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JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
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Volume XXVII.....No. 36

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—HIS LAST LEGS—MONSIEUR TONSON—A YANKEE IN ENGLAND—THE KENTUCKIAN.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—NAIAD QUEEN—MARRIED LIFE.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, No. 844 Broadway.—SPEED THE PLOUGH.

LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE, Broadway.—OUR AMERICAN COUSIN.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—DOMINIQUE—CHERRY AND FAIR STAR—JACK OF THE WOODS.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—STICKNEY'S NATIONAL CIRCUS.

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—COM NOTT—LIVING HIPPOPOTAMUS, WHALE, &c., at all hours.—ONDINA, afternoon and evening.

BRYANTS' MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadway.—DOWN IN OLD KENTUCKY.

HOOLEY'S MINSTRELS, Stuyvesant Institute, No. 659 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, &c.

MELODEON CONCERT HALL, No. 539 Broadway.—SONGS, DANCES, BURLESQUES, &c.—HOLIDAY IN IRELAND.

CANTERBURY MUSIC HALL, 585 Broadway.—SONGS, DANCES, BURLESQUES, &c.—MAZULM, THE NIGHT OWL.

GAIETIES CONCERT ROOM, 616 Broadway.—DRAWING ROOM ENTERTAINMENTS, BALLETS, PANTOMIMES, FARCES, &c.

AMERICAN MUSIC HALL, 444 Broadway.—SONGS, BALLETS, PANTOMIMES, &c.—PORTRAIT PAINTER.

CRYSTAL PALACE CONCERT HALL, No. 45 Bowery.—BURLESQUES, SONGS, DANCES, &c.—CORSLER'S FROLIC.

PARISIAN CABINET OF WONDERS, 563 Broadway.—Open daily from 10 A. M. till 9 P. M.

NOVELTY MUSIC HALL, 616 Broadway.—BURLESQUES SONGS, DANCES, &c.

New York, Thursday, February 6, 1862.

THE SITUATION.

Nothing of importance occurred in the Army of the Potomac yesterday. The only exciting event was the assumption of his command by General T. F. Meagher, who, accompanied by General Shields and a brilliant staff, formally took command of the Irish Brigade, amidst great enthusiasm and much rejoicing from officers and men. General Shields addressed the troops in most effective terms on the occasion.

The Commissioners to the South, Messrs. Fish and Ames, arrived at Fortress Monroe on Tuesday, where they were cordially received by General Wool. A flag of truce was at once sent to the rebel General Huger, at Craney Island, announcing their arrival, who, it was expected, would forward them to Richmond; but we have the positive authority of the Richmond *Examiner*, in an article which we publish to-day, that the rebel government *will not receive them*. The *Examiner* declares their mission insulting, refers to the political antecedents of Mr. Fish as a persistent abolitionist, and pronounces them both spies. The *Dispatch* also states that the rebel government has resolved not to sanction their mission, but will, on the contrary, exercise a rigid surveillance over all the communications that may be made with the Northern States.

Our news from Tennessee to-day is important. General Grant, with his gunboat expedition from Cairo, has got up the Tennessee river within four miles of Fort Henry, the only fortified post of the rebels on that river which presents any formidable features. It will be remembered that Fort Henry was the subject of a successful reconnoissance of the gunboat Lexington on the 21st ult., when she threw a shell into the works, and fired on three rebel craft lying in the river. The fort returned the fire on that occasion, but the shot fell short. Gen. Grant is now in the vicinity with a strong force, and will undoubtedly reduce the fort. We give to-day a map of the fort and its neighborhood.

We publish to-day the long looked for official report of General Beauregard of the battle of Manassas. It is a full and elaborately detailed document, graphically written, and presenting, on the whole, a fine picture of that memorable conflict, as seen from the rebel side. It will, no doubt, be read with intense interest, even at this late hour.

General Beauregard has left his command at Manassas, as was before stated, probably to take charge of the army at Columbus, Ky. The Richmond *Dispatch*, however, throws some doubt upon the destination of the rebel General; for, in announcing his departure on Friday last, it says that he may have gone to Columbus, to New Orleans, or elsewhere.

Some doubt is also thrown upon the reports that the firing from the Burnside fleet was heard in the direction of Roanoke Island, from the fact that it is stated in the Richmond *Dispatch* that a rebel steamer, which went down the Sound on Saturday to reconnoitre, reported on her return that no ships of the Burnside fleet were then visible, and it was thought that they had all sailed from Hatteras. The probability would thus seem to be that the firing heard was in the direction of Beaufort and Newbern rather than Roanoke Island.

Our advices from Europe are dated to the 24th of January, and so far as the news relates to the position of American affairs in England and France, it is of an important character.

Mr. Massey, member of Parliament for Salford borough, in England, made an address to his constituents on the 21st of January, in which he treated of the American question to the exclusion of all other topics—even that of reform of Parliament—by their particular desire. Salford is one of the most radical towns in Great Britain, and the audience was made up almost entirely of cotton operatives, who are now suffering much distress in consequence of the want of that staple. To these men Mr. Massey stated that England's best policy was an immediate armed intervention in the affairs of the United States, with a view to the raising of the blockade of the Southern ports, and the saving of the workingmen both of England and France from starvation thereby. As there are twenty-seven thousand cotton factory hands completely idle in and around Manchester, and one hundred and sixty-one thousand others working on "short time," the sentiments of Mr. Massey were loudly applauded.

The most important point of the news report is to be found in the fact that the London *Times* comments on this speech and the attitude of the Salford men in a powerful article, in which it condemns both, and warns the government of Great Britain against any interference or intervention—armed or politically active—in the affairs of the United States. The writer states that a great pressure will, no doubt, be exerted on the government in favor of the rebels of the South after Parliament meets, but he adds, the true policy of England is to suffer a little longer and let the event in America work itself out, as it will not be long in doing so. "It may, indeed, be doubtful whether our interference would not rather retard than hasten the desired result of opened ports and a large supply of cotton. Let us, then, pursue our honest course of standing quite aloof."

Advices from Manchester state that the shortening of the hours of labor in the factories is gradually extending, and in course of the next week or two the movement promises to become more extensive.

France was still inclined towards an active intervention, but there is little doubt that the altered tone of the London organ will have much influence in directing the mind of Napoleon in the opposite direction.

Lord John Russell's letter to the Liverpool Shipowners' Association on the subject of the blocking up of Charleston harbor—which was mentioned by the Africa—is published *in extenso* in the HERALD to-day.

A Charleston vessel, freighted with spirits of turpentine, had arrived in the Mersey. She ran the blockade, and her captain has asserted in England that the sinking of the whalers in the channel will improve the entrance to the port, the obstruction causing it to deepen through the action of the tides.

The allied treaty against Mexico had been revised by the addition of a sort of rider, attached to it by agreement between Admiral Rubalcaba, the naval Commander of Spain, and the captain of the French frigate Foudre. By this Spain consents that France shall take the lead in an advance on Mexico City, which the troops of Napoleon will hold, perhaps for some years, in order to restore peace to the country. The London *Times* says England will not object to such a movement, as she has no desire to "uphold the Monroe doctrine."

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday, the resolution offered some time since by Mr. Carlile, of Virginia, relative to the finances of the country, was referred to the Financial Committee. The West Point Academy Appropriation bill was passed without amendment. A resolution calling on the President for the recent correspondence regarding the presentation of American citizens at the Court of France was adopted. The bill defining the pay and emoluments of officers of the army was taken up, and the amendments of the Military Committee adopted. Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, called for the reading of the ninth section, which reduces the salaries of officers and all persons employed in the army and navy and civil service ten per cent during the rebellion. He said if that was all the reduction Congress was willing to make he would acquiesce. But this would preserve all the inequalities of the old system of compensation now fixed by a hundred different bills. He thought if this bill should be passed these inequalities would be fixed, and the old system of mileage kept in force. We should now take in hand a general system of reduction and retrenchment in our expenses. The estimates for the expenses of the next fiscal year were five hundred and fifty millions of dollars, and we know that this will be increased by various bills. This is five times the currency of the country, three times more than the coin in the country, and more than the expenses of Great Britain during the war with Napoleon. At this point of the proceedings the bill was laid aside, and the consideration of the resolution relative to the expulsion of Senator Bright was resumed. After debate, and a speech by Mr. Bright in his defence, the resolution of expulsion was adopted by a vote of thirty-two to fourteen.

The House of Representatives was occupied in discussing the Treasury Note bill. Our readers are referred to our report of the Congressional proceedings for the speeches delivered on the subject. The House will probably come to a vote on the bill before the close of the present week.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

By the arrival of the Nova Scotian at Portland, and Hansa and City of Baltimore at New York, yesterday, we have news from Europe dated to the 24th of January—five days later.

Prince Napoleon was seriously ill in Paris on the 23d ult.

The Liverpool cotton market was dull on the 24th ult. at a decline ranging from one-fourth to one-half of a penny. The fall was greatest on the lower descriptions of the staple. Breadstuffs had declined slightly, and the Liverpool market closed heavy on the 24th of January. Consols closed in London on the 24th ult. at 92⅞ a 93 for money.

The French budget for 1863 was published. The estimate exceeds that for 1862 by fourteen millions of dollars. There is an apparent advanced expenditure for the army and navy; but the Minister of Finance asserts that these two arms of the service will in reality cost less in 1863 than in 1862. He proposes, however, an increased taxation of the people by a levy of more heavy government dues on horses and carriages kept for pleasure, in the registration of deeds, and the stamp duties. The London *Times* says that France is about to diminish her military force, and that her industrial progress will be very rapid in consequence. Austria was about to remonstrate with the other great Powers on the continued alarm evoked by the condition of Piedmont. The Queen of Spain and the Princess Clothilde, wife of Prince Napoleon, are reported as being *enceinte*. The Czar of Russia had announced an augmentation of the public taxes.

Our correspondent in Port au Prince, writing on the 15th ult., states that the news of the surrender of Mason and Slidell was received with much joy by the people of Hayti. Secretary Seward's policy towards England put a stop to the operations of a gang of financial and commercial speculators who had worked steadily for an advance on the strength of the probability of a war. European vessels kept the market bare of coffee. The shipments to the United States were very limited. The political horizon of the republic was calm. A batch of the persons engaged in the late conspiracy against the government were on trial, and some few of them would be shot, without doubt.

In the Senate of our State Legislature yesterday, a number of bills were reported upon from the committees, and several new ones were introduced. The Assembly also transacted a considerable amount of business; but want of space prevents our referring to the various subjects in detail.

Five full companies of recruits for the Twelfth New York Volunteers left this city yesterday, by the Amboy route, to join the regiment, now stationed at Upton's Hill, Virginia. These companies were recruited principally from the Twelfth regiment of State militia.

We learned at the Marshal's office yesterday evening that a telegraphic despatch had been received in town from ex-Judge Dean, stating that Captain Gordon had been reprieved for two weeks. The United States District Attorney had not received any official notification; but he informed our reporter that he had no doubt of the accuracy of the report. Judge Dean has been in Washington for some weeks past, using the most strenuous efforts to obtain for the unfortunate man a commutation of his sentence.

The sleighing was kept up yesterday with quite as much enthusiasm as on the three previous days Private sleighs, livery sleighs, stage sleighs, business sleighs and juvenile sleighs were the order throughout the entire twenty-four hours, and quite a number of not very serious accidents were occasioned by the reckless manner in which these vehicles dashed through the streets. Some stringent regulations should be enforced to prevent this rapid driving through our crowded thoroughfares at least, if not in the less frequented avenues.

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held last evening, when a resolution was adopted to memorialize the State Legislature to donate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars for the purpose of erecting a fireproof building for a library for the Free Academy. A resolution was also adopted authorizing the Executive Committee on Free Academy to insure the library, museum and gallery, and to keep them insured. The sum of two hundred dollars was appropriated to the Committee on Heating and Ventilating for the purpose of inquiring into the best means of heating and ventilating the schools.

No business of public importance was transacted by the Commissioners of Emigration yesterday. From the weekly statement it appears that the number of emigrants who arrived here during the week ending on the 5th inst. was 202, making a total of 1,574 during the present year, against 2,765 up to the same date last year. The number of inmates remaining on Ward's Island is 798. The balance remaining in the bank to the credit of the Commissioners is $3,544 38.

Several witnesses were examined yesterday by the Legislative Contract Investigating Committee. Some decidedly rich revelations were made, it is said, which, when published, will likely startle the weak nerves of our contractingly disposed brethren. The committee will conclude their labors to-day for the present, as they leave for Albany this evening.

The market for beef cattle has been irregular, owing to irregular delivery of the cattle during the week or so past, and with a moderate demand prices have scarcely been sustained. The sales yesterday were effected chiefly at 5½c. a 8½c., but prime grades brought as high as 8¾c. a 9c., and in some instances 9¼c. a 10c. per pound—an advance of about 50c. per head. Cows were dull and unchanged. Veal calves sold to a fair extent at 4c. a 6c. a 6½c. Sheep and lambs were tolerably active at from $3 25 a $4 50 a $7 50 for poor to good and prime. Swine were plenty, in moderate request, and a shade lower, ranging from 3¾c. to 3½c. for corn fed, and 2¾c. a 3c. for still fed. The total receipts were 4,733 beef cattle, 90 cows, 346 veals, 5,717 sheep and lambs, and 27,820 swine.

The sales of cotton yesterday embraced about 275 bales, chiefly to spinners, including some lots imported from Liverpool, on the basis of 30c. a 31c. for middling uplands. The government public sale of Sea Island cotton came off yesterday, under the direction of Mr. Barney, the Collector of the port. The sale was conducted by Messrs. Burdett, Jones & Co. It drew a good and spirited company, and liberal prices were obtained. Sixty-six bales were bought by W. D. Maltbie & Co., cotton brokers, at 50c. per lb.; thirty-one do. by Mr. Tabor, do., at 64c.; fifty do. by Mr. Lewin, do., at 53½c.; two do. by E. C. Wilson, at 52c.; nine do. by Truesdale & Co., do., at 52½c., and four do. by C. A. Bangs & Co., at 58c., all for cash. Flour, under the news, was active and higher, and closed at an advance of full 5c. a 10c. per bbl., mostly at the latter figure for common and medium brands. Wheat was firmer, but not active; the light stock and firmness of holders tended to check sales. Corn was a trifle firmer, but not active. Pork was unchanged, and sales moderate. Sugars were steady, with sales of 212 hhds. Cubas and 100 do. Porto Ricos. Coffee was quiet and prices steady. Pepper was active, with sales of 3,000 a 4,000 bags, at 19c. a 19½c. Petroleum has become quite a large article of trade; the bark Flight, for Liverpool, was loaded with 2,500 bbls. refined at private terms, and a vessel up for London had 2,000 bbls. engaged. Freights were irregular, while engagements were to a fair extent.

Conspiracy in Congress to Destroy the Union.

The time has come to warn the Congress of the United States to beware how they continue to thwart the administration, obstruct the plans of the Commander-in-Chief, and disappoint the wishes of the people, by neglecting, by proper legislation, to provide for the naval, military, and financial wants of the country. The indignation of the people is becoming almost uncontrollable at the manifest symptoms that are exhibited, from day to day, of a predetermined purpose on the part of the radical faction at the Capitol to oppose, actively if possible, by sullen, dogged *vis inertiæ* at any rate, the efforts that are being made to restore the integrity of the Union. The bitterly incensed feeling in the army at the base ingratitude which has been manifested towards our gallant soldiers, and the want of appreciation of the unparalleled industry and heroic exertions that have been made by General McClellan, is reaching a point that may soon become alarming. Let Congress take heed. Colonel Richardson of Illinois has already thundered into the ears of the House of Representatives the dangers that may evolve from creating irritating and unpatriotic issues with our troops, and has hinted how the slanders that are daily vomited forth by the Greeleys, Gurleys, Chandlers, Wilkinsons, Garrisons, Conklings and Hales of the nation may unexpectedly be punished. That there is a powerful, treacherous clique in Washington, which prefers the permanent division of the United States into two confederacies to a return of the South to its allegiance, under the guarantees provided by the constitution, cannot be questioned, and the iniquitous machinations of those who compose it have reached the last limits of forbearance.

The news just received from Europe confirms the conviction that has been acquiring strength for a considerable period, that foreign Powers are gradually resolving to break the blockade of the Southern coast. In view of such a contingency, and of the imminent peril that has lately existed of a war with Great Britain, the most pressing necessity is felt for the increase of our navy, and the prompt adoption of measures for the defence of our seacoast. Yet the Committee on Naval Affairs of the United States Senate, of which Mr. Hale is unfortunately the Chairman, delayed reporting on the bill which passed the House, some weeks ago, for the construction of iron-clad vessels, until day before yesterday. And then, how was the subject presented to the Senate? So lukewarmly, so inefficiently, with so evident a resolve to cheat the public by an appearance of doing something, while really postponing action for an indefinite period, that one might suspect the committee of being under the immediate control of Lord Lyons, instead of being influenced by President Lincoln and the Secretaries of War and of the Navy. Mr. Hale acknowledged that the boats were strongly recommended by the Executive Department and by Mr. Stanton, and Senator Grimes said that the Secretary of the Navy had been to him a dozen times to urge the passage of the measure; yet the gross ignorance and stupid partisanship of Mr. Morrill of Maine was permitted to overrule the wants of the country, and a motion of Mr. Clark of New Hampshire to recommit the bill was quietly acquiesced in! This is simply monstrous. There is no conceivable palliation for such want of patriotism and promptitude nor can it be explained in any manner creditable to the majority in the Senate, and the Naval Committee.

Day by day, the country has been looking for immediate action on the part of Congress in relation to the embarrassed state of our national finances. "Immediate action," urges Mr. Chase, "is of great importance. The Treasury is nearly empty. I have been obliged to draw for the last instalment of the November loan. So soon as it is paid, I fear that the banks, generally, will refuse to receive the United States Treasury notes." Mayor Opdyke represented the whole enlightened sentiment of the North when he wrote:—"Unless the heavy floating debt of the government shall be paid with reasonable promptitude, and its rapidly accruing liabilities provided for, it will soon be found difficult to obtain supplies for the army at any price. Every day's delay is attended with grave danger to the public credit." In face of these terrible facts, well known, thoroughly understood, by every member of Congress, Mr. Morrill of Vermont, the chairman of the sub-committee on the tariff, of the Committee of Ways and Means of the House, ventured to set himself in opposition to the entire public sentiment of the North, by decrying Mr. Spaulding's Currency bill in a manner calculated to postpone legislation on the subject for another week. Mr. Roscoe L. Conkling followed him in a tirade against the measure; an irresponsible, malicious outpouring of venom against the head of the army, and a shallow, worthless substitute of which the clear purpose also is to delay legislation, and plunge the administration into a situation of inextricable embarrassment.

The fact cannot be too strenuously enlarged upon that the blatant tribe of abolitionist warriors, who have themselves omitted no opportunity of attacking President Lincoln and General McClellan for want of vigor in the prosecution of the war, have been the very individuals who have most resolutely persisted in refusing to vote the means for carrying on hostilities. In order to indulge in personal or fanatical malice, they have persevered in leaving the country without defence, in case of such complications with European Powers, as have ceaselessly been threatening us ever since the meeting of Congress. But for Hale and his colleagues, iron ships, according to his own acknowledgment, might have been already far advanced in process of construction. But for Messrs. Morrill, Stevens, Conkling and their associates, the finances of the nation would now be established upon a firm and secure basis, and the consternation that prevails in monetary circles would long ago have been dissipated. Congressional agitators are wholly responsible for the major part of the obstacles to a successful prosecution of the war, and it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that their purpose is predetermined to prevent a re-establishment of the authority of the constitution over the whole land; to force an acknowledgment of the independence of a Southern confederacy; and to place North America, for all future time, under the tutelage of foreign Powers, hostile to our institutions and envious of our greatness. Again we repeat, let Congress beware, for the people are weary and disgusted with its tergiversations; and in the fearful crisis in which the country is involved, an emergency is far from impossible, which will justify the Executive in acting without the Senate and House of Representatives, and adopting, in measures of finance and defence, such measures as the exigency of the case demands, relying upon a future and more enlightened Congress to justify and legalize its acts.

THE WALL STREET BANKS WORKING AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.—The whole country praised the patriotism of the Wall street bankers when they patriotically took from one hundred to one hundred and fifty millions of the popular loan at over seven per cent interest. The secret of that immense burst of pecuniary patriotism is now revealed, however; for it appears that some of the leading Wall street bankers figure largely in the recent swindling operations, by which shoddy vessels and high priced whale ships were foisted upon the government, and about thirty per cent net profits were made by the bankers concerned. To lend money at over seven per cent interest, and receive it back again almost directly for bogus articles, with thirty per cent profit, may not be patriotic, but it certainly is sharp practice on the bankers' part. But why do the banks, controlled by these Wall street contractors, oppose the Treasury Note bill, soon, we hope, to be passed by Congress? Because, out of an expenditure of two hundred millions of dollars, they and other contractors have netted the round sum of fifty millions; and, as government will probably expend eight hundred millions before the war closes, they expect to pocket at least two hundred millions altogether. Now the government, having at its control all the industry of the country, proposes to manage its own banking business also—which it can very well do—and so save some of this two hundred millions for itself; and, therefore, the question is whether the government or the banks shall lose. Of course the Wall street bankers are in favor of their banks; but we think that Congress, the people and the country will decide in favor of the government. We shall see.

GEN. JIM LANE ON THE BACK TRACK.—Major Gen. Hunter having decided to assume command of the Southwestern overland expedition, Gen. Jim Lane refuses to accept a subordinate position, and has taken the back track for Washington and the Senate. This move is characteristic of the abolitionists, who cry mightily for bloody battles, and are, indeed, the cause of this war, but who either avoid the army altogether or agree to join it only upon condition of having chief command. The rank of a high private is great enough for a true Union man; but, forsooth, Gen. Jim Lane, although already a Brigadier, must have an entire expedition to himself, or he will not fight. Let the Senate, then, pass Sumner's bill creating Commissioners to Liberia and Hayti, and let Jim Lane be appointed to one place and Greeley to the other. Both love the niggers, not wisely, but too well; both refuse to fight; let both be sent where niggers are inevitable, and they may associate with Cuffee eternally.

Five Days Later from Europe—Gloomy Aspect of American Affairs.

Now that we have this rebellion within our grasp we must stifle it without unnecessary loss of time, or, according to our five days later advices from Europe, which we publish this morning, we shall have before long the additional burdens and trials of a war with England and France upon our hands.

The decline in cotton reported by this arrival, and the upward tendency of breadstuffs in England, do not justify any very flattering interpretation of the pacific recommendations of the London *Times*. Moreover, the *Times*, in this connection, has a very suspicious allusion to the interference of France ("let France interfere if she likes"), which more than neutralizes its recommendation that England, yet a little longer, shall "stand quite aloof." The city article of the same journal says that in London "an uneasy feeling prevails;" that "the avoidance of complications in connection with American affairs cannot be permanently anticipated," and that "this feeling will probably increase until the meeting of the French Chambers on Monday (last Monday week, we suppose), at which some indications of the policy to be adopted by France, England or Europe generally seem to be looked for."

We have here, no doubt, an authorized hint of some impending new move on the European chessboard in regard to American affairs. Lords Palmerston and Russell, having burned their fingers in the Trent affair, are constrained to stand back, and Louis Napoleon is next to try the initiative of intervention against us and in behalf of the spurious confederacy of Davis and his associate conspirators. In this connection we can understand somewhat the suggestion of the London *Times* to "let France interfere if she likes." It is a nice game between England and France. Each evidently is afraid to trust the other as a follower in a war against the United States, and each is thus manipulating and manouvring to get the other first involved in this imbroglio. In this thing may lie our safety; but so strong are the designs and the desires of the British aristocracy to break up this Union of ours that the British government may still be entrapped into the experiment to serve the European designs of Napoleon.

The alleged inefficiency of our Southern blockade, with raw cotton as high as sixty cents a pound in Liverpool, and with English goods commanding eight and ten times their peace prices in our revolted States, and especially our stone fleet blockade of Charleston harbor, will form the next *casus belli* against us. How else are we to understand the fierce tirades on this subject which are so actively kept up by the ministerial journals of London and Paris? In this connection it is somewhat remarkable that the most serious obstruction at this day to the passage of our ships up to Savannah is a shoal caused by the hulks of three or four stone vessels sunk by the British during England's war of 1776 against her revolted American colonies. This, however, we presume, will be discarded by Lords Palmerston and Russell as a precedent of barbarism unworthy the civilization, and the cotton and "the common rights of mankind" of the nineteenth century.

At all events, in the news before us, the menacing attitude of France, and the graciously consenting attitude of England, admonish us to push forward without delay the work of putting down this rebellion. We have everything now in readiness for a succession of such heavy blows against Jeff. Davis as will speedily silence these European threats of clamorous appeals for armed intervention. On another point, the city article of the London *Herald* says that "the accounts from America are of the most desponding character, and that the commercial situation of New York is unparalleled"—meaning, no doubt, as a bad and desponding situation. Let Congress act upon this hint with renewed energy in the work of securing us a healthy financial system for the inordinate demands of this war, and New York will soon arise and relieve herself from this "desponding situation."

In conclusion, we earnestly submit to the President and his Cabinet, to Congress, the army and the country, some serious attention to this European news, and to all the measures of self defence which are thus suggested. We can no longer afford to play with this rebellion as a cat plays with a mouse; for thus we may bring down upon us the intervention of France and England, and involve all the civilized world in a war, the end of which it would be idle to conjecture.

THE FIRM OF "LITTLE VILLAINS" AND THE INDICTMENT FOR BRIBERY.—We published yesterday in full a copy of the indictment found against James B. Taylor for attempting to bribe Alderman Dayton, in order to sway his vote in the case of the Gansevoort property, which Taylor desired to sell to the Corporation at a handsome profit. The indictment recites that said Taylor, on the 10th day of November, 1861, in the Board of Aldermen, "with force and arms, wilfully, unlawfully and corruptly, did offer to one Isaac Dayton, a member of the Common Council, with intent to influence his action, a sum of money—to wit: the sum of five thousand dollars." The object of the bribe is stated in the indictment to be to induce Dayton to vote for the purchase of the Gansevoort property, "for the uses and purposes of a public market." This indictment is founded upon the affidavit of Alderman Dayton, who swears that "he had been approached by James B. Taylor, the alleged owner of the property known as the Fort Gansevoort property, with an offer of money, as a reward or compensation for his vote and influence in promoting, in his official capacity, the purchase by the city of New York from the said James B. Taylor of the said Fort Gansevoort property." Instead of demanding an examination before a magistrate, Taylor gave bail to the indictment, and made an affidavit, in which he not only denies that he ever offered Dayton any money, but, on the contrary, asserts that Dayton approached him about the time the special committee was appointed on the subject of the purchase of the Gansevoort property, and said "the passage of the measure depended much on the manner of drawing the report; that he (Dayton) could draw it better than any other person;" that Dayton called on deponent again, and after conversing about this property said he had neglected his business by his attendance at the Board of Aldermen; that he had been compelled to use some trust funds, and that he wanted to raise a loan to meet his necessities; whereupon the innocent and immaculate Taylor said "he had no money on hand."

From these documents it is very evident that there were jobbing and corruption. That is admitted by both parties, who try to shift the charge from one to another. It is evident, too, that jobbing is in the line of Taylor's business. He is the principal financial man in the copartnership of the *Times;* and while he attends to such jobs as the Gansevoort property, the West Washington Market, to twenty-five thousand dollars worth of Corporation printing, and the rich placers in the Albany lobby, for the mining of which the organization in the Assembly by his partner, Speaker Raymond, has afforded him peculiar facilities, the "Little Villain" himself is on the scent of the New York Senatorship in Congress, for which there will soon be an election; and, accordingly, in order to conciliate Mr. Seward and his interest, he brings him out in his journal as a candidate for the next Presidency, knowing that Mr. Seward was cheated out of the nomination at Chicago by the accomplices of Raymond & Co.

Such is the beautiful arrangement by which one partner uses this jobbing journal to control all the jobs of the Albany lobby and the New York Corporation, while the other aspires through the same instrumentality, to represent the State in the United States Senate. Thus do the financier and the politician so manage their pure little sheet that they mutually promote each other's patriotic designs. One is after money, like Shylock, and the other babbles, like Thersites, to reach an office.

FREMONT TALKED OF FOR ANOTHER COMMAND.—That abolition organ, the *Tribune*, urged, yesterday, that General Fremont should be appointed to another command. Well, we have no doubt that a new command would be a very nice thing for Fremont and his abolition friends, provided that, as in Missouri, he did no fighting; was at liberty to surround himself with a picked gang of returned Californians; could sell muskets and carbines cheap, and repurchase them at a large advance; might buy shoddy blankets, trade in horses and mules four or five times resold, and make contracts for great fortifications; was indulged in a body guard, five or six private carriages, a private steamboat and a private band of musicians, all for the protection, comfort and delectation of himself and his military family, and was permitted to play the dictator and issue what proclamations he pleased. With these accessories Fremont might make a splendid general; and, above all, he will please his abolition admirers if he can have control of another ten millions of dollars of the government funds—provided the Treasury holds that amount when he assumes his new command.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

Expulsion of Senator Bright, of Indiana, from the Senate.

Important Debate in the House on the Financial Measures.

Urgent Necessity for the Passage of the Treasury Note Bill.

Circular from Gen. Meigs Relative to Army Contracts.

The Great Party at the White House.

&c., &c., &c.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5, 1862.

THE NATIONAL FINANCES.

The sub-committee of Ways and Means have prepared a rough draft of the new tax bill, which will at once be printed for private use, and to be laid before the full committee for their final action. A few days only will elapse before it will be matured and reported to the House.

The Secretary of the Treasury to-day addressed another letter to Representative Spaulding, urging immediate action on the Treasury Note bill, but several more speeches will be made previous to voting upon the pending amendments. It is probable that a final vote will be taken to-morrow. Arrangements have been made by the opponents of the bill to form a substitute therefor, by consolidating the leading features in the propositions already submitted by Messrs. Morrill, of Vermont, Vallandigham and Roscoe Conkling.

EXPULSION OF MR. BRIGHT FROM THE SENATE.

The Bright case was unexpectedly brought to a conclusion to-day. The expected speeches were omitted, and after a brief speech from Mr. Bright the vote was taken and Jesse D. Bright was formally expelled from the Senate of the United States. To the last he wore an air of defiance. After concluding his remarks he retired from the chamber. The Senate was crowded with members of the House and others entitled to the privilege of the floor. The galleries were crowded to suffocation. The details of the proceedings—as will be found in the official report—were very interesting. Just as the vote was about to be taken the gaslights over the Senate chamber were lighted, and the result of the vote called forth a burst of applause from the galleries, which was, however, immediately suppressed. Mr. Bright, of course, did not vote, and Mr. Lane, of Kansas, was the only absentee.

THE QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT.

Quartermaster General Meigs has addressed a circular to all officers of his department. It appears, he says, that a memorandum of rates of transportation by rail road sent to some of the principal quartermasters intended by the War Department to be used as a guide in settling accounts, as a limit beyond which no payments would be allowed in any case, has been by some officers misunderstood, and considered as fixing a government tariff of rates to be paid in all cases. They are therefore advised that it is the duty of every quartermaster as of every officer of the government, in making contracts for services or materials, and in making purchases, to make them at the lowest attainable rates. In no case should the government pay higher rates than an individual or a corporation for the same services or the same materials. Any quartermaster who allows through freights to be charged as local freights at higher rates than are ordinarily paid on goods sent over long distances, violates his duty. The rates for transportation for passengers, specified in the tariff above referred to, were, at the time of preparation, understood to be one-third below the ordinary rates upon railroads in the Middle States. On Western railroads freight and passenger charges are generally at lower rates that in the Middle States, and that which would be a fair compensation to a road in the mountains of the East would be a very high rate over the easy grades of the cheaply constructed railroads o the prairie country. In addition to the regulation fo quartermasters' departments, the attention of the newly appointed quartermasters is especially called to article eleven, page 147, of the revised regulations of the army, in regard to public property, money and accounts. Many of the regulations in this article are literal transcripts from the laws of Congress. Paragraph 104, in regard to giving public notice of all purchases and contracts, where an immediate delivery is not required by a public exigency, is in the words of the law. A careful adherence to these regulations will guide the public officers and protect the Treasury against imposition.

THE MILITARY APPOINTMENTS.

I am requested to state that the list of military officers in to-day's *Tribune*, reported to have been confirmed by the Senate on the 4th inst., is not true. But one or two confirmations were made on that day, and none have been made to-day. A large proportion of the names in the list referred to have not yet been acted upon, and those that have been confirmed are not important, but inferior officers in rank.

THE ARMY.

Major W. F. Camp, Paymaster, recently stationed at Fortress Montress, has been ordered to report for duty to