

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—King Henry IV.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—SHERIDAN'S FAMILY.—NALLI QUINN.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, No. 814 Broadway.—THE WOODEN SHOE.

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

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—EARTHQUAKE.—DORVILLE.—SHARPE'S BARRICADE.

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

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—CONJURING.—LIVING HIPPOGRANDS, WHALE, &c. at all hours.—OPTICS, GEOGRAPHY AND CHEMISTRY.

BRYANT'S MINSTRELS, Mechanic's Hall, 672 Broadway.—DANCE IN OLD N.-Y.-AT.

HOOLEY'S MINSTRELS, Stuyvesant Institute, No. 693 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, &c.

MELODION CONCERT HALL, No. 339 Broadway.—SONGS, DANCES, BURLESQUES, &c.—HOLIDAY IN IRELAND.

CANTERBURY MUSIC HALL, 558 Broadway.—SONGS, DANCES, BURLESQUES, &c.—MAGNOLIA, THE NIGHT OWL.

GAITEIES CONCERT ROOM, 416 Broadway.—DRAWING ROOM ENTERTAINMENTS, BALLS, PANTOMIMES, FARCES, &c.

AMERICAN MUSIC HALL, 444 Broadway.—SONGS, DANCES, BURLESQUES, &c.—PORTRAIT PAINTER.

CRYSTAL PALACE CONCERT HALL, No. 45 Bowery.—BURLESQUES, SONGS, DANCES, &c.—RENOUVOUVEAU.

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.

THE SITUATION.

The completeness of the success of the Burnside expedition in the capture of Roanoke Island on Saturday, as admitted by all the rebel authorities, from which, and from which alone, the information reaches us, is undoubted, and its importance can hardly be overestimated. According to the rebel admissions, their entire fleet of gunboats were destroyed in the protracted and desperate action which gave us possession of Roanoke Island, three hundred of their force were killed, a thousand wounded, and all the remaining army of 2,000 men, the artillery, small arms and munitions of war were captured. Left without means of escape to the mainland, surrender to our troops was, of course, the only alternative left the discomfited rebel army.

The map which we give to-day of the coasts of North Carolina and Virginia will show at a glance the importance of the victory the Burnside expedition has achieved in the waters of Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds. We publish very full accounts of this affair to-day from the Southern papers—the Richmond Dispatch, the Examiner and the Norfolk Day Book—all of which entirely confirm the facts of our success. The latter journal reports that our troops had advanced on Elizabeth City on Monday and attacked it, but that the rebels set the city on fire. The Richmond Dispatch says that the son of Gen. Wise, Capt. O. Jennings Wise, of the Richmond Blues, was dangerously wounded, and nearly all his company cut off. Gen. Wise himself was, as previously reported, lying sick at Nag's Head, on the mainland. After the destruction of Elizabeth City, it is admitted by the Norfolk papers that our troops laid siege to Edenton. Thus far the record of the Burnside expedition is glorious.

If anything was wanted to crown the success of the Union gunboat expedition in the Tennessee river, which we announced yesterday, it is furnished by the details of the news in our columns to-day. Not only did the gunboats under Lieut. Phelps penetrate into Alabama as far as Florence, 250 miles from Paducah, capturing in their way two rebel gunboats, but they did so without opposition, and their presence, wherever the old flag of the Union was seen floating at the mast head, was hailed with undisguised joy by the inhabitants of Southern Tennessee and Northern Alabama. The officers of the boats were invited to participate in the hospitalities of the people; numbers were anxious to enlist under the banner that has so long protected and glorified the country, and actually two hundred and fifty men from the centre of rebellion returned on the gunboat Tyler to fill up the boat's crews. Nothing, in fact, could more satisfactorily prove the anxiety of the overridden population of this portion of the insurgent States to avail themselves of the protection of the government and its flag than the conduct of the people upon this occasion. The moral victory is thus, perhaps, as striking as the physical one obtained at Fort Henry. On the approach of our fleet up the river, the rebels burned their steamers Sam. Kirkman, Sam. Boyd, Julia Smith, Sam. Orr, Appleton and Belle, to prevent them from falling into our hands. Official despatches from Lieutenant Phelps, commanding the gunboat Conestoga, received at headquarters, confirm previous reports of the result of the expedition. The steamers burned by the rebels were laden with military stores. Two hundred stand of arms, a considerable quantity of clothing and stores were captured, and the encampment of Colonel Crenn, at Savannah, destroyed.

We publish to-day the full official account of the capture of Fort Henry to the Navy Department from Commodore Foote. We also give an excellent map of the scene of operations, including Forts Henry and Donelson, and the route of our gunboats to Florence. Taken in connection with these two decisive victories on the Tennessee river, and Roanoke Island, and the demoralizing effect which they must necessarily produce in the rebel country, the extracts from Southern journals which we publish to-day are most significant, all of them sustaining the intelligence of our success at both points. And as further evidence of the panic which has seized the rebels upon our recent brilliant exploits, we have the address of General Jos. E. Johnston to the Army of the Potomac, in which he makes a desperate appeal to the twelve months' soldiers to re-enlist. He describes the "enemy" as threatening them with his enormous masses in the West, his expeditions assaulting them on the whole Southern coast, and his gigantic army on the Potomac, "influenced by lust and maddened by fanaticism," within a few hours march of them. In the face of these dangers he implores his men not to draw back now

when "all that is precious hangs trembling in the balance."

T. Butler King, of Georgia, who has been in Europe for several months, as a Southern Commissioner, has arrived at New Orleans. He came to the latter city from Havana in the steamer Calhoun. His mission to obtain European recognition of the rebel confederacy has proved a total failure.

We learn from Leavenworth, Kansas, that General Hunter is actively preparing to start from there with his division on an important expedition. Large reinforcements, amounting to seven regiments of cavalry and four batteries of artillery are now en route from the East to join him.

The Teutonia, off Cape Race, delivered European news one day later—to the 1st of February—to our telegraphic agent at Newfoundland yesterday.

It appears as if some parties in England had resolved to object to every measure taken by the United States government for the restoration of the Union. When Mason and Sillid were given up they assailed the blockade; after this they were "horrified" at the stone fleet operation at Charleston, and now we are told that the statement made by Mr. Seward to the effect that after vanquishing the rebels the Union Executive would hold itself bound to "restore the destroyed harbors or open better ones," added "considerably to the disquiet of the federal bondholders" in that country, who feared our national debt would grow too large for our means.

The United States gunboat Tuscarora had been ordered from her berth at Southampton dock by an official letter from Portsmouth. She took up a position near the Needles.

The Nashville was still at Southampton; but her day of leaving will probably come soon.

It is stated that the bark Neapolitan, which was burned by the Sumter, in the Straits of Gibraltar, was not over one mile and a half from Ceuta, a Spanish fortress on the African coast, as asserted by a protest signed by the crews of the bark Investigator and the Neapolitan.

CONGRESS. In the Senate yesterday, the bill providing for the punishment, by fine and imprisonment, of persons convicted of selling spirituous liquors to Indians, was passed. The bill appropriating nearly seven millions of dollars for the completion of fortifications was also passed. Bills providing for a reorganization of the Navy Department, and for the appointment of a Warden of the District jail, were introduced. The Treasury Note bill was taken up, and Messrs. Fessenden and Collamer made speeches in opposition to the legal tender clause, and Mr. Howe supported the bill. The Senate Finance Committee's amendments, restoring the clause making the interest on the public debt payable in coin, was adopted. An amendment, that the Treasury notes issued in July be received in payment of public dues, was adopted. An amendment setting apart the proceeds of the public lands, and confiscated property and duties on imported goods, as a special fund for the payment of the interest of the debt in bonds and notes of the United States, and for a sinking fund, was adopted. The amendment striking out the provision that the notes be exchanged for bonds bearing seven per cent interest, was adopted. Several verbal amendments of the Finance Committee were adopted. Mr. Fessenden moved to amend the first section, so as to make the bonds for which the notes are funded redeemable at pleasure in five years instead of twenty, and payable in twenty years. Pending the question, the Senate adjourned.

In the House of Representatives, the Senate's amendments to the Civil and Diplomatic Appropriation bill were agreed to, and the bill passed. A preamble and resolutions, setting forth that Henry Wikoff had refused to state to the Judiciary Committee from whom he received a portion of the President's annual Message previous to its being laid before Congress, and transmitting the same to the NEW YORK HERALD, and that said Wikoff be brought before the bar of the House to answer for contempt, was adopted. Whereupon Wikoff was brought to the bar of the House. Upon being interrogated formally regarding the matter, he said that, while he hoped he would not be considered as wanting in respect either to the House or the Judiciary Committee, yet the information demanded was received by him under an obligation of secrecy that he felt bound to respect. Mr. Richardson moved a postponement of the subject until to-day, in order to give the prisoner time for reflection, but the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. Hickman, pressed a resolution handing Mr. Wikoff over to the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms until he shall purge himself of the alleged contempt, which was adopted, and the House adjourned.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The steamship Teutonia, from Southampton on the 1st of February, passed Cape Race yesterday morning, on her voyage to New York. Her news, which we have telegraphed from St. Johns, Newfoundland, is one day later than that received by the Jura.

The London Globe of the 29th of January says—King, the defeated antagonist of Mace in the pugilistic contest which took place on Tuesday, for the championship of England, has been removed to London, and placed under strict medical surveillance. It appears that in the forty-second and last round Mace threw his opponent with extraordinary violence, and the shock with which his head met the ground not only rendered him insensible for a considerable time, but occasioned symptoms of extravasation of blood, or concussion of the brain, the effects of which will, it is said, incapacitate him from again appearing as a combatant in the prize ring.

The directors of the Bank of Berlin (Prussia) have offered a reward of five thousand thalers to any one who shall arrest a clerk named Richnow, who absconded from Dusseldorf in July last with a sum of one hundred thousand thalers, and of whom no trace has since been discovered.

The Liverpool and London cotton, provision and corn markets are the same as reported by the Jura. In London, on the 31st ultimo, consols were dull at 92 1/2 a 92 3/4 for money, and 92 1/2 a 93 for the 6th of March. American securities were heavy.

Captain Powell, of the brig John Butler, which arrived at this port yesterday, reports that an English cruiser (name unknown) had captured the Italian Brig Laura, off St. Thomas, and brought her into Antigua, January 25. The captain of the Laura said he was from St. Thomas, bound to Madeira for emigrants, but had no papers whatever, and the cruiser had seized her on suspicion of being a slaver, she having a slave deck and all the implements necessary for such a cargo.

In the Senate at Albany yesterday a number of bills were acted upon. A favorable report was made on the bill legalizing the acts of our Common Council for raising money for the equipment and fitting out of the volunteers and for the support of their families. The Long Island Railroad bill was sent back to the committee, after having already received a favorable report. The bill enabling

the United States government to take land at Fort Hamilton for defensive purposes, also received a favorable report. Bills were introduced relative to assessments for improvements in this city, and to facilitate the Erie Canal enlargement. Bills were noticed to authorize the North River and Wall Street Ferry Railroad Company to lay rails in certain streets, relative to tolls on railroads, and amending the General Railroad act. The concurrent resolution for the appointment of a commission to devise a system of equalization in taxation was taken up, discussed, and finally laid on the table. In the Assembly, an immense number of petitions were presented; among them one for the inspection of buildings in this city. A number of bills were reported upon, but most of them of a private or local nature. Among those reported upon favorably were the bills authorizing aliens to hold real estate; for the erection of an arsenal in this city, and to allow banks to hold State and United States stocks. The Ways and Means Committee reported, on that portion of the Governor's Message recommending economy, in favor of abolishing the offices of Inspector of Gas Meters and Superintendent of Weights and Measures. The Assembly adjourned at noon, in order to afford the use of the Chamber to the State Agricultural Society, which occupied it for its meeting in the afternoon.

A meeting on behalf of Colonel Corcoran was to have been held in Tammany Hall last night; but, in consequence of the necessary preparations not having been completed, it has been postponed until next week.

A large audience was assembled last evening in the Twenty-third street Baptist church, to listen to the oratory of Mr. James Gillette, a member of the Seventy-first regiment, who was captured at the battle of Manassas, and imprisoned at Richmond for five months. The account was deeply interesting, and confirmatory of the statements already published in the newspapers relative to the treatment of the Union prisoners by the rebels. Indeed, we published some time ago an interesting letter from the pen of Mr. Gillette while he was a prisoner. The proceeds of the lecture will be applied to the relief of the prisoners of war.

The ladies' skating match at the Central Park was concluded yesterday, and Watson's prize of a handsome pair of silver plated skates was awarded to Miss Jennie Bishop, after a contest of three days. The match was conducted in a very quiet manner, no person but the competitors, the judges and a few personal friends being aware of the fact. A full report will be published shortly, but the press of other matter on our columns has crowded it out to-day.

A regular meeting of the Commissioners of Emigration was held yesterday. The annual report was taken up—Mayor Opdyke being present—it was approved and copies ordered to be forwarded to the Legislature at Albany. The annual election for President and Vice President of the Board was held, and resulted in the re-election of G. C. Verplanck, as President, and Cyrus Curtis, as Vice President, of the Board. From the weekly statement it appears that the number of emigrants who arrived here during the week ending February 12, was four hundred and ninety-six, making a total of two thousand and seventy who have arrived here during the present year, against two thousand nine hundred and ninety-three up to the same date last year. The number of inmates remaining on Ward's Island is seven hundred and eighty-three. The balance remaining in the bank to the credit of the commissioners is \$5,337 70.

The trial of Frederick Loefer for the killing of Thomas Ryan, at a dance house in Water street, was concluded yesterday in the General Sessions. Mr. Hall summed up for the prosecution in the morning, and the case was given to the jury early in the afternoon. After an absence of one hour the jury came into court with a verdict of not guilty, whereupon the accused was discharged from custody.

The market for beef cattle was more active yesterday, and prices ranged 1/2c higher, owing mainly to a considerable falling off in the receipts. Prices ranged from 6c. a 9c. a 9 1/2c, with sales of extras at 10c. Sheep and lambs were pretty active at \$3 75 a \$7, chiefly at \$5 a \$6. Swine were scarce, active and higher, with sales at 3 1/2c, a 3 3/4c, for corn fed, and 3c. a 3 1/2c, for still fed. Cows and veal calves were steady and unchanged. The total receipts were, 3,150 beefs, 117 cows, 314 veals, 9,383 sheep and lambs, and 12,219 swine.

The cotton market was less active yesterday, while prices were sustained. The sales embraced about 120 bales, closing on the basis of 25c. a 30c. Flour was steady, and closed with a slightly firmer feeling for some descriptions, while sales were moderate. Wheat was inactive and prices irregular, with limited sales. Corn was in good request, with some better feeling, while sales of Western mixed, in store and delivered, were made at 6c. a 6c. Pork was in good request for future delivery, with sales of new mess, deliverable in June, July and August, at \$12 25, with lots on the spot at \$12 87 1/2 a \$13, and at \$9 50 for prime. Sugars were in fair demand, with sales of 700 a 800 hds. Cubas and 175 hds. molasses on terms given in another place. Coffee was quiet and sales limited. Freight engagements were moderate and rates without change of importance.

Our Brilliant Victory in North Carolina—Our Gunboats in Alabama—East and West the Strongholds of the Rebellion Turned.

The Burnside expedition has given a deadly blow to the rebellion, between wind and water, down in North Carolina. The victory of our land and naval forces over the rebels on Roanoke Island is the most complete achievement of the war. According to the admissions of the rebels themselves, their losses involve their entire fleet of gunboats in those waters, some three hundred men killed, a thousand wounded, twenty-five hundred prisoners, and all the artillery, small arms and materials of war which they had collected on the island. After a hard and sanguinary struggle, their means of escape being cut off, there was no other alternative left to the rebel defenders of the island, against our overwhelming pressure of men and metal, but an absolute surrender.

The official reports from our own officers will doubtless show that the rebels have not exaggerated, but have rather fallen short of their actual losses in their statements. All their reports, however, concur in the important admission that in this affair they have suffered a decisive, disastrous and discouraging defeat, which it would be folly to attempt to disguise heavy.

We suspect, however, that the rebel leaders will find it more damaging to their desperate cause, in its consequences, than they are yet prepared to anticipate, notwithstanding the panic which prevails among them. This victory at Roanoke Island gives our naval and land forces the absolute control of all that extensive system of inland waters known as Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds, and all their commercial towns and villages, the importance of which will be recognized in a glance at our illustrative map. In a word, we do not perceive what possible chance now remains to prevent the loss to Jeff. Davis of the State of

North Carolina, without his immediate sacrifice of the State of Virginia. The Burnside expedition has turned the stronghold at Manassas, and, if the great rebel camp there does not very soon make this discovery and act accordingly, it will inevitably suffer the fate of the camp of Roanoke Island.

Such is the comprehensive range of this brilliant achievement in North Carolina. It shows that in the East the magnificent programme of General McClellan for a crushing campaign is developing its strength most beautifully, while in the West it is working like a charm. The reports which we publish to-day of the reconnoissance of the Tennessee river by our gunboats up to the thrifty town of Florence, Alabama, at the head of steamboat navigation, read more like the adventures of a fairy tale than the realities of a military invasion. Our gunboats, it appears, "everywhere along the river were received with astonishing welcome by numerous Union families in Southern Tennessee and Northern Alabama," and at the various towns along the stream the old flag of the Union "was looked upon as a redeemer, and hailed with shouts of joy." The people of Florence were prepared to give a grand ball to our officers; but the objects of the expedition required its immediate return; for those gunboats will be wanted next in rougher service than this jubilee of a Union voyage up the Tennessee.

There can be no doubt of the truthfulness of our enthusiastic reports of this remarkable reconnoissance; for if the inhabitants along the narrow and winding Tennessee river, with its numerous defensive hills and short turns, had been disposed to resist the passage of the old flag, our gunboats bearing it could have been destroyed before making one-half of their beautiful pleasure excursion of two hundred and fifty miles. This trip reminds us, then, of the return of the "Little Corporal" from the island of Elba among the old soldiers and people of France. For two hundred miles from the southern boundary of loyal Kentucky, through the State of Tennessee and into the State of Alabama, "our old flag was hailed with shouts of joy." Smiling under the dreadful sufferings inflicted by an upstart and intolerable despotism, the loyal people along the Tennessee river had been waiting the hour and the sign of their deliverance, and in "the old flag" so quietly and suddenly coming amongst them they simply welcomed the sign and the symbol of the returning blessings of the Union.

These positive manifestations of a strong and enthusiastic Union sentiment among the people of the revolted States explain the tenacity with which the rebels cling to their defences in the border slave States. The rebel leaders have no idea of a Southern confederacy which will include Virginia, Kentucky and Missouri. These States they expect, in the best view of their situation, to sacrifice to the Union; and they are only using them now to save the cotton States from the immediate burdens of the war, which, if brought home upon them, might result in a counter rebellion. That the whole rotten fabric will fall to the ground with the removal of its army supports in Virginia and Kentucky is manifest from the revelations of this gunboat trip up the Tennessee river. We have shown, too, that the great rebel stronghold in Virginia has been turned by the Burnside expedition, and we think it certain that our land and water forces of Kentucky and Missouri will entrap the enemy in their two other great camps at Bowling Green and Columbus, if they do not very soon evacuate those positions. It is reported, indeed, that they have already abandoned Bowling Green, to escape from the encircling columns of General Buell while yet there is an opening between them. If this should prove true—and we think it most probably is so—we may next expect to hear of the complete evacuation of Kentucky by the rebels, and that Tennessee has become too hot to hold them.

In an event, this great Southern rebellion is disclosed as a giant of brass upon legs of clay, as the Union begins to manifest its power. The gloomy night of our doubts and troubles is past; our feet and armies, under the administration of "Honest Abe Lincoln," his sound Union war policy, and the military combinations of General McClellan, are working out a glorious redemption. The night is past, the day breaks in the East, and illumines the sky in the West.

THE BAD CONDITION OF THE STREETS.—Notwithstanding the efforts and warnings of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, the contractor for street cleaning still maintains that mastery of activity which keeps our public thoroughfares in a condition of filth which is disgraceful to the city. How Mr. Hackley can have the effrontery to affirm—as he did on Monday last before the Street Cleaning Committee—that as a general thing the crossings were cleaned—that in many cases he had done more than he was called upon to do, and that he believed eight people out of every ten were very highly gratified with the present condition of the streets—surprises us, and convinces us that he is a man with whom it is useless to reason or to apply any other argument than a stoppage of his pay. A man who would thus brazenly attempt to justify himself in the face of facts is not likely to improve much by any suggestions that may be thrown out to him. We have only to drive or walk through any of our streets, especially in the lower part of the city, in order to have proof sufficient of the almost impassable barriers of slush, ice, snow, ashes and accumulated refuse, which impede the public traffic. Blocked gutters are the rule, and not the exception, and many streets are so many acres of quagmire. This state of things ought to be no longer allowed to exist, and the Committee on Street Cleaning will be greatly wanting in their duty to the public if they neglect to apply the proper remedies for enforcing the fulfillment of the Hackley contract or transferring the contract to some other party without further delay.

What is to be Done with the Southern States when They are Conquered?

This is a very important question. What is to be done with them was decided by the flat rebuke received by Senator Sumner, whose resolutions, on Tuesday, were laid on the table by a vote of twenty-one to fifteen. These resolutions are only part and parcel of the same impracticability which has marked the career of the fanatical faction to which Senator Sumner belongs. The man who proposed to send ambassadors to the black republics of Hayti and Liberia now proposes to put the black race over the white race at the South wherever the blacks are more numerous than the whites. By some unnatural idiosyncrasy, all Senator Sumner's sympathies are lavished upon negroes, in antagonism to the interests of the race to which he is supposed to belong. Such is his passion for the negro that he would lay the train for St. Domingo massacres from the Susquehanna to the Rio Grande, and he would blight the Christian civilization of the Caucasian race in order to substitute the cannibalism and fetishism of the King of Dahomey. Having played his part in breaking up the American republic of white men, this fanatic is now engaged in the work of preventing its reunion.

Mr. Sumner maintains that the Southern States cease to belong to the Union, and therefore of the North may treat them as we please—they are beyond the pale of the constitution. Territorial governments must be established, and we will rule them with a rod of iron. Now, if the Southern States are not legally within the Union, what are we waging war with them for? Has not the war been set on foot to "execute the laws of the Union"? Why did we not establish a territorial government for Mexico when we conquered her? And why have we not annexed all the neighboring nations around us and made them Territories? The colonial system of the old country is unknown to American laws. We do not believe in the folly of enslaving the white men of our own race for the purpose of emancipating negroes. The moment we attempt anything of this kind we absolve the Southern population from all allegiance to the United States, and we have no longer any cause of war against them. This is either a war for the maintenance of the constitution or it is not. If it be a war for the constitution, then it must be carried on according to the principles of the constitution. If it be not a war for the constitution, what is it for? Surely not for a mere abolition theory, a fanatical abstraction, in this great nation to pour out its blood and treasure like water. If the old Union is not to be restored by the war, then we have no more to do with the Southern States than we have to do with Mexico, Central America or Canada. But if the object of the war be to restore the Union, it may be necessary during the struggle to place under provisional government those Southern States which are subjected to our arms. That has been done to some extent already.

The Legislature of Maryland has been coerced by the military power. In Western Virginia a provisional government has been established. In Kentucky the Legislature is loyal; but there is a bogus Legislature there also, and it is desirable that the military power of the United States should support the one and crush the other. In Missouri the Legislature, Governor and Lieutenant Governor embarked in the rebellion, and now a provisional Governor and a Convention of the people exercise the legitimate civil power under the protection of our army. Now, as our arms advance further South, it may be necessary to do the same thing; and if the people will but overthrow the tyrants who now rule them it may be even necessary to protract the authority of martial law until new elections are held and State governments are organized free from the influence of a reign of terror. When the war is over and submission to the laws of the Union restored, the Southern States, by the force of the constitution, are restored to their normal condition. Meantime the best thing that can be done is to proclaim a general amnesty wherever our troops have succeeded in restoring the authority of the federal government.

This is all that can be done legitimately, and it can be done by the President and the generals of the army, by the rights of war, without the intervention of Congress, or any law whatever on the subject. It will not do by any abolition side wind to pervert the objects of the war to a purpose entirely contrary to the well ascertained sentiments of a majority of the people, as it is in conflict with the best interests of the nation. Senator Sumner is playing into the hands of the Southern secessionists by declaring that they no longer belong to the Union. He pretends that all the Southern States have ceased to exist because of the insurrection, and consequently negro slavery ceases to exist, and it is now the business of Congress to "organize labor" in the South. As well might Congress proceed to organize labor in New York, Philadelphia and Boston, after the fashion of Ledru Rollin and Louis Blanc. How absurd to send such dreamers to represent States in the Congress of the nation!

THE TREASURY NOTE BILL IN THE SENATE.—We are glad to perceive that the Senate has adopted our suggestion, by inserting in the Treasury Note bill a clause to pay in coin the interest of the bonds which are to be the securities for the notes. Thus it is impossible that they should be depreciated. There is another amendment by which the credit of the government will be sustained. A large amount of the bills are to be deposited with the sub-treasurers, and certificates of deposit issued bearing five per cent interest. At no time is the issue of notes to exceed \$150,000,000, and they are to be received for all taxes and government dues, and the entire amount in circulation is never to exceed one year's taxes. If these important amendments should be adopted the notes will be as good as specie, provided the Tax bill be immediately passed. The Tax bill is the philosopher's stone which will turn paper into gold.

SEEKING IS CERTAINLY BELIEVING.—The news of the capture of Roanoke Island and Elizabeth City by the Union forces was sent out to Europe yesterday in the Herald, by the steamship Africa. This news, at least, will probably find ready credence in Europe; for it comes entirely from rebel sources, and is the confession of the men who were beaten, not the story of those who conquered. Upon the principle that seeing is believing, Europeans will perhaps be convinced that the rebels were beaten; for the rebels were there, they saw the whole affair, and own up to a defeat distinctly. Even Ball Run Russell could be no higher European authority.

Thurlow Weed Coming Home.

Thurlow Weed, we hear, is coming home. He could do nothing better. It is quite time for him to come back and clear up his reputation and straighten up his character. Both reputation and character are in very great danger now; for the Van Wyck Investigation Committee has hunted up a doubtful transaction of Mr. Weed's among the contract vermin recently unearthed. That Van Wyck has done many a public man ill service by his exposé. If Mr. Weed desires company in his misery he will be happy to learn that a dozen other respectable people are mentioned quite as invidiously as himself in the committee's report. Some people prefer to suffer among a crowd of other sufferers rather than endure solitary punishment. If Mr. Weed is one of this sort he can find plenty of consolation in confiding Cummings, magnificent Fremont and two-and-a-half per cent Morgan. It is best for him to come back and attend to himself, at any rate.

The Van Wyck development shows that Mr. Weed had something to do with powder contracts at five per cent commission. This was pretty work for a venerable politician, to be sure. Experience might have taught him that powder contracts were combustible affairs, and would end in a blow up the moment a spark of light was let in upon them. We are ashamed of Thurlow, and cannot disguise the fact. We write of him more in sorrow than in anger; but we wish it were any other man in the world than our friend Weed who had thus burned his fingers and blackened his fair fame. Would that we had known this when we invited him to the sylvan shades of Washington Heights, gave him a déjeuner à la fourchette, and did not smoke with him the mild Havana of peace and amity, for he had to smoke it alone.

And what, after all, has Mr. Weed been accomplishing during his European sojourn? We have read all his letters, and he seems to have been hob-nobbing with all sorts of titled folk; but what does it all amount to? He tells us how he has walked arm-in-arm with Sir Henry Holland, picked up the fan of the Countess Russell—no relation, we hope, for her own sake, of the Bull run L.L.D.—and played the beau generally in high circles. He has breakfasted with this lord, lunched with that earl, dined with the duke of so-and-so, supped with the viscount of something else, and eaten his way through the entire court calendar. Just as he used to dash from Albany to New York, and from New York to Washington, attending to his affairs of State, and losing his pocketbook regularly and with malice aforethought—for in his pocketbook he kept his list of offices promised—so he has been tripping it from London to Paris, from Paris to London, and repeat, like a shuttlecock. But, we ask, what does it all amount to? His letters to the London Times have done us more harm than good, and his social efforts have produced about the same bad fruit. What is the use of his dinking glasses with Palmerston and walking the garden of the Tuilleries with Napoleon, when, by the last intelligence, France and England are about to raise our Southern blockade, and run the chances of our giving them both a fogging? Weed could not even prevent this catastrophe. He had better come home.

We anxiously expect our former friend by the next steamer. We have thought a great deal of him, and we are disconsolate at his rapid descent from a patriot to a contract broker. If he is really guilty of this powder job—and the case is strong against him—let him receive our adieu and our blessing, and go and join some religious society of which the Rev. Sidney A. Corey is not the pastor. We can never see him or love him any more.

THE BLOCKADE OF CHARLESTON AND LORD LYONS.—In some correspondence between Lord Russell and the British Minister at Washington, which we published yesterday, Lord Lyons gives a report of a conversation with Mr. Seward on the subject of the stone blockade of Charleston. After calling the attention of the Secretary of State to the subject, the latter informed him that it was altogether a mistake to suppose that the plan had been devised with a view to injure the harbor permanently. It was simply a temporary military measure adopted to aid the blockade, which large ships were at certain points unable to maintain over small channels, and which led to the sinking of the stone fleet in some of the entrances to the harbor in question; but it would be the duty of the government of the United States to remove all these obstructions as soon as the war was over, just as the vessel sunk in the harbor of Savannah during the war with Great Britain was removed by the government of that country after the close of the war. Lord Lyons then inquired if the principal entrance to the port of Charleston had not been closed entirely, at the same time remarking that the opening of the new harbor of Port Royal, thirty miles off, would hardly compensate for the destruction of the old one.

To this Mr. Seward very aptly replied that, in spite of the sunken vessels and the blockading squadron, a British steamer laden with goods contraband of war had just succeeded in getting in. This last was a sufficient clincher, and left all the arguments and objections of the British Minister without a foundation. The whole case reminds us of the prisoner accused of stealing a goose, who pleaded: firstly, that he did not steal the goose; secondly, that he was justified in stealing it, and, thirdly, that there was no goose of the plaintiff's there to be stolen. The stone fleet is one of those molehills which people at a long distance have imagined to be a mountain. In reality it will be of service to the harbor of Charleston by diverting the rush of water from the small channels to the main one, the effect of which will be to deepen the latter and make it more accessible to large shipping than heretofore. For a year it may answer our purpose; but after that it will answer the purpose of Charleston, by directly improving the port in the manner named. Why, therefore, all this hullabaloo about nothing?

A GAME OF BRAG PLAYED OUT.—The whole number of rebel prisoners held by the Union forces before the late battle at Roanoke Island was one thousand nine hundred and ninety. The rebels held two thousand one hundred and ninety-eight Union prisoners, and thus had slightly the advantage of us. Now, however, we have bagged between two and four thousand prisoners at Roanoke, besides rebel brigadiers and lesser officers at Fort Henry, and hold a very large balance of power. It is not probable that we shall hear any more threats of hanging Col. Corcoran and other imprisoned patriots from the rebels after this. That game was both ways, and we can hang two or three men for their own now, if we like.