

FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 7, 1861.

THE STATE OF NEW YORK.—The London Times commenting upon the excess which have been made by the Yankees for the seizure of Messrs. Mason and Seward, observes, in substance, that they have taken as precedents one or two cases of acknowledged wrong done by Great Britain, and endeavored to draw them out into precedents. A code of laws, founded upon precedents of wrong, would certainly not be a very pretty figure. In womanly life, we would all be justified in committing theft and murder, wherever the person who was robbed or murdered, had himself been guilty of those two crimes. This is precisely the code which the Indians and other savages have established, and by which they are guided in their dealings with the whites.—It is the old law of retaliation—a law abhorrent to God, and fatal to civilization, which is recognized by a Christian nation, unless in cases where no other remedy can be had. In the history of any powerful nation that ever existed, cases may be found of violence not justified against principle known to Christian society. To go no further, the pages of French and English history are full of such. But nobody ever dreamed of laying them down as precedents upon which to found general maxims of law. First Consul Bonaparte invaded the territory of Baden, which was a neutral territory, seized a portion of the territory, and had him arrested. It is to be inferred that it is lawful to seize a neutral territory, and to lay the party so seized upon to justify and plead this case as a precedent! England sent a squadron to Copenhagen, a neutral port, took the whole Danish fleet, and bombarded the city. This was clearly a great wrong; but it furnishes a precedent if it is determined to construct a code of international law upon cases of that description. She fired into the frigate Chesapeake, a neutral vessel, made her strike her colors, boarded her, took a number of seamen from her, whom she claimed to be English envoys, and hung several of them as deserters. Here was a wrong—acknowledged, and it is to be inferred that it is lawful to seize a precedent as this, and solemnly decide that any ship of war may stop any other ship of war at sea, search her for deserters or subjects, and hang such men as are found on board coming under that category!

Two powerful nations engaged in war, are almost sure, amidst the excitement of a struggle for life and death, to forget that any other nation has any rights whatever. Such was notoriously the case during the wars which the French and English waged upon each other, during the last years of the last, and the first years of the present century. They acted precisely as though there were no other powers in existence except themselves, and they never hesitated, when the neutrality of any nation stood between them and the use of any of their arms, which they had in view for the purpose of each other, to violate it to the instant. They did it, however, always at their own particular risk, and in every instance paid dearly for it in the end. Thus Bonaparte did not hesitate to march a corps of his army through the Prussian territory of Barchin, when it lay between him and the grand army he was concentrating around Ulm, and England did not hesitate to violate the neutrality of the Port when she suspected him of a design to take part against her. Both these acts were clearly unjustifiable, or justifiable only on that plea of the tyrant, necessity, which pushed home, may be made to satisfy any and every enormity that blackens the page of history. Upon these exceptional cases, or cases like these, the Yankees wish to found their new code of international law.—They will be apt to learn, we think, that public law is not founded upon violent acts done under peculiar circumstances, but upon solemn decisions recognized by all the civilized world.

From all we can gather, England has acted with decision in the present emergency. She feels that she has been insulted, and she will listen to no argument until the insult is first atoned for. In the case of an individual, when he feels that an insult has been done to him, it is not for him, when he is called to enter into a discussion of the act conveying the insult, to discuss whether it really be an insult or no. It is sufficient for him that he feels it to be such. It must be atoned for, before he can take a single step, in the direction of conciliation. So, we take it, the case stands with nations. In the present instance the Yankee Government must first atone the intention to insult, and prove its sincerity in such atonement, by restoring Messrs. Mason and Seward to the position they occupied when they were seized. It is going to Yankee pride, no doubt, to do this, but it may be done.

A BARE OUT.—All ball game for this.—Saratoga. Among the many striking portraits which the great dramatist has drawn, there is none truer to nature than that of Ancient Pistol. His swagger, his bluster, his bold front, his cowardly heart, his rant, his fanatic, his strange outbursts, have in them something imminably ludicrous. His bragadocio and big talk impose for some time even on the men of such an army as that which Henry V. led into France, and which won him the ever-memorable field of Agincourt. At last, grown bold by long impunity, he ventures too far, and his exposure is complete. A Welsh gentleman of dantless courage, but odd demeanor, becomes the subject of his insolence. He laughs at his broken English and derides his nation. The national plant—the oak—becomes the subject of his scornful impertinence. He finds that he has been deceived, and he "waked up the wrong passenger." The gentleman is a man who does not understand jesting, specially at the expense of his country. He puts up with the affront when first greeted, because they are on the eve of a great battle; but, the victory once won, his first step is to seek the aggressor, and to call him to account. He finds Pistol, presents him with a link, (the national emblem which he had derided,) and tells him he must swallow it. The bully swears and swears again. The Welshman does neither. He is perfectly calm, but still presents the link, and tells Pistol he must swallow it. Upon further refusal, he proceeds to "beat him without mercy." This was more than the "Ancient" had bargained for. Nevertheless, he at last gulped it down, protesting with that long tongue that hereafter his instructor should be made to pay the penalty. He is treated with contempt, sneaked off, and we hear of him no more.

If the Yankee Government has not exacted the part of "Ancient Pistol" to the very life, in their embroilment with the English Government, then there is no such thing as insidious, and parallel cases cannot exist in nature. When the practical onslaught was first made upon the British vessel, the yell of exultation which arose in Y. London, resounded throughout the world. At meetings assembled to testify the admiration of the deed, City Councils voted, as we have seen, to send a flag with its salute, and to send a salute to the vessel. The Secretary of State issued a proclamation, and the Secretary of the Navy was not slow in approving the deed. Congress hailed the rising glory of the new hero, and testified their approval of his exploit, without a dissenting voice. The city of Boston died him, and wined him, and listened to his narrative, and

LOCAL NEWS.

THE STABLE OWNED BY Dr. Charles Hill, near the corner of Broad and 11th streets, was burned on the very forenoon of the 6th inst. The Doctor lost a valuable horse, a cow and calf, and besides, harness and provisions. The entire loss is estimated at \$1,500. The fire broke out at about half past 11 o'clock on the night, the residence of Mr. Charles C. Hill, on Lehigh, between 3d and 4th streets, was found to be the cause of the fire. The fire broke out at about half past 11 o'clock on the night, the residence of Mr. Charles C. Hill, on Lehigh, between 3d and 4th streets, was found to be the cause of the fire. The fire broke out at about half past 11 o'clock on the night, the residence of Mr. Charles C. Hill, on Lehigh, between 3d and 4th streets, was found to be the cause of the fire.

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