

The Free Press

G. W. & C. G. BENDICK.

BURLINGTON, VT.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

TERMS: \$1.00 PER ANNUM.

ADVERTISING: \$1.00 PER LINE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$1.00 PER ANNUM.

SINGLE COPIES: 5 CENTS.

BURLINGTON, NOV. 13, 1861.

THE MORNING SUBJECT.

For a long period slavery in our country

has been called a "delicate subject"—one,

which no one in Congress could touch upon (unless

his speech was in favor of the doctrine,

place, and policy of slaveholders) without

being denounced as a political fanatic of the

most odious and dangerous sort,—one, which

no religious Tract Society would not al-

low to be so much as named in their pub-

lications,—one which the preacher of the

gospel must never discuss, even if his text

was the one which the Saviour discoursed

upon in the Synagogue, (Luke 4:18) without

being severely condemned for "preaching

politics."

But all that has gone by. Willing or un-

willing, Congressmen, preachers, politicians,

statesmen, lawyers, military and civil func-

tionaries of all grades, in short, men of all

classes and conditions from one end of the

Nation to the other, are obliged to think on

it, to talk on it and to hear it, and those

in authority are obliged to vote on it and to

act on it; and yet we are only at the begin-

ning. What ought to be done, what can be

done, what must be done with slavery in

this country, and how can it be done, are

now nightly questions, which this Nation is

forced to give answer on. In a great meas-

ure, they have been kept out of sight for the

last twenty-five years; they can not be kept

out of sight any longer. Shutting our eyes

does not help us. The terrible reality is there,

before us, and we know it. The only patri-

otic, sensible way, the only humane and

christian way, the only prudent and sane

way for us to examine dispassionately all

the bearings of the subject, to hear with pa-

tience the reasonings and propositions of

others, and to weigh all in the scales of truth,

justice, humanity, and the eternal prin-

ciple of the law of God; and to be ready to

act—such a way that as individuals, we may

always have the testimony of a good con-

science before God and man to sustain us,

now and hereafter, and as a Nation, may

stand up fearlessly and without reproach,

before the eyes of the world for all ages to

come.

Speeches, essays in public journals, and

pamphlets are abundant on this subject; and

of the last mentioned, we give a reprint of

one of great weight on the outside of our pa-

per to-day. It is one which will bear read-

ing many times. There are no waste words

in it. It makes no appeals to passion. It

is not written to create a "sensation." It

is for "thoughtful and patriotic men" to

read and think upon. It does not pretend

to exhaust the subject, nor any one of its

parts; but the reader who shall have thor-

oughly mastered its positions, will find him-

self enabled with far the greater advantage

to weigh, and apply whatever else on the

subject he may meet with.

The ship *Harvey Birch*, destroyed by the

Nashville off the coast of England on the

19th of October, was a fine American built

ship of 1500 tons. When brought to by the

Nashville, her Captain, Nelson, was ordered

with his crew to Capt. Pagan of the con-

federate steamer to come on board his vessel,

as he intended to burn the *Harvey Birch*.

The men were allowed an hour or an hour

and a half for this purpose, and got part of

their things out. The men from the steamer

looked most of the provisions, with the ship's

chronometer, barometer, and some of the

charts, permitting Capt. Nelson to retain his

own chronometer, but he lost \$1200 or

\$1400 worth of personal effects, books, charts,

etc. They then set fire to the ship fore and

aft, apparently in the dock house, and the

vessel was soon in flames from stem to stern.

The men were put in iron bands, and the

steamer (with the exception of the captain

and mate, who were treated with great po-

liteness) and kept as prisoners until the ar-

rival of the vessel at Southampton, when

they were immediately landed in the docks,

and set at liberty with their personal effects.

On leaving the Nashville Capt. Pagan

old Capt. Nelson that he hoped they would

not part bad friends, for what had been done

was a simple act of retaliation on the North-

ern States for invading their territory, burn-

ing their houses, ill treating their women,

and stealing their negroes; and they were

bound to retaliate on the property of the

North in every way they could.

Col. Peyton, an agent of the Southern

Confederacy, and his wife, were on board the

Nashville.

The captain stated that the Nashville had

but in her to have her top deck taken off and

to be fitted out as a vessel of war. The arrival

of the vessel there, under the circumstances,

and her landing prisoners of war, as they

are called, was looked upon by many as a

direct infraction of the Queen's proclamation

of neutrality.

Of the general excitement in England in

respect to the Nashville, a letter from Lon-

don to the New York Times says:—

"The town has not yet recovered from the

shock the event has caused, and is waiting

with great anxiety to see its results. No

one doubts that the event will be a great

turning point in the history of the world.

The event is an honorable and straightfor-

ward manner, there will be an immediate

reparation. It is seldom that great battles

where the destinies of nations were decided

have caused more excitement or more alarm

among the pliant people of this city than

the arrival of this wretched gun, half-

manned pirate. It is the subject of

discussion in every counting house, in every

hotel, on "Change, and even among the few

fashionable patrons, who, unable to follow

the course of the war, are content to be

amused by the billiard room and the

dramatic relations on stage, and that by the

departure of the ministers from London are

at Washington at the earliest moment possible

for the war to come home and return.

But for many reasons I do not believe that

the effect will be so great as is now being

predicted."

The schooner *E. Whittington* of Charle-ston, which was captured by the *Harvey Birch*,was captured by the *Harvey Birch*, andwas captured by the *Harvey Birch*, and"It is to be regretted that *Harvey Birch* is not

in our possession; that it was so easily cap-

tured by the *Harvey Birch* and *Harvey Birch*, asback as the *Harvey Birch*, I would have been

glad to have seen it in our possession. I know

the strength of that fortress, and would have

been glad to have seen it in our possession.

The number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

in the number of men that would have been

[Correspondence of the Free Press.]

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

New York, Dec. 6, 1861.

Messrs. Editors of the Free Press:—

One effect of the war brought to my notice

yesterday in going up Broadway. A year ago,

for the distance of a dozen blocks above Canal St.,

it seemed almost as if every other shop was a