

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

THE DAILY HERALD is published every morning, except on Sundays and public holidays, at one cent per copy, in advance for three months, and in arrears for one month, at the rate of three cents per copy. It is published for the Proprietor by J. G. Bennett, at No. 111 and 112 of Nassau street, at the corner of the Broadway.

Volume XXVI. No. 356

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

- ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Irving place. —BAQUÉ—KANTILANORATION—SCHOOLMASTER.
NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—PROF. HERBERG.
WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—LAKES OF KILLARNEY—OUR ALB—HAPPY MAN.
WALLACK'S THEATRE, No. 84 Broadway.—UP AT THE HILLS—YOU CAN'T HARRY YOUR GRANDMOTHER.
LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE, Broadway.—LITTLE TOM—ROBINSON CRUSOE.
NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—PUTAN—AN OBJECT OF INTEREST—SWORD OF HONOR.
BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—STICKER'S NATIONAL CONGRESS.
HARVARD AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—DAY AND EVENING.—GIRLS.—HITPOCRASIS, WEALE, AND OTHER CURIOSITIES.
BRYANT'S MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 478 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, &c.
HOOLEY'S MINSTRELS, Stryker's Institute, No. 629 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, &c.
NIBLO'S SALOON, Broadway.—PAK FAN.
MELRODDE CONCERT HALL, No. 439 Broadway.—SONGS, DANCES, BURLESQUES, &c.—BUOLLETTA.
CANTERBURY MUSIC HALL, 55 Broadway.—SONGS, DANCES, BURLESQUES, &c.—MONS. DECALEBEREAU.
GAITEES CONCERT ROOM, 616 Broadway.—DRAWING ROOM ENTERTAINMENTS, BALLET, PANTOMIME, &c.—FARGES, &c.
AMERICAN MUSIC HALL, 444 Broadway.—SONGS, BALLET, PANTOMIME, &c.—SCARFATI.
METROPOLITAN CONCERT HALL, 600 Broadway.—SONGS, DANCES, BURLESQUES, &c.
CRYSTAL PALACE CONCERT HALL, No. 45 Bowery.—BURLESQUES, SONGS, DANCES, &c.—NIGGER UP THE CHIMNEY.
PARISIAN CABINET OF WONDERS, 563 Broadway.—Open daily from 10 A. M. till 9 P. M.
NATIONAL MUSIC HALL, Chatham street.—BURLESQUES, SONGS, DANCES, &c.
NOVELTY MUSIC HALL, 616 Broadway.—BURLESQUES, SONGS, DANCES, &c.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Tuesday, December 24, 1861.

THE SITUATION.

Nothing new has been developed in Washington relative to the Mason and Slidell difficulty. It is thought that General Scott has brought out some propositions which may place the whole affair in a new phase. It seems to be understood that the instructions to Lord Lyons were made somewhat precipitately; and as no steps have been taken by the British Ambassador to make any positive demand on our government, the Cabinet are not alarmed on the subject of a war arising immediately out of the matter.

No movements of importance took place yesterday in the army of the Potomac, nor had any news of a battle in Kentucky reached headquarters. General McClellan forwarded to General Fremont his official report of the battle at Dranesville; but it does not contain any material details not published already in the columns of the HERALD.

From Fortress Monroe we have intelligence of a skirmish which took place near Newmarket Bridge yesterday morning, and another at Newport News, the particulars of which have not yet arrived.

The news from Williamsport, Md., shows that the rebels still continue their assaults with shell and shot on Dam No. 5, which are returned by our batteries; but as yet they have not succeeded in effecting any serious damage.

A new tariff bill, for the purpose of increasing the revenue, passed both houses of Congress today, in which an increase of duty is put upon tea, coffee and sugar. The duty on tea will henceforth be twenty cents a pound; on coffee, five cents, and on sugar, three cents, clayed, and two and a half cents, brown. The following schedule will show the increase of duty on these articles since the passage of the tariff of March last:—

Table with 3 columns: Tariff of March 1861, July 1861, Dec. 23, 1861. Rows include Tea, Coffee, Sugar (clayed), and Sugar (brown).

This addition, it is presumed, will yield seven or eight millions to the revenue of the government for the present year.

From the Perla and Australasian, which passed Cape Race yesterday, with British troops for Canada, our agent was enabled to obtain a telegraphic summary of European news to the 15th instant, three days later.

Prince Albert, the husband of Queen Victoria, died in England at noon on Sunday, the 15th instant, after a short attack of gastric fever. His case was not considered dangerous until the 13th instant.

Although the preparations for war with the United States were continued with great activity, the sudden death of the Prince Consort appears to have produced a necessity for a change of tactics on the part of Lord Palmerston, for we find that Earl Derby was consulted by the Cabinet on the question of the difficulty. It is said that he approved of the government policy, and suggested that captains of outward bound vessels be instructed to signalize English vessels that "War with America" is probable. It is said that the underwriters strongly approved of this idea.

The Perla has one thousand one hundred troops on board, the Australasian another large detachment, and the Niagara was to carry a brigade of artillery to Halifax.

In addition to the troops which are to be landed in Canada from the Perla and Australasian, England has now in her North American and West India stations the forces enumerated underneath, viz:—

Table with 3 columns: Designation, Classification, Station. Rows include 1st battalion, 7th brigade, 7th company, 30th regiment, 4th regiment, and 4th battalion.

Royal Canada Rifle reg't. Infantry. Canada.
6th regiment (line). Infantry. Nova Scotia.
68th regiment (line). Infantry. Newfoundland.
Royal Newfoundland corps. Infantry. Newfoundland.
Of the artillery and engineers stationed at Montreal and Halifax, nearly one-half are natives of Ireland, born and brought up, for the most part, in

the northern counties of the kingdom. The battalion of the Seventeenth regiment, stationed at Quebec, contains a large number of Englishmen; but the Irish and Scotch form the majority. The Thirtieth regiment of infantry, at Toronto, has a good deal over the half of its number Englishmen. The Forty-seventh is almost exclusively Irish, and in the Sixty-second and Sixty-third the Irish have a heavy preponderance.

The Royal Canada Rifles and Royal Newfoundland Corps are local organizations, enlisted under royal warrants from the Horse Guards; but in both there are a large number of Irish colonists, more particularly in the Newfoundland Corps, of which men of Irish birth or Irish parentage make up the greater bulk.

Table with 3 columns: Designation, Classification, Station. Rows include 1st battalion, 7th brigade, 7th company, 30th regiment, 4th regiment, and 4th battalion.

The white force in the West India Islands consists, on the whole, a majority of Englishmen; but in the Thirty-ninth regiment the Irish prevail. The colored regiments are highly praised for their appearance and drill by the British officers.

The latest European despatches by the Edinburgh, dated in London on the 12th inst., report that the press of the Continent was becoming alarmed at the prospect of a war between England and the United States. The most influential journals in Havre, Marseilles and Bordeaux advise the Emperor of France to observe a strict neutrality during the contest. Some of the Paris papers recommend an energetic mediation, and a direct proposal for intervention—according to the agreement of the Paris Conference of 1856—to Napoleon, while the Opinions Nationale, the organ of the French "liberals," asserts that he should not follow England's example should she recognize the South. The Constitutionnel says that a strong Anglo-French alliance should be made.

The news selected from the Canadian journals and published in this morning's HERALD shows the intensity of the war feeling which exists in that province as far as it is manifested by the calling out of the sedentary militia, the fitting out of gunboats for the lakes, the fortification of various ports supposed to be in danger, the drilling of the regulars and volunteers, or active militia, &c. General Williams, the Commander-in-Chief of the forces in Canada, accompanied by his staff, has been engaged rapidly moving about the country from Windsor on the extreme west to Gaspe on the extreme east, from Collingwood on the north to the lakes on the south, for the purpose of locating fortifications and other defences in consequence of the crisis. A Turin newspaper warns England that Napoleon will at once interfere in the East when she is engaged with America, and the Austrian papers are of opinion that he will attack Germany when the strife has fairly commenced here.

It was rumored in England that Commodore Burnett, of the Royal Navy, was to hoist his flag on a heavy frigate bound for the Australian waters.

The British ships Nile (flag), Diadem and Spitfire, were at Bermuda, West Indies, on the 11th inst. The frigate Mersey had left for Jamaica, and the transport Himalaya for Barbadoes. The Challenge, Bulldog and Steady were at Nassau, N. P. The gunboat Nimble left Bermuda on the 8th inst. for Havana.

The regular troops have been transported from their nominal stations to others on the borders, and old and almost disabled forts have been or are to be furnished up, so as to make them, with regard to actual service, almost as good as new. At Collingwood, which is situated at the head of Georgian Bay, a naval station is to be located, and fortifications erected, doubtless for the purpose of threatening Chicago and other places along the American shore of Lakes Superior and Michigan. Ammunition and arms have been distributed along their coast so as to be ready for use when wanted, and artillery companies have been sent from the interior to exposed points, for the purpose, it is said, of repelling invasion.

In connection with the Canadian news it is as well to state that our government has not been unmindful of the condition of the defenses along our own border. A portion of the regular army who were liberated by the rebels on their parole not to fight against them, have been sent to the Canadian frontier, where their services are required to make the necessary preparations to defend our own lines from a foreign invasion, and where such services can and will be used without involving a breach of parole on the part of the men thus released from imprisonment by the rebels.

CONGRESS.

Both houses of Congress yesterday passed a bill increasing the duty on tea to twenty cents per pound; on coffee to five cents per pound; on sugar two and a half, three, five and eight cents per pound, according to quality, and on molasses to six cents per gallon. This action of Congress is in accordance with suggestions contained in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury. It is believed that the increased duties on these articles will yield between seven and eight million dollars of revenue.

In the Senate yesterday, Mr. Garrett Davis, the new Senator from Kentucky, was qualified and took his seat. The House bill appropriating \$1,500,000 for gunboats on the Western waters was passed. A memorial from citizens of Boston, averring that the freedom of the press has been abridged, and asking relief, was presented by Mr. Sumner. Mr. King, of New York, offered a resolution, which was laid over, requesting that the President institute proceedings in the courts of law against persons who may have been arrested by executive authority, and who now remain in custody, so that a judicial examination may be had in each case, to ascertain what shall be allowed to take the oath of allegiance and who shall be detained. A select committee was ordered to consider the expediency of connecting some of the military and naval stations on the coast by submarine telegraph. Mr. Simmons, of Rhode Island, is the chairman of the committee. Mr. Wilson, of Massachusetts, introduced a bill declaring army or naval officers who may seize, hold or deliver up slaves to their masters guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by dishonorable discharge from the service, and to be forever ineligible to reappointment in such service. Also, that if any officer of the United States, civil,

military or naval, shall, except when Congress shall have suspended the writ of habeas corpus, issue any warrant or order of arrest for any person as a prisoner of State or political offender, and not forthwith deliver over such person to the judicial authorities for trial, such officer shall be fined in any sum from one thousand to five thousand dollars, or imprisoned from six months to one year, or both, at the discretion of the court, and, moreover, give a right of action for damages to the party aggrieved. The bill was referred to the Judiciary Committee. Bills were introduced providing for an additional Judge for the Southern district of New York, and to regulate and change the circuit of the United States Court for said district. The bill to increase the number of cadets at the West Point Military Academy from 170 to 350 was discussed, but no vote taken on the subject. The House resolution to adjourn till the 2d of January was taken up; but upon coming to a vote there was found to be no quorum, and the Senate adjourned.

In the House of Representatives, Mr. Vallandigham introduced a bill to enforce the writ of habeas corpus. No action was taken on it. The resolution offered on Friday last, requesting the Committee on Military Affairs to report a bill providing an "additional article of war for the government of the army," whereby all officers in the military service of the United States shall be prohibited from using any portion of the forces under their respective commands for the purpose of returning fugitive slaves from service or labor, and to provide for the punishment of such officers as may violate said "article of war" by dismissal from the service, was adopted. A joint resolution authorizing the suspension for twelve months of the collection of the national direct tax in Missouri was referred. Bills for the better organization of the military establishment, and for the improvement of the harbor of Erie, Pa., were introduced and referred. The Committee on Territories was instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing territorial governments within the limits of the disloyal States or districts. The Committee on Military Affairs was instructed to inquire into the necessity of fortifying the east and west entrances of Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island. A resolution in favor of a bill providing that no rebel shall hereafter hold any office or trust under the constitution of the United States was adopted. Resolutions were adopted calling for information relative to the purchase of arms, and all correspondence relative to those procured by General Fremont. A bill granting lands in aid of a railroad from the Missouri river to San Francisco was introduced and referred to a special committee. A resolution was adopted directing the Committee on Commerce to inquire as to the extension of maritime facilities, in order to facilitate the emigration from Ireland of those who desire to leave that country in consequence of apprehended famine there. The Post Office Committee was instructed to inquire into and report a system of money exchanges through the mails. The House adjourned till Thursday.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The Perla and Australasian, as British troop ships, passed Cape Race yesterday, bound for Canada. The news is to the 15th instant, three days later.

Consols closed in London on the 13th instant at 90 1/2. Railway shares had slightly improved, and bank shares were steady. There were heavy arrivals of American wheat and flour at Liverpool. The business done was small, and prices ruled in favor of buyers.

The Emperor of Austria had granted an amnesty to all the political prisoners in Venice.

The North Star reached this port yesterday afternoon with the California mails of the 2d inst, and \$828,139 in specie, from San Francisco and Aspinwall. Her news from California has been anticipated by the telegraph.

The British steamer at Aspinwall reported that the privateer Sumter was saved from the United States sloop-of-war Iroquois, at Martinique, by a French man-of-war, the captain of which protested against any attack on her in that port, as a breach of French neutrality in the war. The French war ship put to sea the same night, and the Iroquois, thinking she was the Sumter, followed her for a time. When the Iroquois discovered her mistake and returned to Port Royal the Sumter was also gone.

From New Granada the news is dated at Bogota on the 28th of November. Mosquera's cause is represented as being very much improved, in fact, in the ascendant. Canal, an opposing chief, had surrendered to him, and an extensive and deep laid conspiracy, formed with a view to the overthrow of his government, had been discovered and its members dispersed. The General was about to visit the State of Antioquia, and had sent on reinforcements to his army there.

The United States steamer Wyoming had left Panama for Guayaquil and the South. The Lancaster was about to sail for San Francisco. The Cyane was at Panama and the Bainbridge at Aspinwall when the North Star left.

The mails from Central and South America had not reached Panama. Rumors were afloat there that the Nicaragua Transit route to California is to be reopened. An agent was about to leave Panama for Nicaragua, in order to examine and report on the state of the road, as well as on the condition of the harbor of San Juan del Norte.

Captain Betsworth, of the schooner Addie E. Barnes, arrived at this port yesterday morning, bringing dates from St. Johns, Porto Rico, to the 9th inst. Three or four days previous a Spanish steamer arrived, loaded with troops, and immediately sailed for Mexico. A Spanish government steamer was daily expected at Porto Rico, for Mexico, with General Prim on board, to take command of the Spanish forces in Mexico. Several companies garrisoned at Porto Rico volunteered to go to Mexico, and sailed in the first mentioned steamer.

We give in another column a story from Lieutenant Hurd, of the Maine cavalry, an escaped prisoner from the jail at Charleston, in which he states that, during the confinement in that city, all the prisoners there confined, including Colonel Corcoran, made their escape by leaping from the second story windows, the jail being then on fire. Mr. Hurd is now stopping in this city at the Manhattan Hotel, in Murray street. He states that Col. Corcoran has probably arrived at Beaufort.

The Missouri rebels are getting short of money, and are about to apply to the fountain head of shipmasters at Richmond for assistance. Ex-Governor Jackson has appointed a commission, consisting of David B. Atchison, who was once United States Senator from Missouri, and afterwards head devil among the Kansas border ruffians; John W. Reid, who was recently expelled from the House of Representatives, and Thomas L. Sneed, formerly a member of Congress, to ascertain the expenditures of the rebel forces in Missouri during the war, and lay claim for the amount on the Confederate government. Their claims are based on the admission of Missouri into Jeff Davis' government. A letter said that Governor Magoffin, of Kentucky, has become quite docile. His former secession sentiments have, in a great measure, vanished, or are at least hidden beneath the cloak of hypocrisy, and he now announces his intentions to send no more votes to the Legislature, but will sign every bill that passes. He is nevertheless known to be a firm friend of Breckinridge, Marshall and Buckner.

The commander of the Union forces at Santa Fe, New Mexico, has been compelled to levy forced loans upon the merchants until the government can supply him with funds.

The Quartermaster General at Washington writes that the crew of the steamer Union, which vessel belonged to the great naval expedition, and went

ashore in the gale on the coast of North Carolina, will be paid for their services when released the same as though they had been actively employed, but so pay can be advanced until they return.

A negro insurrection is reported to have broken out in Mississippi, and it is said that property has been destroyed on General Quitman's plantation to the amount of over a hundred thousand dollars.

Among the sixty-four secessionists who have been assessed in St. Louis to make up ten thousand dollars for the benefit of the Union refugees are several fashionable and wealthy ladies. At last accounts they had failed to see the justice of the order of General Halleck.

The system of recruiting now practiced in Cincinnati is to accept no enlistments for particular regiments, but to muster the men into service and assign them to such regiments as the proper officers shall deem most fitting.

The Republican State Convention of Connecticut is called to meet in Hartford on the 16th of January next. The intention of the Central Committee is to make this an administration gathering, and to kick the abolition and disorganizing element of the party out of doors.

The anniversary of the Landing of the Pilgrim Fathers on Plymouth Rock, on the 22d of December, 1620, was celebrated yesterday by the New England Society of this city with a banquet at the Astor House, at which speeches were made by Mr. Evans, President of the Society; Rev. Dr. Adams, Robert J. Walker, Rev. Dr. Storr, Gov. Curtin, of Pennsylvania; Mr. Charles Anderson, brother to General Anderson, and others. The proceedings, of which we give a report, were quite interesting.

Colonel Mulligan was serenaded last evening after the delivery of his lecture, by the remaining members of the Sixty-ninth regiment, at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. He appeared and bowed his response. After which, he was introduced to a large number of the gallant men tendering him the honor.

The evidence in the case of Charles M. Jeffords, charged with the murder of John W. Matthews, was all given in when the court adjourned last evening. The cross-examination of Mrs. Walton developed some interesting facts as to her history, and will form the most interesting chapter of this remarkable criminal investigation. The summing up speeches will be made to-day, and the case will be given to the jury in the afternoon.

At the meeting of the Board of Aldermen last evening a communication was received from the Mayor vetoing a resolution designating the premises in Theatre alley recently occupied by Hose Company No. 56 as a depot for fuel for steam fire engines. The resolution of the Councilmen appropriating \$15,000 to provide new uniforms for the Sixty-ninth regiment of State militia was concurred in. The weekly statement of the Finance Department shows a balance in the treasury on the 21st inst. amounting to \$3,396,646. After the transaction of some unimportant business the Board adjourned till this evening.

The Board of Councilmen met last night, Morgan James, Esq., presiding. Several unimportant resolutions, petitions and bills were received and referred to the proper committees. A memorial of John McQuade was received from the Board of Aldermen, asking for the interposition of the Common Council to procure the release of Captain Hugh McQuade, a prisoner of war at Richmond, Va., and was adopted. Nothing else of importance transpired.

According to the City Inspector's report, there were 429 deaths in the city during the past week—an increase of 28 as compared with the mortality of the week previous, and 52 more than occurred during the corresponding week last year. The recapitulation table gives 6 deaths of alcoholism, 4 of diseases of the bones, joints, &c.; 68 of the brain and nerves, 5 of the generative organs, 12 of the heart and blood vessels, 167 of the lungs, throat, &c.; 6 of old age; 50 of diseases of the skin and eruptive fevers; 4 premature births, 42 of diseases of the stomach, bowels and other digestive organs; 39 of uncertain seat and general fevers; of diseases of the urinary organs, and 19 from violent causes. There were 232 natives of the United States, 10 of England, 93 of Ireland, 34 of Germany, 4 of Scotland, and the balance of various foreign countries.

The Hudson river is again free from ice, and navigation unobstructed.

The inclemency of the weather yesterday had an unfavorable influence on business transactions. The cotton market was unchanged, while the sales embraced about 400 a 500 bales, on the basis mostly of 37c. a 38c. for middling uplands, while good to strict middling do. was scarce and nominal at 40c. The stock has become so much reduced as to cause prices to vacillate in some degree irregularly between the opinions of buyers and sellers.

Four was inactive and heavy, and prices for some grades of common were 5c. per barrel lower, while good to prime extra brands were unchanged. Wheat was unusually quiet, and sales limited, with prices for most descriptions very steady, and in some cases firm. Corn was inactive, and no sales of importance transpired, while prices favored purchasers, with sales of Western mill for shipment, at 12c. and from store, at 12c. a 6c. Pork was quiet at \$12 25 for old mess, and at \$12 75 for new, and prime at \$8 50 a \$9. Coffee was more active, with sales of 6,000 bags of Rio at 17 1/2c. a 18 1/2c., with rumors of additional sales. Freight was firm, with fair engagements. The government contract for 540,000 lbs. bacon sides was taken at 7 1/2c. a 7 3/4c., and 270,000 lbs. hams do. at about 7c.

The Trent Affair at Washington—Our Policy No Excuse to England for War.

We make no pretensions to a precise understanding of the instructions before Lord Lyons, nor of the attitude which will be finally assumed by our government in this affair of the Trent. We have, however, advanced the opinion that Mr. Lincoln and his Cabinet, rather than accommodate the British ministry with a convenient pretext for bringing their fleets and armies to the assistance of our Southern rebellion, will yield to the ultimatum of England, although it may require the restoration of our rebel ambassadors—Mason and Slidell—to the protection of the British flag. As between this act of restitution and war, we have no doubt that war will be avoided. We have no misgivings upon this point. We entertain the conviction that our Cabinet will so dispose of this question as to leave to England not even a quibble or a technicality as an excuse for a rupture.

In this view of the subject we cannot be mistaken in the opinion that the people of our loyal States will cordially support their government, to the extent of yielding the point of national pride involved, in order that the life of the nation at this crisis may not be thrown into the scales of a foreign war. We are, however, roundly taken to task for these opinions by a self-complacent Washington special of the New York Tribune, who flatly declares that "as regards the statement that the Cabinet is determined to yield to England, even to the point of surrendering Mason and Slidell, rather than fight her, which the HERALD of Saturday makes broadly, and in double ended, and the Times insinuates, it is utterly and mischievously false." Then we are graciously informed that there is no principle of international law "by which a nation can be required to give up its own property or citizens to another nation, no matter how the last possession was acquired;" and that "Great Britain, not having recognized the Jeff. Davis government, cannot consider its emissaries as other than our citizens."

But our learned commentator forgets "the belligerent rights" accorded by England to our revolted States, and that it is only upon this ground of "belligerent rights" on our side that we can justify this seizure of Mason and Slidell.

Here, too, the case becomes so entangled among the nice distinctions and precedents of the law that we discover at once the difficulty of the British Cabinet in submitting the matter to an elaborate diplomatic discussion, and the secret of this reported ultimatum, which, like the previous question in Congress, cuts off all debate. The ministerial journals of England also inform us that whatever precedents may be produced in our favor, that whatever heretofore may have been the practices and the law of England herself, she will be governed in this case of the Trent by her present notions of her neutral rights. If this be so argument is out of the question, and, if we do not choose to yield to the demands of England as her conditions of peace, we have no other resource than war.

In this connection we must not overlook the important fact that between the party in power and the party out of power in England there is a constant struggle going on, and that at any moment the dominant party, upon a test question in Parliament, may be thrown out. With us a Presidential election establishes the party in power for four years; but in England the Queen may be compelled, by a vote of the House of Commons, to change the party complexion of her Cabinet two or three times in a year. We may safely assume, too, that the present ministry of Palmerston, Russell and their associates have been compelled to take a bold and extreme position on this Trent question for fear of the opposition party watching for their opportunity in the "Commons," and that a war cry is always a popular cry in England. Above all, the British government and the British aristocracy, after their incessant intrigues and abolition agitating schemes of thirty years for our destruction, are tempted now to seize upon any plausible excuse for intervention in behalf of this Southern rebellion. With the dissolution of this Union into a parcel of petty, fighting republics, like those of Central or South America, an overshadowing commercial rival of England would be removed out of her way, and her commercial and naval dominion on this continent would soon, perhaps, become absolute.

Is it then consistent with sound policy or with our national safety to give to England at this crisis a plausible pretext, or even a shallow excuse, for an armed intervention in behalf of Jeff. Davis? No. Our first, highest and paramount duty is the suppression of this Southern rebellion. In view of this important task, our loyal people and our loyal States are ready to make liberal concessions of technicalities, if needed, on this broad question of "belligerent rights," to secure the neutrality of the two great naval Powers of Europe, or either of them. Now, then, can our advocacy of the alternative, if demanded, of surrendering Mason and Slidell to England, be "utterly and mischievously false," as charged by our abolition contemporary. We believe that we are only reflecting the views of our Cabinet in supporting this alternative of restitution, as preferable to giving even an excuse to England to come to the relief and assistance of this Southern rebellion. We can make this Trent affair the medium for a definite understanding with England upon this question of her neutrality—of an understanding which will bind her to keep the peace to the end of this domestic struggle. It will then be time enough to settle all our outstanding accounts with European Powers. Peace with them for the present, and a settlement hereafter, full and complete.

In counselling the opposite policy our abolition contemporaries are justly open to the gravest suspicions of wicked designs. If anything would drive our government to the arming of Southern slaves against their rebel masters it would be the intervention of England as an ally of Jeff. Davis. If anything would push our government to the extremity of recognizing the Davis confederacy, it would be the intervention of European squadrons opening our Southern ports and furnishing all the much needed supplies to our nearly exhausted rebel armies and their spurious government in exchange for their cotton. "Emancipation or separation" is the war cry of our abolition faction; and, as the one thing, if not the other, would be very apt to follow the intervention of England in this war, surely it is the policy of Mr. Lincoln's administration, which is fighting for "the integrity of the Union," to give a wide margin to abolition ideas of national honor and national dignity in connection with this affair of the Trent. Adhering to our impression that England's ultimatum of peace will be the surrender of Mason and Slidell, we also adhere to our opinion that the point of national honor involved will be but as the dust in the balance weighed against "the integrity of the Union."

The Northern Rebellion and Its Organs.

There is a Southern rebellion, and there is a Northern rebellion—both alike criminal, both equally opposed to the Union, the constitution and the laws. The Southern rebels are in the field; but they are aiding and assisting their Southern brethren just as effectually as if they were. They are leagued with them and with the English government in breaking up the Union. The object of the three parties is common, though they each seek to accomplish it by different means.

One of the instrumentalities by which the Northern rebels are endeavoring to consummate their nefarious designs is the abolition press. As a sample of this agency, we may refer to an article in yesterday's number of the chief organ of the Almighty Nigger, who is worshipped here at the North by the radical republicans as fervently as a fetish is worshipped by the sable subjects of the King of Dahomey. This prophet of the Ebony Idol announces his displeasure at the proclamation of General Phelps, not because it assailed the political institutions and the religion of the people of Louisiana—the religion, too, of a very large proportion of his own troops—but because it did not go far enough, and proclaim emancipation to the slaves. The same complaint is made of the proclamations of all the other generals, and the government itself is assailed because it does not put into the hands of every general a uniform proclamation abolishing negro slavery from Maryland to Texas. There must no longer be "one policy for Louisiana, another for South Carolina, and a third for Kentucky or Virginia; there must be a definite purpose, and it must be pursued unflinchingly to the end." What that purpose is there is no room left for the shadow of a doubt. "The dilatory policy" of the government is assailed, and we are told that "its excuses for doing nothing are invented with difficulty and heard with impatience." The true reason, says the nigger's journal, of all the delay hitherto is the failure of the government to recognize "the very first requisite of our present position—a precise and well understood

policy with regard to the slaves." The "precise policy" demanded is the fomenting of a servile insurrection, after the example of the tragedy of St. Domingo, and the raid of John Brown at Harper's Ferry; and from the hour of the promulgation of such a policy, we are gravely assured, "the rebellion would be doomed." The article concludes with the following sanguinary appeal:—

A new year is about to open. Let it open upon a national policy. Its adoption and promulgation have been already too long postponed. Let all who desire the triumph of the nation, consider simply what policy will effect that triumph most surely and speedily. Let us rally an additional four millions of stout hearts and strong arms to the side of the nation, and thus end the war.

Here is nothing short of a proposition to proclaim freedom to the four millions of Southern slaves, and put arms in their hands. The impracticability of this fanatical scheme can be only equalled by its cold-blooded, savage atrocity, and it is worthy of the journal that advised the breaking down of the embankments of the Mississippi, in order to overwhelm in its waters all the white women and children, together with the negroes, inhabiting the States lying on its shores—the journal which exulted in the prospect of "the wives and children of the whole Southern people being reduced to beggary and covered with rags." The "national policy" recommended for the new year is the inhuman, barbarous policy, revolting to all civilized Christian nations, of arming the blacks for the destruction of the white race, men, women and children, of our own blood. This is a policy of wholesale murder, and it is only bends incarnate that could propose or sanction it.

It was the same atanic course, pursued by England in the war of the Revolution, which gained so many friends for the colonies, even in England itself. The red savages were taken into alliance with that unscrupulous Power, and their bloody massacres of unarmed men, women and children, have not been forgotten to this day. They are treasured up in everlasting remembrance against Great Britain. It was her employment of the scalping knife and the tomahawk of the Indian against the white race in the colonies which induced Lord Chatham in the British Senate to declare that if he was an American, as he was an Englishman, he would never lay down his arms as long as one hostile foot trod American soil. And would not thousands at the North now give utterance to a similar declaration if the national crime should be committed of putting arms into the hands of the blacks?

The object of the war is not to meddle with any Southern institution, much less to exterminate the white race, but to restore the Union and the federal authority in the rebellious States. By destroying the South we destroy one great source of the prosperity of the North. By creating eternal enmity in the hearts of the Southern people we lose the objects of the war, and render the Union impossible. There is no need of any "policy"—no need of legislation. The fate of the slaves will follow the result of the war. The duty of the President is plain. It is to uphold the constitution, as he is sworn to do, and any policy inconsistent with that would be perfidious. Neither he nor Congress has any constitutional power to interfere with slavery in the Southern States. His power is limited to bringing back those States to their allegiance. He can do nothing to abolish their State institutions. To do so would be a flagrant violation of the fundamental law of the land. The attempt would be a failure, and, besides, needless. For if our armies should so penetrate to the heart of the Southern confederacy that they come in contact with the four millions of negroes, the rebellion is already crushed by the very fact, and we have no business with the slaves. If our armies cannot so penetrate, proclamations could not reach the blacks, and the only effect of them would be to nerve the white population to more desperate resistance. And this is the tendency of the policy of the Northern rebellion—it is to unite the South as one man, and to divide and distract the North. It is to prevent the Union men of the South having any ground on which they can stand, and it is to alarm the constitutional loyalty of the North and repel or alienate its support of the war. Thus Phillips, Greeley and the other radicals are playing into the hands of the Southern rebels and the British government at the same time. They are conspiring against the government at Washington, and particularly its head Mr. Lincoln, whose moderation has disappointed the extravagant expectations of the radical fanatics. The President has done well throughout, and he ought to be sustained by the whole people against the abolition rebels of the North. The idea of Mr. Lincoln, as announced in his proclamations and messages, is that the Union must and shall be preserved. The idea of the fanatics is that it must not be preserved, but destroyed, by turning the war for the Union into a war of ideas and abstractions. "All wars," says the Tribune, "must henceforth be in large measure wars of opinion—this one is pre-eminently so." It is no such thing. It is simply a war for the preservation of the integrity of our political organization; and the President or Congress might with equal propriety make it a war against all property, a war of religion—Protestant against Catholic—or a war for the abolition of all religion, as to make it a war for the abolition of negro slavery. Such a war would be only the revival of those conflicts which desolated Europe in the dark ages, and are now exploded in that section of the globe, as inconsistent with modern civilization. Is it for America, which boasts to be in the van of human progress, to take a leap backwards to the dark, and plunge into the chaos of bloody barbarism, out of which enlightened nations have long since emerged?

FOREIGN ARBITRATION IN AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

It is rumored that France is anxious to act as arbitrator in the affair between this country and England, and that General Scott returns in the Arago with a proposition from the French government to that effect. We hope that our government will refuse this and every other offer of foreign arbitration. There is no sovereign in Europe who can act impartially or decide impartially in such a crisis. Democracy always stands at a disadvantage before any court where aristocracy presides. It is always difficult for a plebeian to obtain justice upon a noble, and especially when another noble decides the case. The European Powers all regard this country with mingled envy and dislike. They would gladly see it humbled and disrupted. They will lose no opportunity to weaken it, either by arms or diplomacy, and should never be trusted with so important an affair as this. France is particularly objectionable as an arbitrator. It is now well understood that France wished to recognize the rebel-