

THE NEWS OF THE CAPTURE OF SLIDELL. A Mass. has set John Bull into the free exercise of his right prerogative—grumbling. Aside from a public meeting at which some inflammatory resolutions were passed, nearly all we get is from the English journals. Their good feeling there was a little more uniformity of sentiment, might startle the weak and timid. We however, find a good many variations in the views they descend upon. What one asserts, is in some cases roundly contradicted by another. There is no method in their madness, and consequently, as Shakespeare hath it, "no appearance in the eyes that stare with." At the first flash they see nothing but the ignis fatuus of a viola of fact, and the abolition of offensed dignity is very serious. But as the effluence subsides a little and they begin to look at the principles involved, they are enabled to discover precedents where they themselves took the initiative. Of course in these precedents they are enabled to detect some shades of distinction and difference, which of course afford some relief, and help to break their fall. All the halcyon dash about instructions to Lord Lyons to demand the giving up of the prisoners, and an apology, or his passports, and the sending of large armaments to Canada, and into the Potomac, and all this in advance of negotiation, is in effect, and will not disturb the equilibrium of any but such as may be affected with the hypochondria. The mental and physical soundness of the readers of the Telegraph, will no doubt protect them from any attack of the vapors from this cause.

A consideration which goes to forbid a rupture with us is the large amount of American securities held by English capitalists. These are amply sufficient to cause a shudder to run from the pocket to the heart of John Bull. These could be readily reached and would be a very comfortable acquisition to lean upon in sustaining expenses.

Then there is the capital invested in Canadian stocks and internal improvements, which would be ruinously depreciated by a collision between the two countries. These considerations will have a strong influence upon capitalists, and will not fail to be reflected upon the ministry, and thus reach and regulate the diplomacy, if any should arise upon the Trent affair.

Commerce, too, is a great and controlling element of British power, and the commercial interests of that country will at once feel the effects of a state of hostility with us. Such a war would of necessity be a great naval war, and with all her navy, England could scarcely think of spreading herself over our extended coasts, blockading our ports, and at the same time protect a commerce extending over the world. The manufacturers of England stand between its laboring millions and starvation. Commerce by bringing a foreign market within reach stands between the manufacturers and bankruptcy. Interests such as these will have a potent influence in restraining the more pugnacious elements of that proud but very economic, and after a little bluster, sensible and considerate people.

The despatches in regard to Person Brown's arrest are considerably muddled, so much so that we are unable to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion as to his fate. The unaccountable retreat of our troops from Wildcat Mountain, and the consequent exposure of that non-combatant and his band, rendering necessary their flight to the mountains, until explained, will be a source of mortification.

Why the Sumner was not Captured. Capt. Palmer of the Iroquois, in several communications to the Navy Department, tells his story of the Sumner's escape from St. Pierre, and anchored near, but being apprised by the Commander of a French man-of-war lying in port, that he could not enter the harbor, nor blockade or capture her at less distance than three marine leagues from shore, got under way at once and stood off and on for several days at the required distance.

The French commander and the government at the island indirectly gave him to understand that to do otherwise would be to bring on war with France. The people as well as authorities seemed to be on the side of the Sumner. Capt. Palmer, however, arranged with some loyal persons, who on a dark night gave signal that the Sumner had started southward. The Iroquois made all speed in that direction, but a signal was made from a small vessel as she approached doubtless to the Sumner, which escaped, as Capt. Palmer expected. He says there was no bay, but an open roadstead, 15 miles across, with lofty headlands, the whole impossible to be watched by one vessel.

The friends of Capt. Palmer assert that there is not a more true or loyal man in the service. He is a brother of Gen. Palmer, of the U. S. Army, and was born in New Jersey.

GOOD NEWS FROM EGYPT.—Mr. Thayer, our consul general in Egypt, has sent a dispatch to Secretary Seward, in which he states that the victory of Egypt has again shown his good will to the U. S. by directing the expulsion of all unrecognized flags from the Egyptian ports, not allowing privateers in the service of the domestic enemies of the U. S. to bring prizes, or fit out in his dominions. The victory approves the scale of our military preparations, and says "that half-way measure we as bad in war as anything else."

Our manufacturers are placed on an equal footing with those of Great Britain as to facilities for obtaining cotton in Egypt. Mr. Thayer also states that the news of the sailing of a federal fleet to open a northern cotton port, caused cotton to fall at Alexandria, in one day, from \$55 to \$31 a cent weight.

Gen. Kelly it is said, is progressing steadily towards Winchester from Romney. He has daily skirmishes with the rebel advance guard.

The mutiny of the N. Y. 79th are to be returned from the Dry Tortugas to Port Royal.

STEADY.—We think everybody by this time is fully satisfied that the "On to Richmond" cry has lost its power. The firm position taken by Gen. McClellan, must after a month's experience satisfy every one that he is immovable. We trust however that the same is not true of his army, and that there are those now living on the earth who will in their day and generation see the movement of the general army of the Potomac. But we feel no certainty on the subject.

R. M. T. Hunter is censured, by the correspondent of the Examiner, for wishing to resign his place in the cabinet.

Dispatches both to Secretary Seward, from Minister Adams, and to Lord Lyons from his government, have reached Washington, via Boston, and the sentiments of the English government upon the Wilkes and Slidell and Mason affair, are the topics of discussion, no doubt, in official circles at the capital. Letter writers will soon begin to give us the results of their guesses and inferences.

FIRE IN CHARLESTON.—The startling account of the destruction of a large portion of that hot-bed of treason, the city of Charleston, published in our columns to day, will attract attention. That tribulation should have thus fallen upon that locality in advance of what was expected in the course of the war, puts the mind into exercise, and we find it difficult to avoid the conclusion that the supreme disposer of events is suffering his purposes to be executed by the agency, as it appears to human wisdom, of fortuity and accident.

The Norfolk and Richmond papers give full particulars of the extensive conflagration in Charleston, S. C. The fire broke out on the 11th instant in a sash and blind factory at the foot of Hazell street, extending to the machine shop of Cameron & Co.

The panic became awful, and thousands of families evacuated their houses, and filled the streets. The buildings in the lower part of the city where the fire broke out, were principally of wood, and extremely inflammable, which accounts for the remarkably rapid progress of the fire at midnight.

Before midnight the fire had assumed an appalling magnitude, and Meeting street from Market to Queen street was a mass of flames, as tenement after tenement was enveloped in flames.

The Circular Church and Institute Hall were burning, and the proximity of the flames to the Charleston Hotel and the Mills House caused them to be evacuated by their inmates. At 1 o'clock the fire tended more southward towards the corner of Archdale and Queen streets to the rear of the Charleston Hotel to the end of Home street, crossing Market street, and across to the Mills House, including in its destruction the Circular Church and Institute Hall, and the Charleston Hotel. All the buildings on King Street from Clifford nearly to Broad, were destroyed before three o'clock in the afternoon. Gen. Ripley who superintended the movements of the troops, who arrived on the scene at about this time, and ordered several buildings on the route of the conflagration to be blown up.

After some delay the order was executed. That part of the city which is already known to be consumed contained far more of value than all that remained. The most fashionable part, where the richest plebeians and merchants had their city residences, along the lower extremity, down to the Ashley river, the public buildings, including the custom house, court house, and all the municipal offices, as well as the theatre, the market and the best hotels, the cannon foundry, and hundreds of large mercantile establishments. Much of the city is built of wood. King street was the principal avenue of business and resort, as well as of retail trade, although its buildings were not of much pretension.

The Mercury, Courier, Southern Christian Advocate and Book Depository, insurance offices, banks, and large wholesale dry goods houses were on Back street. The cotton factors, commission and transportation merchants were on East Bay street. The Mills House, Charleston Hotel, Institute Hall, Theatre, and market were on Meeting street. All these streets were burned over, besides some thirty large wharfs, buildings, and stores on Cooper river.

Among the buildings destroyed were the Custom House, Post Office, Court House, City Hall—which held the Council Chamber, records, and a full length statue of Calhoun. The Court House included the Guard House, and attached was the torture-yard where slaves were sent to be whipped. The Mills House, the fashionable house of the south, the Charleston Hotel, second only to the Mills and the Planters Hotel.

Of the Churches destroyed St. Michael's Episcopal is the most important, being the oldest in America, in the Revolution it furnished quarters for British cavalry—the Roman Catholic Cathedral, the Congregational, French Protestant, the 1st Presbyterian and St. Philip's (Episcopal). The number of mercantile houses burned can hardly be enumerated. It has blotted out the buildings in which active treason was hatched in the National Democratic Convention.

Col. Brown, in command of Fort Pickens, has sent in his official report of the two days bombardment. He says that three times since he has been in command he has intended to open fire, but circumstances over which he had no control, have, each time, prevented.

Col. B. says he opened on the morning of the 22d, and his fire was incessant until two o'clock, at the rate of a shot for each gun every 15 or twenty minutes. On the second day, the fire was less rapid. The report says:

About 3 o'clock fire was communicated to the houses in the vicinity, and shortly afterward to the church steeple, the church and the whole village being immediately in the rear of some of the rebel batteries, they apparently having placed them purposely directly in front of the largest and most valuable buildings. The fire rapidly communicated to other buildings along the street until probably two-thirds of it was consumed; and about the same time fire was discovered issuing from the back part of the navy yard, probably in Wolcott, a village to the westward and immediately adjoining the city. The fire spread down on the west. Finally it proceeded to the rear, and as it continued to burn brightly all night, I concluded that either it is

or in Wolcott many buildings were destroyed. Very heavy damage was also done to the buildings of the yard by the avalanche of shot, shell, and splinters showered successively on them for two days, and being nearly fire-proof being built of brick and covered with slate, I could not succeed in firing them, but shot nor shells, not having any power of igniting them. This is for though it has received a great many shot and shell, it is in every respect, save the disabling of an gun carriage, and the loss of the services of 6 men, as efficient as it was before the commencement of the combat; but the ends I proposed in commencing having been attained, except one, which I feel to be impracticable with my present means, I do not deem it advisable further to continue it, unless the enemy thing it proper to do so, when I shall meet him with alacrity.

The attack on Billy Wilson's camp, the attempted attack on my batteries, and the insult to our glorious flag, have been fully and fearfully avenged. I have no means of knowing the loss of the enemy, and have no disposition to guess at it. The firing on my batteries was very heavy, well directed, and continued for 2 days, and could hardly fail of having important results.

It is reported that the rebels at Columbus have received a large number of heavy anchors and cables for the purpose of obstructing the navigation of the river at that place. Great preparations are being made there, expecting an early attack.

Forty of Gen. Prentiss' command retraced here last night, most of them sick with the measles. They report that the Federals had several skirmishes on their march, killing a few of them.

At the river, opposite Lexington, they were fired on by the rebels at that place and General Prentiss dispersed them with shells from three two pounders, but there being no ferry or means of crossing the river, our forces were compelled to return to Richmond for forage and provisions.

It was General Prentiss' intention, however, to cross the River on Saturday at a point above Lexington, and the forces from Sedalia and Kansas City would join him there.

The rebels are reported to be 2000 strong.

A dispatch from Frankfort, dated the 30th ult. states:

Gen. Crittenden was at Cumberland Gap with a large force, and that 5,000 men at Morrison were probably join him. An invasion of Kentucky was feared from that point.

The Brownsville, Texas flag, gives an account of an attack on the city of Matamoros by Gen. Canajual. Great carnage is said to have accompanied the attack, and both parties claimed success.

Gen. Floyd's army has been ordered to Bowling Green, Ky.

The removal of this army to the far west says the Richmond Dispatch, leaves a large portion of Virginia exposed. The effect upon the temper of the people in the exposed counties will be extremely untoward.

The recent Memorials, December 18, considering the disproportion of the numbers now engaged, a former resolution, appropriating of Capt. Wilkes, passed without being referred. He (Vanandigham) had offered this resolution in good faith and would stand by it.

The House returned the bill vigorously and stood their ground until the rebels fell back, leaving all their dead and most of their wounded on the field. No reinforcements had reached Weber's command, as reported yesterday, until after the engagement was over.

Stone's Louisville Battery reported the Federals from the north side of Green River, firing at very long range from rifled cannon. Four other companies were on the south side of the river, but engaged as pickets a mile and a quarter distant from the fight.

Of the Texan Rangers 62 were killed, besides Col. Terry. Wounded unknown—supposed large. The Federals buried their dead. 14 rebels' horses found dead on the field, and 3 rebels taken prisoners.

Further particulars just received from the scene of the fight report that yesterday and to-day 69 dead and wounded rebels were found in the bushes.

The Federal loss is 10 killed on the spot, 7 mortally, 13 otherwise wounded. Of these mortally wounded 4 have since died. The rebels lost a Colonel, Captain and Lieutenant.

The Federal forces on the south side of Green river is considerably augmented, but the report of a general crossing of the Federal southward yesterday, is denied, and would probably not take place till the Green river bridge on which a force is engaged, is constructed.

The rebels sent a flag of truce to-day, asking permission to inter their alleged buried dead.

N. Y. Dec. 19.—The Times' special from Washington, 18th, says: A special Cabinet meeting was held to-day at which the English question was discussed, of course informally. There was but one sentiment: that no quarrel with England must be permitted to interfere at this moment to stay the reduction of the rebels. I have the best authority for saying the demands of England will be met in a spirit of conciliation which will refute the report that Mr. Seward or any other member of the Cabinet has been eager to provoke foreign war.

The N. Y. Times says the Secretary of the Treasury is in town, and another general meeting of our Associated Banks was held this afternoon. The immediate object is given out to have been—not to confer upon the acknowledged financial wants of the Government for the next 6 months, frankly to be arranged for the 17th millions—being the ten or twelve million under the negotiations of the 15th of August. After this affair was adjusted, the meeting adjourned to convene again tomorrow in consultation with the Secretary on more important matters.

It is possible the magnitude of the real question like to be presented, to wit—the supply of \$275,000,000 to the Treasury between the 1st of January and the 30th of June. It is more than possible that the operations of the Treasury and the movements of the Associated Banks of the Atlantic cities may go forward for some time to come, if not indefinitely, in the described basis.

CONGRESSIONAL.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15, 1861.

A personal explanation occurred between Conway and Fouke, during which Conway charged Fouke with a deliberate purpose to bring about a personal collision without cause, and asked whether such conduct was not unworthy a member of this house, but characteristic rather of a blackguard and scoundrel (Sensation).

Mr. Fouke would say one word in reply. Stevens and others objected. They had enough of such things.

The Speaker informed Mr. Fouke that no debate was in order.

Mr. Fouke, amid the cries of "order" was understood to say that Conway was a disgrace to the nation and humanity. There the matter ended in the House.

The House passed the bill to strike out from the pension roll the names of all persons who have taken up arms against the Government, in any manner aided the rebellion.

Mr. Vallandigham of Ohio introduced a preamble and resolution as follows: WHEREAS, The Secretary of the Navy has reported to this House that Capt. Charles Wilkes, in command of the San Jacinto, an armed public vessel of the U. S. on the 8th of November, 1861, on the high seas intercept the Trent, a British mail steamer, and forcibly removed therefrom James Mason and John Slidell, disloyal citizens, leading conspirators, rebel enemies and dangerous men, who with their suit were on their way to Europe, to promote the cause of the insurrection, claiming to be Ambassadors from the seceded Confederate States; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary of the Navy has further reported to this House that the prompt and decisive action of Capt. Wilkes on this occasion merited and received the emphatic approval of the Department, and moreover in a public letter has thanked Capt. Wilkes for the act; and

WHEREAS, This House on the first day of the session, did propose to tender the thanks of Congress to Capt. Wilkes for his brave and patriotic conduct in the arrest of the traitors; and

WHEREAS, Further on the same day this House did request the President to confine the said J. M. Mason and John Slidell in the cells of convicted felons until certain military officers of the U. S. captured by the so called Confederate States, should be treated as prisoners of war;

Resolved, As the sense of this House, That it is the duty of the President to now frantically maintain the stand thus taken, approving and adopting the act of Capt. Wilkes in spite of any menace or demand of the British government; and that this House pledges its full support to him in upholding now the honor, and vindicating the cause of the Government and people of the United States against a foreign power.

Vallandigham moved the previous question. They had heard the first growl of the British lion, and it remained to be seen who would cover.

Fenton, of N. Y. hoped the resolution would be referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Vallandigham remarked that a former resolution, appropriating of Capt. Wilkes, passed without being referred. He (Vanandigham) had offered this resolution in good faith and would stand by it.

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Announcement.

M. G. DICK, would announce to the Public Generally, that he has just bought, in New York, and is receiving a large stock of Goods comprising:

Miscellaneous, School, Juvenile, Toy and BLANK BOOKS. Fancy Goods, Yankee Notions, Toys, and Stewart's Fancy Candles.

With it in your arm when you can see it every day in the year, that is, it is not to be sold.

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By Valens M. January 1, 1862. THE COUNTRY GENTLEMAN is now acknowledged to be the leading Agricultural Journal of America. It contains 10 pages of text and 100 illustrations of the most valuable and interesting facts of the year.

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By virtue of a writ of Habeas Corpus duly issued from said Court, the said Edwin T. Strong, Sheriff, will offer for sale by public auction, at the residence of Henry Field in Ashabula, Ashabula county, Ohio, on

Monday the 30th day of December, 1861, between the hours of 10 and 4 o'clock of said day, the following described goods and chattels, to-wit:

Four Sets of Harness; one Cattle; one Black Horse, 9 years old; one one-horse Wagon, one square box Cattle; one two horse Sled; two one-horse Wagons; all the Corn in the crib of Henry Field, supposed to be about 150 bushels of corn.

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One Black Mare, 8 years old; three dairy Cows; two Steers, two years old; one Bull two years old; two Heifers, 2 years old; two Steers, one year old; one gray Horse; one brown Horse; one open Eager; all the Hay in the barn of Edward Lockwood, and all the Corn in the crib of said Lockwood on his farm in Ashabula.

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One double Custom Carding Machine; two Broad Power Looms; three Narrow Power Looms; one Spinning Jack.

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MASTER COMMISSIONER'S Sale of Lands and Tenements.

Pursuant to the command of an order issued from the Court of Common Pleas of Ashabula county, at the call of Edward C. Fisher, Plaintiff, against the said John Henry DeWolfe, et al. as special Master Commissioner, the following Lots are for sale at Public Auction, at the door of the Court House, in the village of Jefferson, in said County, on

Saturday, the 25th of January, A. D. 1862, between the hours of 10 A. M. and 4 P. M. of said day, the following described land, to-wit: Situate in the township of Green, in the county of Ashabula, and State of Ohio, and being part of lot Number eleven, (11) and bounded as follows: Beginning at the North West corner of the West side of the Lake road, running Easterly along the Lake road to the house of Harry S. Spencer's West line, across the said Lake road, thence South along said Spencer's West line to the Southeast corner of said Spencer's West line, and thence South to the West side of the Lake road, thence West along the Lake road to the place of beginning, containing one hundred acres of land, be the same more or less, excepting and reserving the homestead of about three acres, of old William Jones, bounded and described as follows—beginning in the East side of the Lake road, running Easterly along the Lake road, and thence South twenty-four rods, thence East parallel with the Lake road twenty rods, thence North to the West side of the Lake road, thence West along the Lake road to the place of beginning, containing about two thousand two hundred and eighty-three acres of land, more or less, in three lots, to-wit: one third in two years. Deceased persons on interest, well secured. J. O. KALMERS, Special Master Commissioner.

MY wife Heloira Cole, having left me without provision, all persons are hereby forbidden to contract any bill with her on account, as I will pay no debts of her contracting. FRANK WILSON, Sayre, Dec. 20th, 1861.

Dry Goods! JUST Received from New York, some of the Latest Styles, to replenish our

Fall and Winter Stock. Balmoral Skirts at a Medium Price, Four Breasts, and desirable colors.

Ladies Cloth, Made of the same, selling at \$2 per yard—Dress and Water proof Mixtures.

Dress Goods, A Complete Stock of New Styles—Maple and Pacific Delaines, Cashmeres, Mixtures, Velvets, Opas, and Ottoman Cloths, Poplins, &c.

Mourning Goods, Green, Mosses, Turin Cloth, Glass Poplins, Black and white, Delaines and Frills of all figures.

Black Silks, All Grades and Widths, bought strictly for Cash and sold at the lowest possible figures. A Silk pronounced worth \$1.25, selling for \$1.00.

Worsted Goods, Black, Serenage, Nubia Scarfs, Coats, and Chemise Neck.

Alexander's Kid Gloves. Ladies' Cloth, and Lisle Gauze.

Shawls, Square English with Black Center. Blanket Shawls selling at cost to close out.

Flannels, Red and Grey, Heavy a Medium grades, Cotton and Silk warp.

Cotton Flannels, Cotton Warp, Cotton Twine, Cotton Yarn, 8 to 12 Balling—more of the old kind.

Hoop Skirts, Carpets, Coat Matting, Floor Oil Cloths, &c. &c. Ladies' Super Merino Vests.

All Leading Groceries. Cranberries, Sugar, Tea and Coffee, Flour, Raisins and Cloves, Cakes, Ginger and Salsaparilla.

New Goods Received Semi Monthly. Mr. Green, residing mostly in New York, our advantage for Making Purchases at the Right Time, are not surpassed. Give us a call at the Old Stand of Smith & Lockwood, Main street Ashabula, O. December, 9, 1861. SMITH & GILKEY.

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