complaints of delay are heard on every side from those who are unacquainted with military matters. Of all disasters in human affairs precipitation in war leads to the most fatal. In nothing else is the old maxim, "hasten slowly," so verified. "Slow and sure" is the motto of General Scott, who knows that the race is not always to the swift nor the battle to the strong.

It is one thing to raise a new army; it is another to arm, equip and discipline it to fight; and after that is done, it is yet another thing—and the most difficult of all—to move it to action with all that it needs. The brief time it has taken to raise an army is truly wonderful. Only a month has elapsed since the proclamation of the President was published, and now a splendid army appears in response to his call, as if brought into existence by the magic of Prospero's wand. But as yet it is only fine material; it is physically and morally of the right stuff to win victories, but it is not yet sufficiently skilled in fight. As yet the armies on both sides are little better than mobs. The progress of the Union army is indeed astonishing for the time; but what could be expected in a month? In the war with Mexico General Scott was assailed by the newspapers for similar delay. It then required six months for preparation of the troops. But the result justified General Scott's course, as it will now. It then required six months to fit the troops to fight; but now people seem to think they ought to be sent as sheep to the slaughter, without any preparation at all. In the Crimean war all knew what delay and blundering occurred on the part of the English government. In the last war between France and Austria it took six months, even with highly disciplined troops, to reach the point of a pitched battle. Few men are formed with that mighty genius for war with which the first Napoleon was gifted. By the certainty of his calculations, the rapidity of his combinations, his mastery of minute details, (a quality which belonged in an eminent degree to Washington.) His admirable officers and his well trained troops, he descended like a thunderbolt upon the foe. The highest act of a great general is the choice of the decisive point on which to move his troops in greater force than the enemy—a result of skillful strategic combination; the next most important act is the accurate calculation of the movements which are to accomplish that result. In addition to this he must have officers who have the skill to carry out his designs. He must cause to be prepared beforehand all the materials necessary for putting the army in motion and sustaining it. He must dictate all the orders, instructions and routes for assembling it and putting it afterwards in action. He must obtain reliable information of the movements of the enemy. He must concert the marches of the different columns to the end that they may be made with order and harmony, and numerous other things must be done before he can hazard a battle. Above all, there is one thing he must not attempt, and that is with raw troops to disclose a numerous enemy from strong posts. Ordinary troops, with little training can fight well in good defensive positions. But to assume the offensive, even against such troops, requires something more than a few valiant leaders.

The Case of Senator Douglas. Chicago, May 18, 1861. The coalition of Senator Douglas is being improved to-day. Although not entirely out of danger, his prospects have strong hopes of recovery.

the best of circumstances permit, and the thought not to be embarrassed with ignorant

THE STRENGTH OF REPUBLICAN INSTITUTIONS ON TRUTH.—FALSE IMPRESSIONS ABROAD. Everything has its uses, and even a great national calamity may bring forth good fruit in the end. Thus, the revolution which is now distracting our country, and threatening not only the integrity of our republic, but the best interests of our citizens, may lead to a vanishing result the extent of which it is impossible for us at present to calculate. Among other things of greater import it is likely to inaugurate a new era in literature and art. The greatest works of human intellect and skill, both ancient and modern, have been commemorative and illustrative of historical events. The *chef-d'oeuvre* of painting, sculpture, operatic and dramatic literature, music and poetry, have been inspired by the heroic and mighty deeds which have from time to time divided the history of nations into epochs, and guided the civilization of the world. We have only to turn to the most successful operas, tragedies and comedies, the most valued paintings, the most beautiful conceptions in marble, fresco or wood, the finest works of the lyric stage, and the grandest flights of the poetic and heroic muse, for instances of the effect of history upon literature and art. We might say more, and include the literature of ages; for the literature of every country is influenced by its history, and the greater and more eventful the history of any country, the richer and more abundant is its literature likely to become. A great event leaves its mark upon the civilization of its time, thereby influencing other events to the remotest posterity; and events make men. If it had not been for the last supper of our Lord, Leonardo di Vinci might never have known fame, nor Judas Iscariot have hanged himself. If Moses had never been in Egypt, Rossini would have lost the theme of one of his sublimest compositions, and so with others and effects generally.

The Revolution of 1776 was so great an event that it not only entirely changed the history of this country, so influencing it to the remotest time, but made, and is still making, and will ever continue to make, its effect felt throughout the world. The changes which were immediately produced thereby did not extend in any great degree to art, because our community at that period was young and unable to do much towards the cultivation of art; and even in the literature of fiction the "Spy" is the only work in which the scenes of the Revolution were depicted with anything like completeness. But even that falls far short of what the subject affords; and therefore we may say that as yet we are without a good novel of the Revolution. In this more advanced age, however, such neglect of historical materials will not be suffered to exist. When the war is over, we shall find historians, novelists, poets, dramatists, painters and sculptors busy at the work of recording in their own peculiar way the striking incidents that may have transpired during the campaign. Play bills, pictures and books will surely a commentary on the revolution. A more national character and healthy vitality will be infused into the several branches of native literature and art, while our dramatic and lyric stage will be well supplied, not with foreign, but American compositions. Fortunately we have in our artist soldiers men who may rival the Horace Vernets and Vaanders of the Old World, and whose personal impressions of the revolution will be of the highest value in enabling them to form that new school of American art of which we have now the promise.

ALLEGED INVASION OF VERMONT FROM CANADA.—From the official notes and proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of Canada, now sitting at Quebec, we make the following important extract: "NOTICE OF MOTION. Mr. Rymal—On Thursday next—Monday of to-morrow, whether the Government are aware that the territory of the State of Vermont, one of the United States of America, has been invaded by an armed force from this province, accompanied by persons in official positions, and in the name of the British representative in this province, and what, if any, they intend taking in order to bring the violence of the invasion to a speedy termination."

At first sight this looks rather alarming, especially when taken in connection with the tone of some of the London papers, which have favored the Southern confederacy, and the fact that British regiments have been placed on the frontier. But that it is to be regarded in the light of a serious invasion a moment's reflection will show to be impossible. Neither England nor Canada are at war with this country, and, of course, no invasion has taken place. But it is very probable that a number of Canadian sympathizers have crossed the frontier to join the Vermont regiments; and we know that along the borders of Maine the Canadians have offered their services to the North. The object of Mr. Rymal, therefore, evidently is to prevent Canada in any way committing itself in favor of the government at Washington, in advance of the orders of the British government, which has intimated its intention, through Lord John Russell, in Parliament, to maintain a neutral position as far as is compatible with the protection of British rights. No doubt the English troops are placed on the frontier to prevent armed bodies of Canadians from passing the line to give aid to the Northern army. But with what propriety Mr. Rymal can call this friendly assistance invasion we are at a loss to see; and equally difficult is it to determine how it could be a violation of international law, unless the independence of the Southern confederacy were first recognized by Great Britain, which is certainly not the fact. It is evident that the gentleman is in opposition to the Canadian Ministry, and desires to embarrass them by making a great flourish and magnifying a molehill into a mountain.

Markets. Chicago, May 18, 1861. Flour dull and unchanged. Wheat little above the price of last week. Corn 40c. Cash and delivery (cash freight) steady. Rice, 50c. Sugar, 50c. Coffee, 80c. New York. Lake freight—40c. Hides, 20c. Wool, 10c. Butter, 50c. Tallow, 50c. Lard, 50c. Pork, 50c. Beans, 50c. Peas, 50c. Lentils, 50c. Chickens, 50c. Turkeys, 50c. Eggs, 50c. Honey, 50c. Maple sugar, 50c. Molasses, 50c. Syrup, 50c. Sugar, 50c. Coffee, 80c. Tea, 50c. Spices, 50c. Raisins, 50c. Prunes, 50c. Apples, 50c. Peaches, 50c. Plums, 50c. Cherries, 50c. Strawberries, 50c. Raspberries, 50c. Blackberries, 50c. Currants, 50c. Grapes, 50c. Figs, 50c. Dates, 50c. Olives, 50c. Almonds, 50c. Walnuts, 50c. Pistachios, 50c. Cashews, 50c. Pecans, 50c. Chestnuts, 50c. Hazelnuts, 50c. Pineapples, 50c. Oranges, 50c. Lemons, 50c. Limes, 50c. Apples, 50c. Peaches, 50c. Plums, 50c. Cherries, 50c. Strawberries, 50c. Raspberries, 50c. Blackberries, 50c. Currants, 50c. Grapes, 50c. Figs, 50c. Dates, 50c. Olives, 50c. Almonds, 50c. Walnuts, 50c. Pistachios, 50c. Cashews, 50c. Pecans, 50c. Chestnuts, 50c. Hazelnuts, 50c. Pineapples, 50c. Oranges, 50c. Lemons, 50c. Limes, 50c.