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JAMES GORDON BENNETT, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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Volume XXVIII..... No. 60

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

MILLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—SATARELLA.

WALLACE'S THEATRE, Broadway.—FAINT HEART NEVER WON FAIR LADY.—YOUTHER QUEEN.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—LOUIS D'ARTVILLE.

LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE, Broadway.—LADIES BEWARE.—FAIR ONE WITH THE GOLDEN LOCKS.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—PATRIOT.—ELPHIN.—AND MR. PETER WATKINS.

BOVEY THEATRE, Bowery.—KING LEAR.—DARNLEY.

BARNEY'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—MINNIE WARREN, COME. NUTT, LIVING HIPPOCRATES, &c. at all hours.—RACE.—AMUSEMENT AND EVENING.

WOOD'S MINSTREL HALL, 54 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, &c.—THE STRANGLER.

BROADWAY MENAGERIE, Broadway.—LIVING WILD ANIMALS.—PERFORMING ELEPHANTS.—COMIC MUSIC, &c.

AMERICAN THEATRE, No. 444 Broadway.—BALLET, FANTASIES, &c.

PARRIAN GARDEN OF WONDERS, 563 Broadway.—Open daily from 10 A. M. till 10 P. M.

ROOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, &c.

THE SITUATION.

It is reported by the officers of the British frigate Petrel, which arrived at Hampton Roads from Charleston on Friday night, that the rebels have a dangerous network of torpedoes across the channel at the entrance to Charleston harbor, with the intention of blowing up any portion of the Union fleet which may attempt to enter.

A reconnoitering party under command of Colonel Percy Wyndham, which left Centreville on Friday, reached Falmouth yesterday, and reports having passed through Warrenton, where they found twenty-five of the rebel cavalry, who made their escape. At Elk run and Licking run they came upon a few more, and captured about a dozen. No rebel force is at Culpepper. Colonel Wyndham made a splendid march, considering the state of the roads and the constant obstructions he met with from the rising of the streams.

Brigadier General Cochrane has resigned his command, and has issued a spirited parting address to his soldiers.

We have further particulars to-day from Wheeling of the surprise and capture of two hundred of the Union cavalry near Strasburg, on the 25th ult., by which it appears that a rebel cavalry scout, slightly strong, came inside our pickets on the Strasburg road. After a skirmish with infantry pickets, in which two were wounded on each side, they retired, capturing a cavalry picket of twelve men. Five hundred of the Thirteenth Pennsylvania and New York cavalry sent in pursuit, recaptured, beyond Strasburg, most of the prisoners and horses, and also took a number of prisoners. The commander of our detachment, expediting his orders, pursued them beyond Woodstock. After driving in the rebel pickets, he stood parleying in the road, without guarding against surprise. The enemy returned in force, charged upon and threw them into confusion, killing and capturing two hundred in a fight of twenty miles. It is said that the Union troops made no stand, though outnumbering the enemy. If all these facts be correct it was a disgraceful affair, which should be rigidly investigated by the military authorities.

The President and Secretary of War received despatches from General Grant yesterday, giving a very favorable account of the progress of his work at Vicksburg. He says that he only wants a few days of good weather now to secure a success, and it was thought that not only Vicksburg be taken, but the whole rebel army with it, an event which was looked upon as a prelude to still more important victories.

The concurrent resolutions reported by Senator Sumner, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, in reference to the subject of mediation by France or any other foreign Power, takes a decided stand against any intervention whatever, declaring that Congress cannot hesitate to regard every proposition of foreign interference in the present contest, as so far unreasonable and inadmissible, that its only explanation will be found in a misunderstanding of the true state of the question and of the real character of the war in which the republic is engaged; that such interference is injurious to the national interests, and that Congress will be obliged to look upon any further attempts in the same direction as an unfriendly act.

The British steamship Columbia arrived at Bermuda on the 19th ult. from Charleston with a cargo of cotton. She would discharge and load arms for a Southern port. The steamer Miriam, mate to the prize Princess Royal, was loading arms and would sail for Charleston in a week.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The Second New Hampshire regiment arrived in this city last evening, from Falmouth, on their way home. This regiment entered the service eleven hundred strong, have shared their part in seven engagements, which, with sickness, has re-

duced their number to one hundred, only two hundred and fifty of whom are fit for active duty. They will breakfast at the Park Barracks this morning, and then resume their journey homeward, where, after a brief furlough, they will be recruited to their original strength, and again enter the service of their country.

A returned soldier from the Army of the Rappahannock states that Gen. Hooker last week addressed the members of Beaker's Battery, and informed them that their favorite commander would soon again be their leader. The announcement created the most intense enthusiasm in the army.

The people of the Red River settlement, up in British America, have determined no longer to endure the rule of the Hudson Bay Company. They have sent an emissary to England to petition Parliament for relief.

Three hundred sick and wounded rebel soldiers are to be taken from Louisville to Camp Morton, Indiana.

The stock market on Saturday was unsettled and fluctuating; prices were rather lower in the morning, but better in the afternoon. Government stock declined 2 per cent. Gold closed at 17 1/2. Exchange was in good demand at 150. Money was worth 6 1/2 per cent on call. The general markets were less active than usual pending the adjournment of Congress.

The breakfast market was more active, and a shade firmer for flour and corn, and a shade higher for wheat, on Saturday. There was more doing in provisions, particularly in pork, lard and bacon, partly for future delivery. Old mess pork was a shade cheaper and bacon rather higher. The cotton trade was very tame and the market depressed, prices closing irregularly. The demand was animated for hides, wool and tallow; fair for hay, hops, leather, tobacco and whalebone, and moderate for seeds, groceries and whiskey, the latter article closing quite heavily. There was more inquiry for fire crackers, which were up to \$1 90 a 1/2 for Canton No. 1, per box. Light freight engagements were reported, without any remarkable alteration in rates.

Secretary Seward's Plan for Restoring the Union—Last Chance of the Rebels.

The proposition of Secretary Seward to admit representatives from the seceded States into Congress is discussed with increasing interest in diplomatic and political circles. Should this proposition be carried out, and Congress be thus transformed into a peace convention, it is generally conceded that the restoration of the Union would certainly follow; but some persons object to this new mode of restoring the Union as impracticable. Why? First, because rebel representatives could not take seats in Congress without subscribing to an oath of loyalty to the government; second, because Louis Napoleon is not friendly to the Union and will not urge the Confederates to accept Seward's proposition; and, third, because the rebels do not desire reunion upon any terms whatever, and will accept no offer, however advantageous to them, which involves their submission to the federal authority. Under these three heads all the objections to Secretary Seward's plan naturally range themselves.

In regard to the first objection it may be said that many of the rebel leaders are still members of our Congress, and need take no new oath upon resuming their seats under Seward's proposition. But the fact is that a convention, rather than a congress, is contemplated by our Secretary of State, and delegates from the rebels may present themselves in Congress, state their grievances and demand certain measures of redress, without taking any oath of office. At any rate, this objection is one of mere routine and precedent, and can easily be set aside if necessary. Secretary Seward's offer, it must be remembered, is endorsed by the President of the United States, who, according to the statement of Secretary Seward himself, reads and approves of all State despatches before they are sent to our foreign ministers. The President and the Secretary of State must have anticipated this obvious objection to their plan, and provided the means to remove it. Neither of them would be so foolish and inconsistent as to gravely recommend an impossibility or offer an invitation which they knew could not be accepted. Consequently, as the rebels have been informed that their representatives can be received in our Congress, all technical objections must be considered as already arranged.

The assertion that Louis Napoleon is hostile to the idea of reunion, and will not urge the rebels to accept Seward's proposition, is unsubstantiated by any evidence. On the contrary, it is clear that Napoleon's interests require reunion. It is the policy of France, announced by Louis XVI. and reaffirmed by Napoleon I., to maintain on this continent a great maritime Power, as a counterbalance to that of England. Napoleon III. has immensely augmented the navy of France; but the English navy has been proportionately increased, and the resources and friendship of the United States are still necessary to enable Napoleon to hold England in check on the seas. Viscount Anatole Lemercier, of the French Legislature, sums up the arguments upon this point in the emphatic remarks:—"The separation of the Northern and Southern States is contrary to the interests and traditions of France. England, on the other hand, desires separation, but wishes the belligerents to be more weakened by their present contest before it takes place." Add to this the fact, also adverted to by Viscount Lemercier, that peace on this continent is essential to the welfare of Europe, and that no permanent peace can result from disunion, so various and conflicting are the questions to be decided before the terms of separation could be agreed upon, and so constant would be the irritations and disputes between two confederacies, allied and yet hostile, like quarrelsome members of the same family. If the Southern confederacy could be moved five hundred miles away after disunion all would be well; but it could not remain where it is—adjacent and yet antagonistic—and be at peace with us. Louis Napoleon cannot but comprehend this, nor can he close his eyes to the fact that reunion will enable him to withdraw honorably and triumphantly from Mexico, while disunion will involve him in still greater difficulties. The Mexican war is unpopular in France, and will be disastrous to the French army, the French treasury, and perhaps the French Emperor, if it be long continued. Reunited, these States could afford to pay off Mexico's debt to France, and allow Napoleon to retire gracefully. Both the Northern and Southern confederacies would desire Mexico for themselves. Both would aid the Mexicans in defeating the French. Each would fear and resist any attempt on the part of Napoleon to secure a foothold on this continent. Consequently Napoleon would have three enemies, instead of one, to contend with, and his downfall would be the inevitable result of the rage of the French people at this treble increased expenditure of blood and treasure, for no possible benefit to the French nation. The Orleansists are plotting. Europe is fermenting with revolutions. The Polish insurrection is a warning and a menace to all despotisms. Napoleon must tread warily. It will be better for him to secure our friendship by advocating Seward's proposi-

tion, the esteem of the world by achieving a peaceable reunion, the adherence of the European liberals by declaring himself on the side of our republican government, and the gratitude of his people by settling the Mexican question satisfactorily, than to risk all—his throne, his dynasty, his life—by persisting in encouraging the Southern rebels, and thus insuring a continuance not only of our war, but also of the European troubles which our war causes, and which, gathering strength like an avalanche, will soon sweep away all obstacles and end in universal destruction. Is the hypocritical friendship of perfidious Albion worth these risks?

The third objection to Seward's proposition is that the rebels do not desire reunion, and will not consent to it upon any terms. The rebel papers assert this; but the rebel papers may not express the wishes of the Southern people any more than our abolition papers express the desires of the Northern people. Jeff. Davis is a despot, and his papers say what he thinks, not what his oppressed and suffering people feel. But suppose the offer of Secretary Seward be endorsed by Napoleon, and rejected by the rebel chiefs. What then? The downfall of the rebellion would be certain, and the most audacious rebel would lose heart. Only the conduct of our abolitionists and the cheering expectation of European recognition, apparently pledged by the course of England and France, and by the cargoes of contraband goods from European ports, have kept this rebellion alive so long. Remove at one blow all hope of aid from Europe, and all pretence of abolitionism here, and the rebellion is dead. Let Napoleon press Seward's offer, in which there is no taint of abolitionism, but rather a remedy for its evils, and if the rebels refuse it they lose all. Abolition is disunion, and disunion is abolition. Let the South come back to the Union, and we will throttle the accursed dogmas of the negro-worshippers with their own laws. Now, therefore, is the best chance the rebels can have to come back to the Union. Congress is open to them, and no reasonable and honorable guarantee of future peace and happiness will be refused them. We believe the rebels are astute enough to appreciate the advantages of reunion at just this crisis of the war, and that, if Napoleon endorses Mr. Seward's proposition, and thus deprives them of all further hope from Europe, they will accept it and come back to us. If they are unmoved by all these considerations, however, let them remember that this is not only their best chance, but their last chance. This magnanimous proposition refused, nothing remains but war to the end. As Americans, we can never consent to destroy the integrity of the territory which we have won from the wilderness, from the savages and from foreign tyrants. Once assure us that peace upon any other terms than disunion will never be conceded by the South, and the American people will save their territory if they cannot save the Union. Already our hosts surround the rebellion upon every side; but our President is now a temporary dictator, empowered by the laws just passed by Congress with unlimited financial resources and supreme control over four millions of citizen soldiers, and a greater storm of war is in reserve. Let both Napoleon and the rebels reflect well before they reject this last and best chance of restoring the Union by accepting Seward's offer to receive Southern delegates in Congress.

The Financial Condition of the Country.

The passage in Congress on Saturday last of the bill taxing banks concludes the series of financial measures urged by the administration, and invests Secretary Chase with more power than was ever possessed by any other Secretary of the Treasury. He is now authorized to sell, at whatever price he may choose, nine hundred millions of dollars worth of bonds, to run not less than ten nor more than forty years. He is permitted to issue four hundred millions of dollars in Treasury notes, to run not more than three years, to bear any interest he pleases, under six per cent, and to be a legal tender or exchangeable for legal tender notes on presentation, as he may desire. He is allowed to issue one hundred and fifty millions of dollars more in legal tender notes (including the one hundred millions lately authorized by joint resolution) if he deems it necessary. In other words, Congress has placed the finances of the country entirely in the hands of Secretary Chase, and, through him, under the control of President Lincoln. The following table will show the amount of paper money we are about to have, without including the one hundred and fifty millions of new legal tender authorized to be used in converting the Treasury notes:

Table with columns: AMOUNT OF PAPER MONEY AFOOT AND AUTHORIZED, Bank currency now abroad, New bank currency under Chase's act, Legal tender, under act of 1862, Legal tender, under act of 1863, Treasury notes convertible into legal tender, Postal currency, Total amount of paper money.

The best thing which can be said of this record is that we could not do otherwise under the circumstances. Secretary Chase started our finances upon the wrong tack, and we had no choice but to go ahead or back out of the war. That an unparalleled expansion of credit and inflation of prices must soon ensue it is useless to deny. Instead of wasting time in grumbling at this state of affairs, let us consider how we can make the best of our bad bargain. Much depends upon Secretary Chase, and it would be well for the country if a more sensible, circumspect and sagacious statesman were in his place during this crisis. If he remains at his post, however, we advise him to proceed with his labors most discreetly. A panic will ruin both himself and the country. Should he attempt to float any of his bonds at present he would fail. Government receives nothing but legal tender notes for bonds, and these are now too scarce to be collected in sufficient quantities by our bankers. Let the Secretary issue a few millions more of legal tender, and then he may float a few bonds. Then let us have more paper and then more bonds. If a few victories can be immediately thrown in the effect will be advantageous. Thus by discreet and careful management the Secretary of the Treasury may be able to negotiate a considerable quantity of his bonds during this financial year. By so doing he will relieve the currency proportionately. But to achieve anything of real importance we must have military and naval success. The sword must sustain the purse. Money used to be the sinews of war; but now the war is the basis of the currency. Push on the war, bring it to a triumphant conclusion, and our finances will be healthy. Permit the war to languish, and the currency will depreciate. President Lincoln is not only our Commander-in-Chief, but he is also the real Secretary

of the Treasury. Congress has given him complete control both of the sword and the purse. He can call every man in the country, Jew or Gentile, bond or free, into his army, and his treasury is like the portmanteau of Fortunatus, which a wish will fill. Let him use this power rightly, and all is well.

When this war called for increased financial resources Secretary Chase had two schemes before him, both sanctioned by high precedent. These schemes were the plan of Napoleon and that of Pitt. Napoleon raised all his money by taxation. He issued no legal tender paper to pay his military debts. He taxed his own people and levied upon the provinces he conquered. In this way he generally managed to make war pay its own expenses as he went along. Pitt taxed the English for half the amount he required and issued legal tender for the other half. By this means he carried England through a long war without raising gold to so great a premium as it has reached now, in this country, before our war has lasted two years. Secretary Chase might have adopted either of these plans. The people were clamorous to be taxed, and were rich enough to be taxed heavily. But Mr. Chase chose to be original. Napoleon and Pitt were deemed old fogies, and Chase began by issuing legal tender, and ends by taxation; for, singularly enough, the very last of his measures is the one taxing local currency. This idea reminds us of the madman who wanted to build a house upside down, with its foundation in the air. The foundation of Mr. Chase's currency should have been taxation: it was legal tender notes. Taxation comes like an after thought. If we had begun by passing the tax bills, followed this up by bonds, and then issued legal tender for the deficiency, the bonds would have kept legal tender at par, or nearly so, and the taxes would have sustained the bonds. Now we have legal tender, bonds and taxes all in a jumble, and it will require a very shrewd financier to bring order out of this chaos. For such a financier we must look to our armies. A touch of electricity often restores a conglomeration of atoms to symmetrical form. The world is supposed to have been shaped from chaotic gases by a flash of electric power. We have the electricity which will reorganize our currency in one simple word—victory. Let us have victories, and gold will fall in spite of the grasping, greedy, un-patriotic speculators of Wall street. Let us have victories, and our taxes will be cheerfully paid, bonds will be easily negotiated, and legal tender money will be eagerly received in preference to local bank bills. Napoleon and Pitt prepared their finances to endure either triumph or disaster. Secretary Chase has given us a system which is adapted only to success. Failure is ruin, and there must be no such word as fail. Let the President remember that with a dictator's powers goes a dictator's responsibility, and that the only way to retrieve the finances of the country is to urge on the war. Our army is our treasury, and we must never draw upon it for a victory and have our draft unhonored.

The Conscription Law—The Military Power of the Loyal States.

The bill for enrolling and calling out the militia forces of the United States has become a law of the land. For the information of our readers, we this morning republish it in full. The substance of the bill, however, is comprehended in its first section, which provides that "all able-bodied male citizens (whites, Indians and negroes), and persons of foreign birth who shall have declared on oath their intention to become citizens, between the ages of twenty and forty-five years, except as hereinafter excepted, are hereby declared to constitute the national forces, and shall be liable to perform military duty in the service of the United States when called out by the President for that purpose."

Now let us briefly consider the comparative strength of the forces of the Union thus placed at the service of the President for the purpose of putting down the armed forces of the rebellion. From the census statistics of 1860 (white basis) we make out the following as THE FIGHTING STRENGTH OF THE LOYAL STATES AND TERRITORIES:

Table with columns: State/Territory, Population, Fighting Men. Lists states from Maine to Nevada with corresponding population and fighting men figures.

In this estimate we include all able-bodied white men between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years. Making liberal allowances for the able-bodied young men between eighteen and twenty, who are excluded by the act, and for all other exemptions, we think the available white militia forces of the loyal portions of the Union—States, parts of States and Territories—may be safely set down as fully up to the grand aggregate of four millions of men—almost equal to the entire white population, men, women and children, of the rebel States. From this sum total, under the President's several requisitions—first for 75,000, second for 500,000, third for 300,000, and fourth for 300,000—there have been drawn an aggregate, we dare say, not exceeding one million of men; and of this aggregate there are now some 700,000 in the field. The killed, wounded and missing, and those who have died of disease, and those who have been withdrawn from the field in consequence of the expiration of their terms of volunteer service, will make up the difference of three hundred thousand men.

Thus it appears that, with 700,000 men in the field, and a naval force equal, for the purposes of this war, to an army of half a million of men, we have a militia reserved force of three millions to fall back upon. The armed forces of the rebellion in the field, on the other hand, can hardly exceed four hundred thousand men, and they are unsupported on the water except by two or three practical Flying Dutchmen, roaming about on the Atlantic, and a few extemporized iron-clads of the Merrimac and Arkansas construction at Richmond, Charleston,

Savannah and Mobile. Nor have the rebellious States any militia reserves from which to replenish their armies in the field. The latest official returns received at the Adjutant General's office at Washington represent the enrolled militia of the States now involved in the rebellion as follows:—

Table with columns: State, Officers and Men. Lists states from Virginia to Texas with corresponding officer and men figures.

But, bringing all the aforesaid States to an estimate for 1860, we will put their aggregate militia force between eighteen and forty-five years at seven hundred thousand men. Of this number at least one hundred thousand have been lost already since the beginning of the war, and the four hundred thousand which are now in the field embrace very nearly the last white man that can be withdrawn from the agricultural and manufacturing pursuits of the rebel States, which are indispensable to the maintenance of their soldiers in the field, the subsistence of their families at home, and the government of the slaves on their plantations.

We may safely say, therefore, that while the conscriptions of Jeff. Davis during the last twelve months have exhausted the available militia forces of the revolted States, and have brought them all into the field, President Lincoln has a reserved militia force of three millions of men upon which to draw, and from which he may draw a million of soldiers without very seriously disturbing the essential industrial operations of the country. But believing, as we do, that our land and naval forces now in the field, if managed with ordinary ability, are sufficient to put down the armies of the rebellion, the question recurs, why, then, this sweeping Conscription act? We conjecture that it is designed to meet the possible contingencies of foreign intervention, and in view of a powerful military diversion into Mexico or Canada, should the future proceedings of France or England call for it.

In a late number of the London Post (the mouthpiece of Lord Palmerston), the editor, commenting on the latest aspects of this war, says that "the federals are divided and dispirited, ashamed to confess themselves foiled, yet anxious for a decent pretext for withdrawing from an undertaking they feel to be hopeless;" that "grand army (of the Potomac) on which their hopes principally were based is so demoralized that two-thirds of the men have doggedly refused to follow their generals," and that in England "the little diversity of opinion" which may be found in regard to the issue of the war "must now speedily cease to exist." We suspect, however, that this federal Conscription act, and the facts and figures which we have produced in connection with it, will tend rather to increase than to diminish this diversity of English public opinion until the scales are changed. Let us have a single telling victory upon the heels of these late comprehensive war measures of Congress, and they will be sufficient to convince even Lord Palmerston that Jeff. Davis is tottering to his fall, and that European intervention is utterly out of the question.

Hence we concur in this Conscription act as the most effective stroke of diplomacy that could be employed towards the South, and towards England, to convince her of the strength and determination of the government and loyal States of the Union to put down this Southern rebellion, even against the possible contingency of European intervention.

THE DEGENCIES OF THE NEGRO-WORSHIPPERS.—The negro-worshipping journals seem to be considerably annoyed at the fact that some leading Republicans have presented to Mrs. General McClellan a handsome residence as a token of their esteem for herself and her husband. The journals were very anxious to contradict the announcement of this presentation when it was first mentioned in the Herald, and rushed off to ascertain whether the property was duly recorded, imagining, it seems, that Mrs. McClellan would rush off with her title to the property and have it registered in haste. When it became evident to the journals referred to that the donation had been made, they indulged in sturs upon the affair, considering it "extremely queer that only one person's name appeared in the matter as regards the payments made for the property." What could be more natural, however, than that a treasurer should have been appointed to pay over the sums subscribed by a number of gentlemen? We should not have mentioned this contemptible attempt to injure the man most feared by the negro-worshippers were it not that a lady's name is mixed up in a most ruffianly manner with the affair. That such should be the case is sufficient comment. The public will judge at its true value the vile slander, though they will not be astonished at its promulgation, which is on a par with the usual course pursued by the negro-worshippers.

MISTAKES MADE BY THE FRENCH IN MEXICO.

We see by our latest advices from Europe that still further reinforcements are to be sent by Napoleon to Mexico. The great difficulty which the French have to contend with in that country is the want of transportation, and until they obtain the means for the speedy movements of troops reinforcements will be more in the way than aiding. In contrast with the inefficiency of transportation which cripples the movements of the French in Mexico is the course pursued by us at the date of our campaign in that country. Quartermaster General Jesup furnished the army with such means for transportation as to avoid the delay of an hour in our movements. He furnished teams in such profusion as to cause military critics to cry out that a wasteful provision had been made. The results, however, proved the sagacity of our Quartermaster General, and insured our success. The French will never succeed in Mexico until they have learned to conduct their campaign as we did ours.

FACTS FOR SECRETARY WELLES.—The last steamer left San Francisco with a million and a quarter of dollars on board. The British steamer Solent sailed from Aspinwall very recently with five millions on freight. The steamer Ariel, which arrived here a few days ago, brought only a quarter of a million. These are important facts for Secretary Welles. If he had had the naval forces of the country properly organized and distributed along the coast and Atlantic seaboard, instead of a quarter of a million, we should have more than a million by every arrival from Aspinwall.

Art and Artists—The Recent Sales of Pictures.

The same influences that have enhanced the price of stocks and given an impetus to speculations in real estate are for the moment helping greatly the interests of art. Whenever there is a sale of really good pictures the prices realized compare favorably with those of any former period, even in the most prosperous times. It would seem as if almost every one was desirous of investing something in a description of property which, where discrimination is used, gains, instead of losing, by being kept. There are few instances in which a picture by an artist of reputation will not sell for more than was originally given for it. Like old wine, its marketable value increases with age. This fact was never more appreciated than it is just now. In the doubt which exists in regard to the safety of securities, whether rightly or wrongly, people rush to investments which are not liable to be affected by political events. As an evidence of this we need only point to the results of the sale of the collection known as the International Art Institution, which took place last week. Foreign works of a fair average character brought unusually large prices, whilst many of an inferior class realized sums considerably beyond their value. For one picture alone—a portrait of Humboldt—by Schrader, of Berlin, Mr. A. T. Stewart paid fifteen hundred dollars—in this instance not too much for a work of so much merit.

The tendency to speculate in this direction will lead to the formation of a great many private collections, which will in their turn react favorably on the interests of American artists. The gentleman whom we have just named, Mr. Stewart, is, we understand, purchasing extensively, with a view to the formation of a large gallery to be attached to his private residence. He could not expend a portion of his immense wealth to more advantage, either in reference to the gratification of his individual tastes or to its speculative results. Another of our citizens has, since his retirement from business, been quietly purchasing up all the good pictures that he can lay his hands upon, with what purpose is not exactly known, but it is believed to be for a highly praiseworthy and patriotic object. The galleries of Mr. Aspinwall, Mr. Lenox, Mr. Belmont, Mr. Wright and other patrons of the arts are constantly receiving fresh accessions from abroad, and we only wish that a larger share of their orders was bestowed on American works. There never was, and never will be, perhaps, a period when it will be more in the power of such men to give an impulse to American art. We are passing through one of those great national ordeals which is especially favorable to the development of native genius. In that branch in which our artists have hitherto been most deficient—historical painting—it is perhaps of all things the best calculated to stimulate their latent ambition.

We know that it is objected by some of our most munificent patrons of art that the events of a civil war are not those that it is either desirable or praiseworthy to perpetuate on canvass. This is a mistaken view to take. All the episodes of life, whether individual or national, whether joyous or mournful, whether calculated to elicit the smile of pride or the flush of humiliation, are alike fit subjects for the artist's pencil. They each serve to convey their lesson and their warning. The civil wars of England, Germany and France contributed to art some of its greatest names and some of its most effective subjects. We regret to find that the efforts of those of our native artists who have attempted to strike into this new and prolific vein should have been discouraged by such narrow minded reasoning. The field which Delacroix, Horace Vernet, Ingres and Phillipoteaux occupied with so much credit to themselves is surely one in which they may venture to labor.

HOW ENGLAND PRACTISES NEUTRALITY.—The London journals seem to take unusual pains to convince their readers that the government of England is strictly neutral in its relations with this country. The said journals surely must be aware how little foundation there is for their assertions, or else they are wilfully deceiving the English public. There can exist no doubt as to the treachery of the government of our British Majesty towards our administration. Since the commencement of the war over one hundred vessels have cleared from Nassau for New Brunswick, not one of which ever reported at the latter colony. Many of these ships have been captured by our cruisers while endeavoring to break the blockade. English capital thus loses from ten to fifteen millions of dollars; but it is no wise daunted, and continues to clear ships from Nassau for New Brunswick. Of course the Custom House officials of the former place are aware of the deceit they lend themselves to in this matter, as is the home government in England. On the day that the ship Griswold arrived at Liverpool, laden with food sent by us to the starving operatives of Lancashire, the English steamer Dolphin sailed from that port for the seceded States with a cargo of war munitions. An ill return for a kind deed, and a striking commentary upon English neutrality.

EXTRAVAGANCE OF THE FRENCH COURT.—The fearful extravagance of the court of Louis XIV. laid the foundation for the horrors of the French Revolution. The extravagance of Napoleon's court will plunge France once more into revolution if they continue. We receive each week descriptions from abroad of fetes and masquerades which have become insanely extravagant. Ladies spend from thirty thousand to fifty thousand francs for a fancy costume, and that while hundreds of thousands are starving for bread in the provinces. Poor Marie Antoinette hastened her dreadful fate by her fondness for trawsties. Her fetes were modest indeed, however, when compared to the mad freaks which are now causing all Europe to wonder. The French were amazed at Marie Antoinette, because she was a foreigner, enjoying private theatricals and playing at shepherdess while they were distressed for food. Those maskers in Paris are dancing over a volcano which will surely engulf them if they do not take care.

THE NEW FANCY IN WALL STREET.—Wall street must always have some fancy of its own—something to knock up or down. The Morris Canal, Harlem, Erie and hundreds of other stocks have had their day. Gold is low the fancy, and we see that it fluctuates as much as from one to six per cent in a day.

TAKING GOALS TO NEWCASTLE.—See the large imports of Egyptian cotton at this port.