Daily Appeal.

ATLANTA, GA.

SATURDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 26.

THE TONE OF A PRESS.

In the handsome compliment bestowed by the Macon *Telegraph* on the press of Atlanta, and handsomely responded to by our accomplished *confrere* of the *Confederacy*, we recognize the highest compliment that can be bestowed upon the local press of a city, or the general press of a country. All the ordinary common-place compliments to individual journals—such as ability, interest, sprightliness, enterprise—are nothing, we think, in comparison with dignity, with latitude, and courtesy of tone, and editorial bearing.

If the character of a gentleman should be "without fear and without reproach," that of a journal should be eminently so. The spotless purity of its pages should be stained by no impurity of thought, or feeling, or opinion, or bearing, by nothing which would lower it morally in the eyes of the world, above all in its own eyes; and nothing should be produced by its editor in aspects of taste or morals "which dying he would wish to blot." The newspaper is the evangelist, the social, moral, political evangelist of our age, and country, and there should be to the conduct of it, the same lofty conscientiousness of tone, the same exalted sense of obligation to disseminate truth, and to avoid the appearance even of circulating error, the same devoted and conscious sense of cherishing as vital and cardinal graces of spirit, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are true, and whatsoever things are of good report, as the highest and holiest apostle of Christian truth, or the most accredited "legate of the skies."

While this should be the spirit of the press at all times, specially should it be so in times like these when we are engaged in a struggle, a holy struggle, for the dearest and most sacred rights and privileges of man. A tone of personal selfishness, or undignified carping, dogmatism, intolerance, faultfinding, on the part of the press, in this the period of the country's travail, and it may be of liberty's death struggle, would be as incongruous in sound as the string ajar or relaxed in the chords of an Æolian harp, as the imperial vision of unseemly mirth when the heroic of the people are on fire, or the "inebriates laugh in the chamber of death."

There are many influences operating to impair the effect of the mission of the press, and injure its tone in aspects of enlightened, dignified *esprit de corps*, all of which may be said to be developments in different forms of selfishness. The first and most obvious is, the yielding the influence of the journal to the support of some particular man, or clique or party. So far is this from being proper, we think a journal may disparage its mission by devoting too much of its space to individuals. While a very great man, particularly a man great in noble thoughts, heroic deeds, or in more noble and heroic sacrifices, may be the subject of special or honorable mention, or just and appropriate illustration, we think surrendering the columns, or a column even of a journal to advocacy or eulogy of man, man who in doing all of which they are capable for the country, are doing or have done but their simple duty, we think an error of journalism, which exalts mere man worship at the expense of principle, and leads to selfish jealousy, and irritation of controversy merely personal.

Another influence is a certain intellectual ambitiousness of editorial style, suggested perhaps by that great ideal of journalism, the London Times, and consisting in the affectation of a certain epic grandeur of sentence architecture, and word aggregation in *Jupiter Tonans* leaders; and in such minor beauties, as oracular dogmatism of tone, supercilious affectation of wisdom, and snouts of classical contempt at other people's ignorance or presumption; in magisterial rebuke, in sapient austerity, and grave political prophecy, in annihilating denunciation, in sublimely heroic platitude, and poetically turgid truism.

Another, and perhaps the most fatal influence, is the personal jealousy, or sense of personal interest, which prompts the promotion of the interests of the individual journal at the expense of the general press, and which prefers rising separately to rising with it. A man who wishes to rise, should rise with his profession, and not at the expense of it—the difference being between the character of the honored jurist, and the despised barrator, or peninforger—the man rising or falling in the general popular esteem just in the proportion that he rises with his general profession, or attempts to rise at the expense of its general interests. It is the sentiment of manly *esprit de corps*, which gives to a professor its dignity; and the dignity of character of each individual member is but the reflection of the prestige of the profession.

Many expedients have been resorted to, such as combinations, in the shape of associations, societies, clubs, with imposingly classical and historical names to promote professional unselfishness, and loftiness of professional thought and purpose, but without avail, or with very meager results. The only way in which such ends can be attained, or aspirations realized, is in the personal tone which makes the editor a gentleman, and the professional, which makes the journalist so far magnify his office, as not to allow its motive or mission to be perverted to any end, other than the one of truth and instruction. A true or conscientious patriotism is the inspiration of a good journal, and the editor who has it in connection with loyal personal feeling, will make his journal a type of personal refinement, and political consistency.

MORGAN'S COMMAND.

Surgeon J. F. Keizer, of Gen. Morgan's command, has been authorized by special order to solicit contributions of horses, clothing and money, for the benefit of Morgan's cavalry division. He will remain in the city during the coming week, and may be found at Washington hall. He informs us that the citizens of Augusta have contributed the sum of ten thousand dollars toward equipping this command, and is in hopes that the people of Atlanta will do as well.

Dr. Keizer says that if the people will assist Gen. Morgan in mounting and equipping two hundred of his men, they will mount the remainder of the command themselves in the rear of the enemy's lines. We hope our citizens will respond liberally to this appeal. Morgan's men, if now in the field, would prove of immense service to the country. At what time they shall re-enter upon their duties, is a question to be determined by the people themselves. Those who have not horses, can give money, blankets or clothing. Com

Gen. Morgan.—The Columbia *Civilian*, of the 24th, announces the arrival in that place of General John H. Morgan, he having passed through, on Wednesday afternoon, on his way to Virginia. A gentleman who met with him on the Greenville train, states that Morgan, after numerous adventures, passed through Cumberland gap, swam the Tennessee river, and crossed to Wallacha, where he took the cars. Morgan will, no doubt, pay his respects to the Yankees again shortly.

FROM WEST TENNESSEE.

Col. M. C. Galloway arrived in this place this morning direct from the command of Gen. Forrest, at Jackson, Tenn. His reports as to the spirit and feeling of the people, the prospects of Gen. Forrest, etc., are of the most cheering character. One thousand new recruits came out with Col. Galloway as far as Okalona, Miss., for the purpose of procuring arms. It is thought Gen. Forrest will have no difficulty in soon increasing his force to at least eight or ten thousand men, provided he is not driven out of the country by a superior Federal force, which, it is stated, is now being organized for this purpose.

On the 18th inst., Major Strange, of Gen. Forrest's staff went into Memphis under a flag of truce with a letter from Gen. Forrest, setting forth the facts in the case of Capt. Gurley, stating that he was a regular Confederate soldier belonging to his command, and threatening retaliation in the event of Gurley's execution.

He also informed Gen. Hurlbut that in future he would hang every man detected in burning the residences and property of non-combatants, exhorting that officer to conduct the war on principles of civilization and humanity.

Col. Galloway is en route for Richmond, and will pass through this place, on his return to West Tennessee, about the 10th of January, and will take pleasure in carrying letters through from those who may desire to communicate with their friends in that section of the country.

"Who is to be Our Next President."—Under this head the New York *Herald* has its leader. It pitches into the Administration, denounces it as having "proved a deplorable failure;" says Mr. Lincoln is "engineering for another term of office;" denounces his measures of legislation and the conduct of the war; says his Cabinet has been "a failure from the beginning;" compares Stanton to "a mad bull in a china shop;" Secretary Welles as "a Rip Van Winkle, sleeping at his post;" the other members of the Cabinet it passes over as of "little account one way or the other," and winds up, kicking off Lincoln and his whole clique and nominating Gen. Grant for the Presidency.

The Enemy in the Valley.—During the latter part of the week, says the Richmond *Dispatch* of the 23d, the enemy made a bold strike for the relief of Averill. A heavy column of their cavalry moved up the Valley as far as Mount Crawford, eighteen miles below Staunton. Finding that they were in danger of being cut off, they beat a hasty retreat, and left poor Averill to work himself out of his difficulties. It was stated last night—whether reliably or not we cannot say—that a portion of our forces had reached Martinsburg, on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, and torn up the track of that road.

☞ In the notice of Gov. Foote, in our issue of yesterday, Mason should have been *Mason*.

☞ The wife of a bishop in England died recently, and being a woman remarkable for her piety and excellence of character, her last words were expected to be full of interest, and so they were. Just before she expired the good woman said to her attendants: "Remember to give the bishop his warm soup every night."

Escape of Prisoners from Point Lookout.—Two members of the Maryland Line—Messrs. Jacob N. Davis and George Klotwortky arrived here yesterday, having escaped from Point Lookout a few days since. They state that a day or two before they left a large body of prisoners made a rush for liberty, the gunboats having been removed from in front of the prison. They were fired on by the guard, and some of them wounded, but a number of them—over a hundred—escaped.—*Richmond Dispatch.*

The Yankees in Prince William.—We learn that the Yankees are behaving with their usual brutality in the upper part of Prince William. They visited Mr. Lawrence Cole's, about ten miles of Dumfries, last week, killed his milch cows, and committed other depredations upon his property. They met several ladies on the road, who had been shopping at the store of John King, robbed them of the articles they had purchased, shot their horses and left them to walk several miles to their homes. They robbed Mr. King of his goods and were searching the woods for him. Notwithstanding their sufferings and unprotected condition, the native citizens are as loyal to the Confederacy as any in the South.—*Richmond Sentinel.*

The News.

The news from Tennessee is more favorable than any for sometime received, though there is, as yet, a deficiency of particulars. An official dispatch from Gen. Longstreet, received at the war office yesterday, announces that, on Monday last, he attacked, at Bean station, a division of the enemy, who were pressing upon him, and that he would have succeeded in destroying the whole division but for the unfortunate fact that a sudden rise in the Holston river prevented the timely co-operation of our cavalry.

The impossibility of fording the river at the designated point delayed our cavalry about twelve hours. The attack by our other forces was far from being a failure. We routed the enemy at all points, and captured a number of prisoners and sixty-eight wagons, loaded with sugar, coffee and other valuable stores. Our loss in killed and wounded was about two hundred. Some few additional facts will be learned from the press dispatch published in another column.

General Longstreet also reports that the enemy are still falling back from Chattanooga and North Georgia, and thinks they will soon abandon East Tennessee.

A private letter from an officer of the army of Northern Virginia, informs us that all is quiet there; that the troops have a plenty to eat, are rather deficient in shoes and blankets, but are full of fight as ever.—*Richmond Examiner.*

A Correspondence with Benny Butler—the Beast as a Humane Man.

The following correspondence has passed between Butler at Fortress Monroe and Hon. Robert Ould, our commissioner of exchange, and is published in the Northern papers:

Headquarters 18th Army Corps, Department of Virginia and North Carolina, Fortress Monroe, Va., December 8th, 1863.—Hon. Robert Ould, Agent of Exchange: Sir—I have been informed that the small pox has unfortunately broken out among the prisoners of war in the hands of the Confederate authorities, both at Belle Isle and at Lynchburg. Anxious, from obvious humane considerations, to prevent the spread of this terrible disorder, I have taken leave to forward for their use, by Major Mulford, Assistant Agent of Exchange, in behalf of the United States, a package of vaccine matter, sufficient, as my medical director informs me, to vaccinate six thousand persons. May I ask that it shall be applied, under the direction of the proper medical officers, to the use intended?

Being uncertain how far I can interfere as a matter of official duty, I beg you to consider this note either official or unofficial, as may best serve the purpose of alleviating the distress of those unfortunate men.

Since learning the fact I have had no opportunity to apply to the Department at Washington for instruction. No formal receipt is needed, a note acknowledging the receipt of this being all that can be desired. If more vaccine matter is necessary it will be furnished.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant, B. F. Butler, Major-General Commanding.

To this letter Gen. Butler received the following reply from Mr. Ould:

Confederate States of America, War Department, Richmond, Va., Dec 9, 1863.—Major-Gen. B. F. Butler—Sir: The package of vaccine matter has been received, and will be faithfully devoted to the purposes indicated in your letter. Permit me in response to the friendly tone of your letter, to assure you that it is my most anxious desire, and will be my constant effort, to do everything in my power to alleviate the miseries that spring out of this terrible war.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant, Robt. Ould, Agent of Exchange.

A VOICE FROM THE ARMY.

Cheatham's Division, Near Dalton, December 23, 1863.

Editors Appeal: We are now engaged in building winter quarters, and hope by Christmas to be pretty well protected from this bitter cold weather. The principal topic of interest in camp for the last few days has been the President's message. It is an able and powerful document, and, on the whole, gives general satisfaction in the army. The rebuke he gives Great Britain, the founder alike of Southern slavery and Northern Abolitionism, is as scathing as it is deserved. The cheek of every Englishman must burn with shame at the cringing subserviency of his Government to the Backwoods Babboon who lords it at Washington. On the subject of the contract of the war he has fastened the Yankee nation in a historical pillory, where it will ever remain an object for the world's slow, unmoving finger of scorn to point at. All in all we are proud of the paper and proud of the man. How nobly our President towers above Lincoln—

"A sure-footed, meteor-eyed, neighing the reeling stars,
To a beak with velos of sluggish mud."

But with all our admiration for the message, and respect for its author, we rise from its perusal with a dissatisfied feeling. Let it be the part of the press—our noble colaborers in liberty's cause—to criticise the unsatisfactory character of the message in its failure to tell us why Vicksburg fell, why Pemberton is still petted, why that bloody blunder of withdrawing Longstreet from Bragg, why our terrible reverses at Lookout mountain and Missionary ridge. The questions that interest us are food, mere food for the enemy's bullets and more food for our half starved soldiers. We want our thinned ranks and empty stomachs filled. We want to know why we suffer for meal when corn is rotting all over the country. We want to know why our feet should be frostbitten for want of shoes while millions of beef-hides are rotting around us. We want to know why we are driven from every battle field this year for want of soldiers, while the country and our cities are swarming with able-bodied officials who laugh defiance at the conscript law. We want him to tell us why that law, requiring the able-bodied men in the Q. M. and A. C. S. departments to be turned out and disabled soldiers to fill their places, has been a dead letter. We want to know why it is that while we are suffering for food and clothing, the agents he has appointed to supply us have assessed fabulous fortunes, made by shieving assessments on the hungry stomachs and naked bodies of a brave and devoted soldiery. While these harpies—as foul birds of pray as ever sprung from the debris of revolution—are clad in linen and purple, and live in palatial residences, the soldier, whose breast is the bulwark that saves the craven from the enemy's bullet, eks out his miserable existence on a ration per day of three-fourths of a pound of very poor beef, including the bone, one-fourth pound of meal, one-fourth of a pound of salt, and one pound of seed potatoes every ten days. This is issued three days rations at a time, and never lasts more than two days of the three. This is the only serious source of discontent in the army. Our army is not disheartened by late reverses. It is as ever ready to meet the enemy, but there is no reason in a hungry stomach. Patriotism, like all other fine sentiments, flourishes best in a post-prandial soil. Yes, and if our young Confederacy fails and falls, the historian may truthfully inscribe on its ruined and dishonored tomb-stone—"Died of its Q. M. and A. C. S. departments." Of course we all know that there are able and patriotic officers in those departments, but they are glorious exceptions to the general rule.

Let Mr. Davis and his Congress close out these Augean stables; let the law of the last Congress putting all able-bodied officials in the field be sternly enforced, and the gratitude of the army and the country will be their proud reward.

Let Congress, too, sweep away that baleful source of dissatisfaction—its substitute legislation. Is it right, because you can raise two or three thousand dollars and I can't, that you should stay at home and speculate on the sufferings of my family, while I must starve, fight, bleed and die for you as well as myself? Substitute men would have no cause to complain at being put into service. They have generally, by staying at home, made ten-fold as much as they paid out for their worthless substitutes. And are not their case, their safety from danger and suffering for the last two years, and the preservations of their lives, worth something to them? Our substitute men and able-bodied officials would swell our ranks up to an equality with the enemy, besides giving subsistence to our disabled heroes, whose limbs lie bleaching on every battlefield from Gettysburg to Galveston.

Chaplains, too, ought to be abolished, or not allowed to resign, except on a surgeon's certificate of physical or mental disability. Here is the way I have seen the system work: Private in the ranks is a minister; he becomes profusely pious; he raises a revival; he is ready to flap his wings and fly away to glory; his friends get up a petition to make him chaplain; the appointment is given him, and then, being an officer, he resigns, and retires to enjoy his otium cum dig.

Why, too, should young and hearty ministers be exempt at this terrible crisis in our struggle, when our fate may lie in the presence or absence from the service of a small body of men? There are plenty of old preachers to attend to the wants of the old men and sisters at home, and I see no reason why the able-bodied young ministers should stay at home and get all the "chicken fixins," while other equally as good men are doing all their fighting on half-rations and seminal pay. They have an equal interest with us in the struggle. Let that clause, then, be conscribed, and the oldest and oldest be detailed to attend to the spiritual wants at home. Yes, verily, and for stronger reasons; they have been fighting the devil all their lives, and their experience of the tactics of the father—the devil—ought to enable them to baffle the strategy of his children—the Yankees. And they have, many of them, been groaning all their lives over the ills of earth, and longing and praying for the day when they would shuffle off this corruptible flesh and put on robes of immortal glory, and here in the army they could be gratified—have a chance nearly every day of a through ticket to Paradise, "free gratis."

We earnestly hope, too, that Congress will heed the suggestions of the President, and do something, and do it quick and thoroughly, to reduce the volume and improve the value of our currency. The soldier's pay is now nominal. People out of the army have more money now than ever before, and can't appreciate the terrible straits to which the soldier is reduced on a monthly pay that would not board him a day in any of our cities.

Day before yesterday we attended a review, held to welcome the scarred hero who now commands us. No man has a firmer hold on the hearts of our army than he, and we are looking anxiously to his skill and military ability to turn the terrible tide of reverses that has set so strongly against us during the past year. We hope that, among the earliest matters of reform that he will inaugurate, will be a liberal system of furloughs, and that he will remove the vexatious obstacles that now prevent soldiers from receiving supplies of food and clothing from home. As it is now, we can neither get a detail to send home for necessaries, nor can our friends get nearer to us with supplies than Atlanta, without great trouble and danger of loss.

Our division is still under the command of that glorious representative man of the old Volunteer State, him whom his men with an affectionate familiarity call "Old Frank"—Major-Gen. Cheatham. Under such leadership Southern troops can dare and do the noblest exploits. Would we had more generals like him. Our Brigadier-General, J. C. Moore, much to our regret, has left us for duty at Mobile. His brigade is now ably commanded by Col. John H. Elgin, of the 40th Alabama, and it is to be hoped that the President will speedily promote him to the place, which he is now temporarily filling in so acceptable a manner.

Before these lines are printed Christmas will be upon us. Our hearts will not be in camp, but far away with the loved ones at home. What vivid pictures of past enjoyments memory paints for us. But not now the smile of beauty beams for us, nor home delights, nor holiday festivities. A sterner life and loftier duties confront us now, and may each Confederate soldier celebrate Christmas by the resolve that he will drive back the invader of his country's soil or leave his body in the breach as a rampart behind which his survivors may still wage freedom's battles and may our people at home, during the festivities of the holidays not forget the sacred Christmas gift that is due the soldier—recollect his unsocked and unshod feet, his thread-bare blanket, his worn out clothes, and contribute liberally to his wants. CASSIUS.

A Suggestion—Letter from J. W. Gowell. (From the London Index, November 19.)

Editor Index: The British Government was under no obligation to recognise that Confederacy of States of which the four sovereignties of Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia and North Carolina had, in 1861, constituted themselves members. It was, nevertheless, under the absolute obligation to those States to refuse admitting as valid, and to deny the legality of any public act whatever, which the Political Agency seated at Washington might claim, or might assume, to perform in the capacity of their agent or representative. For those States had notified to the world that they had cancelled and withdrawn from that Agency the authority which they had, each for itself and separately, delegated to it on the 2d of January, the 23d of May, the 26th of June, and the 1st of August, in the year 1783, respectively; and Great Britain had previously bound herself always to treat with them as "free, sovereign and independent States." This binding engagement clearly prohibits her from treating in what concerns them, with any agent whom they may chose to repudiate. This absolute obligation Great Britain has shamefully disregarded, and it consequently now falls on those States, as a duty they owe to mankind, interested in the observance of treaties and in the maintenance of political good faith, to assert their own rights by some public act, and to brand the perfidy and bad faith of the British Government with the stigma it deserves. It is the object of this letter to appeal to them to perform this sacred duty.

The case on which they can, and I hope will, in legal phrase, go to the tribunal of the world, lies in a very narrow compass, and they can need no assistance from any one on this side of the Atlantic in setting it forth. It is not therefore my intention to discuss the case itself; I desire merely to point out that the present is the proper time for their taking the needful action, and to suggest it.

These four States have constituted themselves members of a new political Confederacy, in alliance with certain other States, which, what they have concerted in instituting a joint political Agency. The Executive Chief of this Government dispatched a commissioner to the British Government, empowered to make treaties with it, and this functionary the British Government not only refused to recognize—as it was entitled to do—but it treated him with such singular incivility that the President, under a proper sense of dignity, withdrew him. Up to the period of Mr. Mason's retirement, the four States to which I have referred may have judged it expedient to refrain from putting forward their own treaty rights on the British Government. But the President's simultaneous withdrawal of Mr. Mason and his proper explosion of the English Consuls from the Southern territory, place these four States in a peculiar relation towards the British Government, of which they are not only entitled to avail themselves for their own advantage, but that of their allies, but they are peremptorily called upon so to do in the interests of mankind at large. But in discharging this important duty they must be on their guard not to afford any opening to their antagonist for equivocation and evasion; they must be careful not to confound their own peculiar right of complaint against the British Government with that which they share with their present political colleagues.

These last, being without those particular treaty rights which they possess, have not the same rights of complaint with them. Hence they, on this occasion, must stand apart from their allies, and act separately, and by themselves. The course which the British Government has pursued towards the South has been of a character which can have no doubt on the mind of any Southern statesman that the British Government will resort to any sophistry, subterfuge, or evasion, which may seem calculated to divert the attention of the world from its perfidy in this peculiar case. The four States must, therefore, confine themselves strictly to the ground on which they have an undeniable right to stand. "Here," they must say in effect, "is the treaty of 1783; here are several acts of 1783, granting certain powers to a certain political agency, by which—and by which alone—you become authorized to deal with that agency in our affairs. Here, again, are our acts of 1861, annulling the powers granted in 1783, by which you became absolutely interdicted from dealing with that agency in our affairs; and here is your act admitting the legality of the blockade of our shores, which the agency obtained to institute in the character of continuing to be our agents. How is such a proceeding consistent with your obligation by the treaty of 1783, to treat with us always as free, sovereign, and independent States?" If the four sovereign States, in performing the grand duty which they owe to humanity, will confine themselves strictly within the limits which I have just defined, and will hold the British Government to the point of the treaty of 1783, as it regards them, and them only, they will gain a verdict from the honest sentiment of mankind which will cover them with honor, and the British Government with shame.

It seems to me that they should take some such course as the following:

Suppose that Georgia (whose style in her public acts is, "The State of Georgia, by the grace of God, free, sovereign and independent,") were to set forth the treaty of 1783—to denounce the infraction of it by the British Government towards herself in 1861—to protest against that infraction—to declare that all acts performed by the British Government involving that infraction, and derogating from that independence and sovereignty, which it had covenanted always to respect in her, are null and of no legitimate effect—and to conclude by an appeal to the world and to posterity against the bad faith of the British Government. And suppose the three other States (whose independence and sovereignty have been similarly outraged by the British Government were to protest by formal acts of their respective legislatures in a similar manner.

For brevity's sake I will now refer to Georgia only. Supposing that Georgia should make a protest of this solemn character, the point next to be considered is the action she should take thereupon. The natural and obvious one would be to dispatch a commissioner to call the attention of the British Government to the fact that it is violating the treaty of 1783. But such a character as now unfortunately attaches to the British Government would be inadvisable. The State of Georgia is weak—at the greatest disadvantage in every way—her territory ravaged by a brutal enemy, seeking to exterminate her entire population—and to this enemy the British Government is lending indirect, but very positive, assistance. It is sad to feel assured that the British Government would meet any application from Georgia, in her defenseless condition, with every device for delay and evasion which the circumstances might permit; and Georgia should therefore abstain from any course, however advisable otherwise, which would expose her to this danger. She should, therefore, carefully avoid any application to the British Government whatever. This State is a sovereignty as completely as is the State of Great Britain. There is no assumption of superiority of sovereign rank or rights on the part of Great Britain in the treaty of 1783—and Georgia is as fully entitled and empowered to judge of and to interpret the treaty as is Great Britain herself—the other party to it. The object of Georgia is now to bring to the cognisance of mankind, in an authentic form and manner, the fact that Great Britain has grievously violated that treaty.

Her first step should be to pass the act of protest—her second to give the British Government formal notice of the fact of her having so done—her third to notify these facts to every civilized nation in the world.

Now, there exists an established organ by means of which she may take the second of these steps in a thoroughly effectual manner. There is a public functionary occupying immemorially, a well-defined and highly important position in all legal matters (though his employment is less general in England than on the continent), whose special vocation it is to establish protests—the notary public.

The act of protest of the State of Georgia will be effectively registered among the general Acts of nations by her directing a notary public to deliver a copy of it, with all the formality and ceremony which appertains to his ministration, at the British Foreign office. Georgia should then forward an authenticated copy of the protest to every civilized Government, and by this process Great Britain will be effectively cited before the tribunal of the world and of posterity.

Such a course of proceeding would place the British Government, and, through it, the British nation, in a position of moral disadvantage before mankind, such as no respectable people could long endure to hold.

And—what I confess is a strong motive with me in urging this course—such a proceeding would tend to restore to our starving operatives and pillaged merchants some hope that their welfare and prosperity might begin to revive. The nation is very slowly awakening to a glimmering perception of what is the right and the wrong in this American contest. Thus far, owing to a general ignorance of its real character, and the attendant misconception of the nature of our consequent duty, we have nobly consented to suffer impatience. The nation has been told that non-interference and neutrality were its duties. And so they were, undoubtedly. But in lieu of performing these sacred duties our Government has violated them in the most extraordinary manner. What interference can possibly be stronger, or what violation of neutrality greater, than the act of the British Government which implies on its part an admission of a claim of the Washington Government to establish—as agent, inter alias for the States of Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, and North Carolina, a blockade of those very States? The Northern savages might possibly have instituted a blockade of these States by a title such as would have warranted them in calling upon Great Britain to observe it; but when their political organ at Washington elected to institute it in the usurped character of continuing to hold political authority from those sovereignties which we know had cancelled and entirely withdrawn the very limited authority they had conveyed to it, we were forbidden by the treaty of 1783 to admit the legality of the blockade, and we are not only now entitled, but are bound, to cease our shameful interference against the South by revoking our wrongful admission of it.

Such a protest, moreover, would call the attention of the British public to a right view of its duties in this instance, and it requires some stimulus of this sort to awaken its perceptions of what justice prescribes in this case. Ordinarily, the British public pays little attention to foreign politics, hence it can be easily misled regarding them, and its sentiments, which are always true to the cause of honor and justice, are exposed to the risk of being engaged on the wrong side whenever the joint interest of fanatics, demagogues, and trading politicians prompts them to deceive it. Such has been the case in this instance. But the same simple, straightforward love of right and fair play which has rendered it the dupes of hypocrites who bewilder it with specious effusions about "neutrality" and "non-intervention," while they are perpetrating the grossest breaches of neutrality, and committing the basest wrongs, feel in favor of the most sanguinary and brutal savages that the civilized world has yet seen, will impel it to insist that right shall be done and wrong be righted the instant it shall clearly see on which side right lies. Already all the sympathies of the nation are on the side of its noble and heroic relatives of the South. It is proud of the goodness and the glory of Stonewall Jackson, and places him in its heart by the side of the lamented Havelock. If the four States should but once give in a knowledge of the truth by some such authoritative and solemn act as I suggest, the painful conflict which now exists between its real sentiments and its supposed duty will cease, and it will insist upon such political redress being afforded to the States with whom its Government has broken faith, as its own honor requires.

JOHN W. GOWELL.

No. 14 Gloucester Terrace, Hyde Park, November 11, 1863.

The Affair at Fort Jackson—Unfounded Reports—The Matter of no Serious Consequence—Authentic Statement of it.

(From the New Orleans Times.)

So many wild rumors have been afloat during the past twenty-four hours respecting Fort Jackson—so many disastrous stories been circulated for the benefit and amusement of some and the regrets of others, that we are pleased in having it in our power to set the public mind at rest. Upon inquiry at headquarters we have received the following authentic information:

Some excitement occurred at Fort Jackson on the evening of the 9th inst., in the course of an altercation between one of the officers and some of the men.

Fortunately the disturbance was soon quieted and order was restored in the garrison without bloodshed.

The *Times* has also an editorial on the subject, of which the following is an extract:

For the past day and a half the city has been rife with rumors of a great and disastrous revolt among the men at Fort Jackson, and, like any other report, the more it spread the greater became the exaggeration. The climax was reached and the authors were satisfied, we believe, when they had killed off about eighty fire officers, blew up the magazine, spiked more or less guns, etc. But this report, strange to say, was in part believed by a great number of persons presumed to be less credulous, and was exercising a mischievous influence over a portion of the community.

To get at the truth of the matter, we visited headquarters and obtained an authentic version of the affair, which we printed in a small slip yesterday evening and insert in our columns this morning. It will be seen the only foundation for all the reports was an altercation between an officer and some of his men, which created some slight excitement, but without any serious result. Thus another bubble on the waters of coveted evil has burst and revealed the hollow and uncertain nature of exciting reports.

General Averill.

We regret to be obliged to say that we know little more about the movements of this, just now, most interesting character than we said before, the reader exceeding small as that information was:

It was reported yesterday morning that the President had, on the previous night, received a dispatch from the commanding officer at Staunton, stating that one of our cavalry commanders in search of Averill had missed the road he designed to travel, and that, in consequence, the Yankee had escaped, with the loss, however, of all his artillery and baggage.

We think it very questionable whether this dispatch was received, but think it more likely that the story originated in a dispatch which we have reason to believe was received by the Secretary of War from the same source, to the effect that Averill had succeeded in crossing Jackson's river at Covington, and had burned the bridge behind him, but that two of his regiments were cut off and would probably be captured.

This is not good news, but, at the same time, not altogether bad. The capture of two regiments is certainly better than the capture of none, and it must be born in mind that his having crossed Jackson's river does not involve Averill's certain escape.

He has a long and tedious journey before him ere he reaches the Greenbrier river, and along a road which, if we mistake not, General Jones informed us Gen. Echols was blocking up. If Gen. Jones is soon enough informed of his route, there is reason for great hope that his career will yet be brought to a disastrous conclusion. When we hear he has put the Greenbrier between him and his pursuers we will abandon all hope of his capture.

LATER.

A gentleman, who arrived in Richmond last evening direct from Pocahontas, which place he left on Monday evening, says that Averill's command was at that time between Junction store and Roaring Run furnace, on the Pocahontas and Covington turnpike, with Gens. Fitzhugh Lee and Imboden pressing him in the rear, and Jackson confronting him. If Jackson was pushed back by Averill, which was improbable with Lee and Imboden hedging his rear, he would retreat across the Covington bridge and burn it, which, gone, would leave Averill a prey to the forces in his rear.

The cannon ammunition of the enemy became saturated in crossing some of the streams, and the caissons and carriages were destroyed along the route, and the pieces pitched down the mountains. The horses, as they became broken down and worn out, had their throats cut, and strewed the route of the retreat, fresh horses being impressed from the farmers.

The enemy carried along with them all the able-bodied negroes they came upon, but did not come across many, as they fled to the mountains on their approach. At Salem they killed one negro because he would not receive a carbine, mount a horse and follow them. They armed and mounted all they took, and employed them in guarding prisoners and as guides. A renegade named Hall, who drove the stage line between Salem and Sweet Springs, was Averill's chief guide.

Twenty-two of the enemy were drowned on Saturday night while crossing a swollen creek; ten or fifteen were taken prisoners, and a large number bushwhacked by the mountaineers as they passed down. Both the Yankees and their horses were represented by prisoners as nearly broken down and without food or forage. They had committed many devastations, burning barns, sacking dwellings, etc.

Our informant says that, if "bagged" at all, Averill and his party must have been "grabbled" on Monday night, as, from the disposition of our forces, it was confidently expected that he would be if one of those oft-repeated cavalry blunders did not intervene to baulk it.—*Richmond Examiner, 23d.*

From the London Punch.

Cigarettes.

If the story told be true,
It is very wrong of you,
Young coquettes,
Smoking when mamma's away,
On the lawn or by the spray,
Cigarettes.

'Twon't improve a ruddy mouth,
Odor-breathing as the South,
Nicotiers;
And the process which conceals—
Chewing villainous pastilles—
Is a bore.

Ladies fair, with due respect,
For one reason I object,
Which is this:
Pure young breath is sweet to me,
And a maiden's lips should be
Fit to kiss.

Gen. Meade on His Late Movement.

The following is an extract from a letter of Gen. Meade to a friend in Newark, New Jersey, written just before the last movement of the army of the Potomac:

I am fully aware of the great anxiety in the public mind that something should be done. I am in receipt of many letters, some from persons in high positions, telling me I had better have my army destroyed and the country filled up with the bodies of the soldiers than to remain inactive.

While I do not suffer myself to be influenced by such considerations, I am and have been most anxious to effect something, but am determined, at every hazard, not to attempt anything unless my judgment indicates a probability of accomplishing some object commensurate with the destruction of life necessarily involved.

I would rather a thousand times be relieved, charged with tardiness or incompetency, than have my conscience burdened with a wanton slaughter, uselessly, of brave men, or with having jeopardized the great cause by doing what I thought wrong.

Stirring up Sambo.—The *Democrat* states that all negroes found in the streets of Louisville without passes, are to be impressed by the military authorities, and sent to work on the Lebanon Branch railroad. The Paris Citizen says all the free negro men in Bourbon county, between sixteen and fifty years of age, were ordered to report themselves for transports at Camp Nelson, on the 24th ult. Those failing to comply with the order would be impressed on the fortifications and railroad

List of Unclaimed Freight Received at the Southern Express Company, December 24, 1863.

J N Foster, 1 bale; Wm Harper, 1 bale; R & W Hamilton, 1 bed; J B Ripley, 1 box; J Screggin, 1 box; Maj Cunningham, 1 box; Mary Selgee, 1 bag; M Carter, 1 box; D P Fergusson, 1 bag; C G Grasser, 1 parcel; M J Copper, 2 bags; E Hurst, 2 bags; E H Bingham, 8 bags; J M Writbury, 1 box; W F Hooper, 1 pr boots; Rev T O Kelly, 1 valise; W W Daniels, 3 boxes; J W Burden, 1 box; Wm Blythe, 1 bundle; Lieut Shapher, 1 package; W J Hardin, 1 package; B S Barker, 1 box; Mrs J H Seals, 1 bale; Paul Jones, 1 trunk; M E Jones, 1 parcel; Miss A Clayton, 1 parcel; J M Clark, 1 sack; O Badger, 1 barrel; J Mitchell, 2 bales; M C Beauchand, 1 bales; V R Stevenson, 1 paper box; Mrs E H Robinson, 1 box; W C Wright, 1 saddle.

The Patriotic Loan.

From the Huntsville Confederate.]

"The necessities of the present year (B. C. 219) were greater than ever. Every rent-free school exhausted. Among other means, the coinage had been gradually lowered in value. The *As*, which had originally been a pound weight of copper, had now been diminished to one-sixth of that weight; and all pay-accounts for the Treasury were, no doubt, made in this depreciated coin. The usual results of such measures followed. A temporary relief was gained. But the prices of all articles were raised to meet the change, and the public credit was shaken."

"In these difficulties the Senate proposed, again, to levy ship-money. But the people were in no mood to bear it. They had been much impoverished in the last four years; continued increase of taxation had drained their resources; continued service in the army had prevented the proper cultivation of their lands; the marauding navies of Hannibal, the year before, had ruined many. The ferment, caused by this new impost, assumed a very formidable appearance. The Senate met to deliberate, and the Council, Lentulus, proposed that the great Council should set an example of patriotic devotion. "Let us," said he, "contribute all our treasure for the service of the State. Let us reserve—of gold, only our rings, the bullae worn by our sons, and, for the ornaments of our wives and daughters, one ounce apiece—of silver, the trappings of our horses, the family salt-cellar, and a small vessel for the service of the gods—of copper, five thousand pounds for the necessities of each family." This proposal was carried by acclamation, and the noble example followed, enviously, by all the people. So eager was the throng, which pressed to the treasury, that the clerks were unable to make a full register of the names. This patriotic loan saved the State; and was even more valuable in the spirit which it called forth, than for the actual relief which it afforded to the treasury.—*Liddell's History of Rome.*

This was during the second Punic war, six years after the disastrous battle of Cannæ. During all that time, the Fabian policy had, of necessity, prevailed. The provinces of Southern Italy were in revolt. Magna Græcia was in alliance with the enemy. Hannibal, the preceding year, had raided up to the very gates of Rome. In Spain, the two Scipios had been defeated and slain, and their armies cut to pieces. For six years no Roman general had dared to meet Hannibal in a fair open field. His brother Hasdrubal, victorious in Spain, was on his way with heavy reinforcements. The Senate had been meeting the expenses of the war with "promises to pay." Even the fortunes of minors and widows had been absorbed. The ship-money bill, with excessive severity, compelling all but the poor to furnish, fully equipped, one seaman or more to the navy, has proved oppressive and odious. Corn was selling at about two dollars a bushel, whereas, at other times, it had ranged from about ten to sixty cents. In such straits, "the Patriotic Loan saved the State."

Is there no Consul Lentulus now, in our Great Council, to set a similar example. It would be followed in every State and county. It only needs a noble example of self-denying sacrifice of precious but still not indispensable articles of personal and household decoration, to be followed "unanimously by the whole people." The old Roman spirit still lives. Let some patriot, high in office and influence, set such an example.

Millions of gold and silver plate, and even of hoarded coin, would flow forth if once the generous stream begins to flow. Call it a loan, but let it be made in the spirit of a gift. Let treasury notes, also, be added in this patriotic consecration. Such a course, not intended to produce legislation, but to underlie and support it, would not only bring immense relief to our depressed currency, but would be more valuable to our suffering cause, in the spirit which it would call forth.

In six years the "Patriotic Loan" was repaid. In less than that, our young nation, saved by the self-sacrifice of her people, will be able to do the same. Pro Patria.

MARRIED,

On the 9th instant, by the Rev. Dr