Evening State Journal.

EDWARD DANIELS,
EDITOR AND MANAGER.

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Official Paper for the Government.

THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 4, 1871.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS TREATY.—The publication of the leading features of the treaty between Great Britain and the United States, which is to be submitted to the Senate on the 10th instant, has created a great deal of excitement among Senators now in Washington, according to the statements of the correspondent of the Philadelphia *Press*. He says there seems to be a strong feeling against that part of the treaty which recognizes the so-called English claims as an offset to the Alabama claims. These English claims are generally for property seized or destroyed in the South by the Union army during the war. The majority of the Senators are of opinion that the owners of these claims were generally in sympathy with the rebellion, and did all they could to aid and abet it. In some respects they were more guilty than the Confederates themselves, because they were sheltered under the protection of the British flag, and while enjoying the comity which exists between the nations they traded on the necessities of both parties. It is just probable that this portion of the treaty will be amended when it comes before the Senate so as to compel the claimants to show that they were not hostile to the United States during the rebellion. A proviso like this would reduce the British claims to a very small figure; for it is well known that nearly all the Englishmen residing in the South during the rebellion were among the most active secessionists. It is evident that the main discussion upon the treaty will hinge upon these so-called English claims against the United States. The other questions are in some degree unimportant, with the exception perhaps of the fishery question, which is understood to meet the approval of those most directly interested.

SOCIETIES for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals are multiplying in every portion of the country. We wish the benevolent projectors all possible success, although it is consolatory to know that brute animals do not suffer from physical injury as men do; for we have seen a horse comfortably feeding with almost the whole of one of his feet destroyed by disease. But it is important to remember that cruelty to brutes implies brutality in man. The carman who so far yields to his bad temper as to torture (as he thinks) the poor creature to whose toil he owes his own sustenance is quite likely to beat his wife, tyrannize over his children, bully his neighbors, or assault his boon companions. If the law can teach him to stay his hand raised in wrath against his horse, or dog, or ox, it will also teach him, at the same time, to control himself better when he experiences a desire to indulge in extemporaneous manslaughter. It is melancholy to reflect that man, with a full recognition of the value of refined culture, is upon the average such a beast; and perhaps we should beg pardon of the beasts for using such a word. It is pleasant to think of human capacity for a rounded culture; it is not so pleasant to find the capacity very economically employed.

GOTTSCHALK SAID TO HAVE BEEN MURDERED.—A gentleman recently arrived at New York from Brazil is the authority for a statement that the eminent pianist Gottschalk was murdered by a blow with a "sand-bag." The *Tribune* says that Gottschalk sent his agent, Firmin, to San Paulo, which is sixteen hours by rail from Rio Janeiro, and is the seat of a college for young men, to make arrangements for a concert. The college boys, being unusually frolicsome, inflicted many annoyances upon Firmin, and attempted to practice the same upon Gottschalk on his arrival on the day of the concert. Gottschalk became enraged, and drove the persecutors out of the room where they assembled around him, causing some of them to vow revenge upon him. That night as he was leaving the place where the concert was held he was struck by some unknown person with a sand-bag. He was momentarily stunned, but passed on, and soon returned to Rio Janeiro. He complained from that time, however, of an oppression in his chest, which, it now appears, was caused by a loosening of the ligaments of the lungs, from the ugly blow of the sand-bag. Abscess was formed in the back of his chest, as was ascertained upon *post mortem* examination, and it was doubtless the breaking of this abscess which caused his prostration in the midst of his last concert. His death soon followed, and was accounted for, upon the *post mortem* examination, by the discovery of what was apparently a cancerous formation in one of the lungs. The details of the case, however they may at the time have been understood, were hushed up, and it is only by the recent explanations of the physician and of Firmin that any correction of mistaken rumors has been offered.

CATCHING SHAD AT COLUMBIA.—The Harrisburg *Patriot* says: It is estimated from the great success which has thus far attended the efforts of fishermen at Columbia that 100,000 shad will be caught at that point before the close of the season. Over 20,000 have already been secured, and fishing has scarcely commenced. As high as 2,500 have been caught in one day recently, the largest haul for the same length of time in ten years. Last year the entire catch amounted to 50,000. The fish sell at from thirty to thirty-five dollars per hundred from the shore. If the expectations of the fishermen are realized the trade in 1871 at Columbia will reach from $25,000 to $35,000. The cause of the increase of shad caught is to be attributed to the removal of nearly all the baskets in the river (which have for years prevented thousands of the fish from nearing tide water in the fall) in compliance with the law of the State.

Virginia planters complain that never were the tobacco flies so numerous and destructive as this season. And throughout the South there is dismay at the number, size and voracity of the mosquitoes.

The new style of ladies' hats are very beautiful. They resemble a pen-wiper with a fringe, and are quite becoming.

A Volunteer Prisoner.

[From the New York Tribune.]

Is not this, related in a private letter from London, rather a remarkable story? About ten years ago, a young American from New York, Walter Hastings by name, dining in London in company with Lord C——, expressed the opinion that solitary confinement in a dark cell was not so dreadful a punishment as had been represented. His Lordship—so goes the tale—offered Hastings £10,000 if he would undergo entire seclusion for ten years. The proposition being agreed to, a cell was fitted up in Lord C——'s town-house. It was from twelve to fifteen feet square. The prisoner was to be allowed candles, a few books, writing materials, plain food—the latter served by a man who was not to be seen.

In this way Hastings has been living for a decade of years, his term expiring about the 1st of the present month. He is now released, and has received, we suppose, his hard-earned money. He emerges from his dungeon in rather a dilapidated condition, appearing, though only thirty-five, like a man of sixty-five years of age, his frame stooping and his steps tottering, his face sallow, his hair and beard white, his voice tremulous, and his speech hesitating. He is coming directly to America, and we should not wonder if Mr. Barnum knew something about him. If so, in this respect, the volunteer incarcerate has an advantage over the prisoner of Chillon, who never found his Barnum at all, but only his Byron—and in other respects, over the famous St. Simon Stylites, who remained so long, not at his post, but upon the top of it, looking down with a contemptuous eye upon the admirers who sent him up his Lenten provender by means of a rope and basket. We can only compare our Walter Hastings with the historical old gentleman who was found, very much in need of a hair-dresser, in one of the subterranean dens of the bastile, and who died soon after being released, as toads do when the splitting of their granite enclosure liberates them.

"BRICK" POMEROY AND GEN. BUTLER. Sometime ago Mrs. Pomeroy, wife of the somewhat notorious "Brick" Pomeroy, engaged the services of Gen. Butler as counsel for the purpose of procuring a divorce from her husband. As soon as "Brick" heard that his wife had engaged Butler, he instructed his lawyer to endeavor to make a compromise. Pomeroy's lawyer wrote to Butler to ascertain whether a compromise could be effected. After consulting his client Butler replied that it could, provided Mr. Pomeroy would pay his wife $20,000, with alimony. Pomeroy at once accepted the terms, and the case is settled, Mrs. Pomeroy resuming her maiden name. *Cor. Phila. Press.*

A TOWN FRIGHTENED BY LABORERS.—Five hundred workmen, who were employed in digging a canal in the forest of Hertogenwald, marched in a body to Verviers, and demanded the payment of their wages, for some time over-due. Their appearance caused much excitement and apprehension. The gendarmes proved untrustworthy, and were confined to their barracks. The town finally paid the workmen their wages, and all fears of disorder were allayed.

THE ENFORCEMENT ACT.

An Act to enforce the right of citizens of the United States to vote in the several States of this Union and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all citizens of the United States who are or shall be otherwise qualified by law to vote at any election by the people in any State Territory, district, county, city, parish, township, school district, municipality, or other territorial subdivision, shall be entitled and allowed to vote at all such elections, without distinction of race, color, or previous condition of servitude; any constitution, law, custom, usage, or regulation of any State or Territory, or by or under its authority, to the contrary notwithstanding.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That if by or under the authority of the constitution or laws of any State, or the laws of any Territory, any act is or shall be required to be done as a prerequisite or qualification for voting, and by such constitution or laws persons or officers are or shall be charged with the performance of duties in furnishing to citizens an opportunity to perform such prerequisite, or to become qualified to vote, it shall be the duty of every such person and officer to give to all citizens of the United States the same and equal opportunity to perform such prerequisite, and to become qualified to vote without distinction of race, color, or previous condition of servitude; and if any such person or officer shall refuse or knowingly omit to give full effect to this section, he shall, for every such offence, forfeit and pay the sum of five hundred dollars to the person aggrieved thereby, to be recovered by an action on the case, with full costs and such allowance for counsel fees as the court shall deem just, and shall also, for every such offence, be deemed of a misdemeanor, and shall, on conviction thereof, be fined not less than five hundred dollars, or be imprisoned not less than one month and not more than one year, or both, at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That whenever by or under the authority of the constitution or laws of any State, or the laws of any Territory, any act is or shall be required to be done by any citizen as a prerequisite to qualify or entitle him to vote, the offer of any citizen to perform the act required to be done as aforesaid shall, if it fail to be carried into execution by reason of the wrongful act or omission aforesaid of the person or officer charged with the duty of receiving or permitting such performance or offer to perform or acting thereon, be deemed and held as a performance in law of such act; and the person so offering and failing as aforesaid, and being otherwise qualified, shall be entitled to vote in the same manner and to the same extent as if he had in fact performed such act; and any judge, inspector, or other officer of election whose duty it is or shall be to receive, count, certify, register report, or give effect to the vote of any such citizen who shall wrongfully refuse or omit to receive, count, certify, register, report, or give effect to the vote of such citizen upon the presentation by him of his affidavit stating such offer and place thereof, and the name of the officer or person whose duty it was to act thereon, and that he was wrongfully prevented by such person or officer from performing such act, shall for every such offence forfeit and pay the sum of five hundred dollars to the person aggrieved thereby, to be recovered by an action on the case, with full costs and such allowance for counsel fees as the court shall deem just, and shall also for every such offence be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, on conviction thereof, be fined not less than five hundred dollars, or be imprisoned not less than one month and not more than one year, or both, at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That if any person, by force, bribery, threats, intimidation, or other unlawful means, shall hinder, delay, prevent, or obstruct, or shall combine and confederate with others to hinder, delay, prevent, or obstruct, any citizen from doing any act required to be done to qualify him to vote or from voting at any election as aforesaid, such person shall for every such offence forfeit and pay the sum of five hundred dollars to the person aggrieved thereby, to be recovered by an action on the case, with full costs and such allowance for counsel fees as the court shall deem just, and shall also for every such offence be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, on conviction thereof, be fined not less than five hundred dollars, or be imprisoned not less than one month and not more than one year, or both, at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 5. And be it further enacted, That if any person shall prevent, hinder, control, or intimidate, or shall attempt to prevent, hinder, control, or intimidate, any person from exercising or in exercising the right of suffrage, to whom the right of suffrage is secured or guaranteed by the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States, by means of bribery, threats, or threats of depriving such person of employment or occupation, or of ejecting such person from rented house, lands, or other property, or by threats of refusing to renew leases or contracts for labor, or by threats of violence to himself or family, such person so offending shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, on conviction thereof, be fined not less than five hundred dollars, or be imprisoned not less than one month and not more than one year, or both, at the discretion of the court

SEC. 6. And be it further enacted, That the district courts of the United States, within their respective districts, shall have, exclusively of the courts of the several States, cognizance of all crimes and offences committed against the provisions of this act and also, concurrently with the circuit courts of the United States, of all causes, civil and criminal, arising under this act, except as herein otherwise provided and the jurisdiction hereby conferred shall be exercised in conformity with the laws and practice governing United States courts; and all crimes and offences committed against the provisions of this act may be prosecuted by the indictment of a grand jury, or, in cases of crimes and offences not infamous the prosecution may be either by indictment or information filed by the district attorney in a court having jurisdiction.

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