The Charleston Daily News.

VOLUME XI.—NUMBER 1899. CHARLESTON, FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 9, 1872. EIGHT DOLLARS A YEAR.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

THE SENATE KILLS THE BILL TO SCREEN THE THIEVING OFFICIALS.

The Sale of the Spartanburg and Union Railroad to be Investigated—The Pawnbroking Company Squelched—A New Amendment to the Constitution Proposed.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE NEWS.]

COLUMBIA, Thursday, February 8.

The Senate to-day passed bills to incorporate the Springfield Baptist Church of Greenville, and to incorporate the Wallingford Presbyterian Church and Academy of Charleston. A resolution was adopted ordering the committee on railroads to investigate the recent sale of the Spartanburg and Union Railroad. The Senate voted to strike out the enacting clause of the bill to define the time of commencing civil or criminal actions. The bill to incorporate the Charleston Pawnbroking Company was indefinitely postponed. Whittemore proposed an amendment to the State Constitution providing that the general State elections shall occur on the same day as the Presidential election.

The House passed the bills to create a board of examiners, and to impose certain duties upon the comptroller and treasurer; to charter the Spartanburg and Augusta Railroad, and to require the commissioners of Barnwell County to construct a jail at Blackville.

THE BIRTH AND DEATH OF THE POLICE BILL.

How it all Originated—A Practical Lesson in a New York Police Station—The Hopes of the Wire-Pullers—A Decisive Defeat—The United States Courts—Another Office or Two to be Created—A Personal Corrected.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

COLUMBIA, S. C., February 7.

The Lower House of the General Assembly has just accomplished the best day's work of the session in the defeat, by the decisive vote of 69 to 21, of the iniquitous metropolitan police scheme by which the Radical soreheads of Charleston, borrowing a trick from the shrewder rascals of the North, were to retrieve in part their fallen fortunes; by which, in fact, the curs were trying to become retrievers instead of the black and tan mongrels that they are. It was a pretty device, very! It was cogitated last summer with no end of pains and no little expense. About a dozen of the unacclimated Charleston officials found it convenient last August to take refuge in New York, and among the other little games of that wicked metropolis they became familiar with the organization and machinery of the New York M. P. force. This was just what they wanted. If the "rooral" Radicals of New York State had succeeded in stifling the Democratic voice of New York City since 1864, why shouldn't the Radical majority in South Carolina do what they pleased with the Conservatives of Charleston? They continued to investigate the M. P. business. Through the politeness of Ben Manierre and Hank Smith, the two Republican commissioners, they were shown through the gorgeous headquarters on Mulberry street; then they were kindly escorted by Detective Jim Irving through various questionable places of resort in that vicinity, including the Dew-Drop Inns of Broadway, the cigar divans of Canal street, and the diving bells of the Bowery, and it is even said that a few of them, in consequence of pursuing their investigations without an escort, were found one Sunday morning by sleepy old John Williamson, captain of the Sixteenth precinct, in one of the cells of his station-house in West Twentieth street. However, this gave them an opportunity for studying the practical workings of the M. P. system, and besides, it gave one Charleston County official, whose name is omitted on account of his well known modesty, an opportunity to perpetrate the best joke of his life. He is reported to have said, leaning against a whitewashed wall, and feeling despondently in his empty pockets: "Gentlemen, they say that 'Heaven helps those who help themselves,' but, if I ever get hold of them, Heaven help those fellows who helped themselves to my watch and chain." In fact they found out all about the system as it existed in New York, and then they took the measure of Charleston, and proceeded to make a bill to fit. In due course of time, they drafted their bill to their own complete satisfaction, adopting precisely the title of the New York bill, passed April 25, 1864, (an act to establish a metropolitan police district, and to provide for the government of the same,) and then they rubbed their hands, began the parcelling out of the prospective patronage, and proceeded to the erection of various other *chateaux d'Espagne*. As to getting the measure through this winter's session of the Legislature they never thought of any difficulty in that direction, and perhaps there would not have been if a certain couple of Charleston County officials had succeeded in getting the full amount of their claims cashed at the last division of spoils by the county treasurer, but they failed to do so. The consequences of this failure have been an injunction and a lawsuit in Charleston, and a fatal scarcity of money in the lobby in Columbia. The United Brethren, it must be understood, work for cash only. They will not accept promises to pay, even from the Governor, for they reason, and with some plausibility, that although he is a good enough Governor now still he may not be Governor very long, and then where would his promises be?

The debate to-day upon the bill, and, indeed, the arguments for the last three days upon the measure, have amounted to very little. The underlying reason of the defeat of the bill is sufficiently indicated above, and the idea of attempting a connected report of the speeches on the subject is like attempting a serious *critique* upon a Punch and Judy show, or a disquisition on the dramatic unities in connection with the feats of a learned mule. The parts to-day were taken by Jones, Jervey, Hunter, Hurley, Mobley, Jamison *et al.* The genteel comedy business was admirably sustained as usual by the talented Mr. Hurley, and a really admirable speech, and one which probably reflected the views of every honest colored member, was made by Mr. Mobley, in which he said that the Republicans of Charleston City should be ashamed of themselves for trying, after they had been fairly and squarely beaten in an election, to legislate themselves back into office against the clearly expressed wishes of the community. Finally, the resolving clause of the bill was stricken out, on motion of Mr. R. M. Smith, by a vote of 69 to 21. The bill thus disposed of is the one prepared and introduced by Bowen, and supported by the entire Charleston delegation. There are a couple of other metropolitan police bills in existence, ringing the changes on the same subject, but they are both condemned by the united voice of the members from Charleston, and in the face of such opposition it would be worse than useless to attempt to bring them up. In fact, as Dickens says of old Marley, the metropolitan police iniquity is "dead as a door nail," and any attempt to resurrect its putrescent corpse will be a dismal failure.

In the Senate this morning Mr. Corbin turned up, after a hibernation of several weeks, with the following remarkably didactic little composition, which was considered immediately, under a suspension of the rules, and passed without opposition:

Whereas the courts of the United States, as at present constituted in this State, are inadequate to the business before them:

1. *Resolved*, That the cause of justice imperatively demands an increase of United States courts in this State.

2. That a new United States district judge is imperatively demanded in the Western District of this State.

3. That there should be a new judicial circuit created out of the States of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, and a circuit judge appointed thereto.

4. That the Congress of the United States be respectfully requested to take immediate steps to carry out the foregoing resolutions.

5. That the Governor do forward a copy hereof to the president of the Senate, and also a copy to the speaker of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States.

The rest of the time of the Senate was occupied as usual by a passage at arms between Messrs. Leslie and Whittemore, the subject matter this time being the latter's resolution to provide for the registration of all bonds and securities of the State of South Carolina at the Carolina National Bank in Columbia, or the New York Commercial Warehouse Company in New York. Mr. Leslie, however, in his remarks to-day, came nearer the point than he generally comes in his attacks upon the gentleman from Massachusetts and Darlington, and he explained why that gentleman's measures never do happen to pass the General Assembly. He said that it was the universal custom in political parties to have all questions that were to come up for legislative action previously considered in party caucus, and adopted or rejected in such caucuses so as to show in public a united front to the common enemy, but that Mr. Whittemore had preferred instead to paddle his own financial canoe—to go it alone, in fact—and he must not complain if he got euchred on some of the tricks. The measure was finally postponed, with the consent of its author, to await certain developments in the lower House, which Mr. Leslie declared were about to emanate from the financial officers of the State.

By the way, there is a slight correction to be made. It is, perhaps, not to be wondered at that a NEWS correspondent in this microcosm of rascality should be constantly treading on somebody's corns, but where this is done unintentionally, it may be well enough to correct the mistake. In a recent letter describing the designs and doings of Scott's Ku-Klux, or the I. O. U. B., the name of H. B. Myers, an intelligent colored member of the lower House, was mentioned as one of the incorporators of the grand council in Columbia. Mr. Myers now desires it to be stated that he is not a United Brother, and that his name was stricken out of the bill at his request, before its passage by the House. This certainly exhibits a praiseworthy desire on the part of Mr. Myers to clear his skirts from complicity with an exceedingly vile concern, and entitles him to this ample and public correction.

PICKET.

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

WASHINGTON, February 8.

In the House, to-day, Hoar's education bill was passed to a third reading—ayes, 112; nays, 97. The bill was originally introduced by Mr. Pierce, of Mississippi, chairman of the committee on education and labor. It consecrates the public lands to public education. One-half of the proceeds of the sale of public lands are distributed annually among the different States during the first ten years upon the basis of illiteracy, as shown by the present census; the other half is invested, and the interest to be used for educational purposes. No State loses its share of the fund by legal enactments forbidding mixed schools. After ten years the distribution will be upon the basis of population instead of illiteracy.

In the Senate Sherman's bill for retiring three per cent. certificates was passed. The consideration of amnesty was resumed, and the motion on striking out the seventh section of Sumner's amendment failed by a vote of 25 to 33. Trumbull said he would vote against every amendment, thus, upon the final issue, leaving the bill as obnoxious as possible. The amendment erasing the allusion to churches was passed by 39 to 23. The amendment to strike out the clause regarding jurors failed, 12 to 42. Adjourned.

The sums awarded to American citizens by the American-Mexican commission to the 5th instant are over a half million. The amount of claims aggregated eleven and a half millions. The awards to Mexicans were only $36,000. Their claims aggregate eighteen millions. Four hundred cases are decided and over a thousand are pending.

The secretaries of the navy and treasury, before the committee of commerce, urged subsidies and bounties to encourage American shipbuilding. The committee of ways and means to-day had a conference on the subject of spirits and tobacco. Although they have not positively come to a conclusion, there is a probability that they will agree upon a uniform tax of twenty-four cents on tobacco, and so amend the law as to consolidate distillers' stamps, and provide for the removal of the present obstructions, so as to facilitate the exportation of spirits.

JOTTINGS ABOUT THE STATE.

—The citizens of Abbeville have formed a hook and ladder company; William H. Parker, captain.

—On last Monday a little son, six and a half years old, of Mr. Allison Buddin, the railroad agent at Lynchburg, was accidentally caught in the running gear of his gin and terribly mangled, causing his death in a few minutes.

—Mr. John Mason, a worthy and industrious citizen of Spartanburg, residing three miles north of town, while cutting down a tree, on Friday last, was struck by a falling limb, from the effects of which he died on the following Sunday. He leaves a wife and a large family of children to mourn his untimely fate.

—We learn that on Thursday night last the stable of Captain J. C. S. Brown, living about nine miles from Newberry, was set on fire, and seven valuable head of horses burnt to death. Five of the horses belonged to Captain Brown and two to Dr. Bates.

—The Lexington Dispatch says that on sales-day quite a crowd was in the village. One tract, fourteen hundred acres, near Sandy Run, brought $500, a very low figure. Farmers say that the people are going to work with a good will preparing for the coming crop. Fertilizers are again becoming the rage, though not quite as much so as in 1870. They also say that, as a general rule, they get enough labor, though there is some complaint in some localities.

—The Spartanburg Spartan says that on sales-day nothing occurred besides the land sales, which were at fair prices. The following shows the lands sold and the prices given: One hundred and thirty-two acres of land, belonging to the estate of G. W. Farrow, deceased, bought by Captain F. N. Walker, for $517. One hundred and eleven acres of Mrs. Cassandra Farrow, deceased, bought by A. T. Farrow, for $735; seventy-four acres, by W. H. Rhodes, for $1476. One hundred and fifty acres, (with mills,) belonging to the estate of Martin Otts, deceased, bought by R. M. & W. J. Rhodes, for $6000. Forty-five acres, belonging to the estate of Jonsberry Green, deceased, bought by Jackson Bulce, for $301. Seventy acres, of estate of Garland Foster, deceased, bought by Benjamin Wofford, for $201.

THE WEATHER THIS DAY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 8.

The low barometer off the South Atlantic will probably move northeastward on Friday along the Gulf stream. Northeast winds, with clouds and rain, will continue in the Gulf coast from North Carolina to East Virginia. Northerly winds and clearing weather will prevail from Texas to Alabama. Dangerous winds are not anticipated to-night.

Yesterday's Weather Reports of the Signal Service, U. S. A.—4.47 P. M., Local Time.

Place of Observation.	Height of Barometer......	Thermometer..	Direction of Wind.......	Force of Wind..	State of the Weather.....
Augusta, Ga....	29.95	38	E	Gentle.	H. Rain
Baltimore.......	30.32	36	NE	Gentle.	Clear.
Boston...........	30.35	36	SW	Gentle.	Fair.
Charleston......	29.85	41	N	Gentle.	H. Rain
Chicago..........	30.23	32	SW	Gentle.	Clear.
Cincinnati.......	30.24	42	NE	Light.	Fair.
Galveston, Tex..	30.13	52	N	Light.	Fair.
Key West, Fla..	29.92	75	W	Fresh.	Fair.
Knoxville, Tenn.	30.01	50	E	Fresh.	Cloudy.
Memphis, Tenn..	30.15	45	NW	Gentle.	Cloudy.
Mt. Washington.	30.00	10	W	High.	Fair.
New Orleans....	29.98	56	N	Fresh.	Fair.
New York........	30.36	31	N	Fresh.	Cloudy.
Norfolk..........	30.04	37	NE	Fresh.	H. Rain
Philadelphia.....	30.36	32	NE	Gentle.	Thr'ng.
Portland, Me....	30.34	27	SW	Gentle.	Cloudy.
Savannah.......	29.88	41	NW	Fresh.	Thr'ng.
St. Louis.........	30.23	36	NE	Light.	Fair.
Washington......	30.32	36	NE	Gentle.	Cloudy.
Wilmington, N.C.	29.90	47	NE	Gentle.	H. Rain.

NOTE.—The weather report dated 7.47 o'clock, this morning, will be posted in the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce at 10 o'clock A. M., and, together with the weather chart, may (by the courtesy of the Chamber) be examined by shipmasters at any time during the day.

PEACE, OR WAR?

THE BRITISH LION ROARS AND THE YANKEE EAGLE SCREAMS.

Excitement in London Over the American Demands—Effect on 'Change—"The Situation Grave, but not Hopeless"—The Demand for Indirect Damages only Meant in a Pickwickian Sense—Spirit of the New York and London Press, &c., &c.

LONDON, February 8.

The excitement over the Alabama claims is unabated, and Parliamentary speeches keep the public mind agitated. Anxiety in regard to the action of the Washington Cabinet prevails in all circles, and business at the Exchange is seriously affected.

The press is still moderate, but maintains that Parliament is unanimous against American demands. The Times this morning in reviewing the debate in the Commons yesterday says "it is evident the House favors the repudiation of the American claims for direct losses, and approves Gladstone's language in regard to the demands.

NEW YORK, February 8.

The Tribune's special from London says: "Granville's dispatch contains no threat, but simply calls attention to England's understanding of the treaty. Several members of the British Cabinet disapprove of the passionate tone of Granville's speech. The situation is regarded as grave in the highest English and American quarters, but not hopeless."

THE ROAR OF THE LION.

An English View of "The American Indictment."

[From the London Standard, January 16.]

The statement of the American case, submitted under the Treaty of Washington to the International Commission on the Alabama claims, is now before us, and we have read it with regret, with dismay, and with a feeling of utter hopelessness in respect of any amicable understanding with those who can allow such a document to be put forth on their behalf, such as we have not entertained at any previous period of the controversy. Had such a plea come under our notice as addressed to an English court by the plaintiff in a civil suit, we should have said that the latter was acting under the advice of a sharp and unscrupulous attorney; that he had inspired that attorney with his own spiteful and vindictive spirit; and that the pleadings were intended, not to present a real case to the court, but partly to prejudice to the uttermost the minds of the jury, partly to give vent to the bitter animosity in which the suit itself had its rise. Such artifices, such exhibitions of personal malice, may be permitted in a civil dispute, though neither counsel nor client raises his character by indulging in them. But a great nation ought not to plead in the spirit of a pettifogging attorney; the representatives of a State ought not to address an international tribunal, sitting for almost the first time in history to adjudicate on a dispute which would formerly have had no solution but the sword, and to set an example for all nations and all future time, in the language of spite, and with the demands of extortionate lawyers. Least of all is such conduct excusable when the defendant State has done all in its power to remove the feelings of resentment and bitterness left by the alleged offence; has gone to the utmost verge of the concessions that self-respect will permit in its desire to conciliate, and, as a prelude to the trial of the issue whether or not it has given any just cause of offence, has condescended to express regret that offence, through whatever cause, has occurred. What is likely to be the effect upon England, upon Europe, upon our relations with the United States, upon the willingness of other nations to submit their differences to arbitration, of the present conduct of the American Government? We have shown them a forbearance and courtesy unexampled in history. We negotiated a treaty of arbitration, and they repudiated it with unparallelled rudeness, and in a spirit of sheer hostility. We showed ourselves willing to renew the negotiation: we conceded nearly every point in dispute; we consented to make a preliminary expression of regret for the occurrences of which they complained; we waived our claim to redress for a grievance similar in principle, but much stronger in circumstance, than that on which they rest their case against us; and after this series of concessions we agreed that a court of arbitration should try the claims of those American citizens who profess to have been injured by cruisers taking their departure from British ports. And thereupon the American Government presents to the arbitrators a case impeaching our conduct from the beginning of the war to the end, and calling upon them—and herein the case itself is far worse than anything we gathered from the summary—to award to America a gross sum, by way of damages, calculated to include the depredations not only of the cruisers bought by the Confederates in England and armed at sea, but every cruiser that the Confederates ever equipped in their own ports; and not the depredations of the cruisers alone, but the whole loss said to have been incurred through the increased rate of insurance, the transfer of American vessels to foreign owners, the cost of pursuing the cruisers (and taking good care not to come up with them,) and the entire expenses of the last year and a half of the war, alleged, in daring defiance of truth and common sense, to have been protracted solely for the sake of keeping these cruisers at sea. Why, who believes that even our present government would ever have agreed to the arbitration if it had anticipated a pretension so monstrous? War would have been cheaper, and would have spared us the humiliation that would be involved in submission to so iniquitous and insulting a claim. Those readers who have attentively followed our course during the last seven years know that the Standard has studiously endeavored to avoid everything which could embitter the relations of the two countries, and has advocated peace and permissible conciliation to the utmost of its power. No candid man, therefore, will suspect us of underrating the evils of a war with the United States when we say deliberately that rather than entertain the monstrous demands now preferred against Great Britain, whatever the commission may think of them, we would infinitely prefer to fight. The harm the Americans could do us would not exceed the amount of their present demands; and a war vigorously prosecuted, giving the South another chance for independence, would probably put an end forever to the threats, vexation and exactions which we have endured at the hands of the Americans ever since the acknowledgment of their independence.

THE SCREAM OF THE EAGLE.

Tone of the Leading New York Papers.

The New York papers are making quite a stir over the reported difficulties in relation to the Alabama Claims Treaty, and reply editorially to the comments of the London papers as transmitted by cable. The Herald's voice—as might be expected—is for war. It says:

The representatives of the British Government at Washington have been instructed to make proposals of accommodation and compromise to our government, the very mention of which is an insult to the nation. There is no doubt that a great deal of this British clamor arises from political causes. On one side stand the Tories, eager to create a public sentiment against Mr. Gladstone and his supporters; on the other side, the partisan organs and orators of the administration stripe, anxious, by the adoption of a bullying tone towards America, to force a concession from our government that shall suffice to satisfy the popular whim.

The American people have confidence in President Grant, and will be satisfied to leave the honor of the nation in his hands. Of one stern fact the English Government and the English people may rest well assured, that a deplorable war must almost inevitably be the consequence of an evasion of an honorable settlement of the differences between the two nations under the tribunal which they have themselves selected. We claim no more than the Court of Arbitration shall decide to be our due; we will accept no less. By this High Court, and not by a British rabble or partisan press, must the claims of the American nation of every class and description be adjusted. If in the opinion of the tribunal selected under the treaty of Washington the action of the British Government makes the British nation liable for the loss of our commerce and the prolongation of our civil war, the damages that may be awarded therefor must be paid peaceably or will be collected at the point of the bayonet.

A number of small articles are interspersed throughout its editorial columns with such pleasing assurances to the warlike American public as the following:

"We would manufacture our cotton in case of war with England. The pauper labor of Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham and Sheffield would be driven into revolution for bread. If they went into the army they would be food for our powder."

"A war with England would settle the fishery question. Joy to Ben Butler and Cape Cod. Our fishermen would man the privateers. That would abolish the three-mile limit."

"The battle of Dorking would be an American, not a Prussian victory, in case of war with England. The Cockney prophet made a mistake."

"We shall not want for volunteers in a war with England. There are two million able-bodied Irishmen here longing for a chance."

The World takes a more pacific view of the matter. It says:

It is most unfortunate that the Geneva Commission is called to discharge its duties in the year of a Presidential election. General Grant's administration was strongly tempted to frame the American "case" with a view to its effect as an electioneering document in the ensuing political canvass.

A careful reperusal of the treaty since the present outbreak of incensed feeling in England, constrains us to acknowledge that some of its most important provisions are vague. We thought this no objection at the time the treaty was promulgated, because we supposed there was a perfect understanding between the two governments respecting the interpretation which they mutually put upon it. But it now seems that they differ so widely that the British Government is ready to repudiate the treaty rather than admit the American construction of it. * * * *

As things now look, General Grant's administration has overshot the mark in trying to make party capital out of this controversy. If this treaty is upset and repudiated, the public verdict will be that General Grant and his advisers have bungled and embroiled a great question instead of settling it, and that our foreign as well as our domestic interests can be safe only in Democratic hands.

The Times—administration organ—says:

How the British press has progressed from the extremely careful and elaborate manner of its early treatment of this question to the final frenzy which it is represented by the cable as having shown for two days past, it is impossible to say. Nor is it quite plain what the British Government may regard as "indirect damages" which it refuses to consent that the Geneva Board shall consider. But it is perfectly certain that the action of the government, as announced by the Observer, will be a matter of complete surprise to the American people. We cannot conceal the fact also that this action will arouse a good deal of feeling warmer than surprise. We were all heartily glad when we supposed that an honorable and peaceful way had been found to settle the ugly "differences," as the treaty calls them, growing out of the Alabama business. If it shall turn out that our confidence was misplaced, disappointment will be added to the sources of bad feeling which were already too numerous. We sincerely trust that the reported reopening of the matter—for the action of the British Government is nothing less—may assume some less threatening form than that in which the cable dispatch presents it.

The Tribune quotes Secretary Fish as authority for a complete denial of the report that negotiations for reform of the American policy have been open between England and America. The pith of its editorial opinions is as follows:

It is not probable that this outburst of talk is to do any special harm. Its reasons are manifold. What is called in London "the silly season" is now upon the town in all its force. It is the time of eccentric and irresponsible discussions in newspapers. The journals of the opposition find the supposed concessions of the treaty a convenient weapon of offence against Mr. Gladstone, and it is possible that even the government organs have received an intimation that a certain amount of violent clamor against the American case may be of advantage in its influence upon European opinion. But it is not to be seriously apprehended that England will be misled into the folly of repudiating the arbitration on the pretext that that we are asking more than we have any right to claim. Already the statement above, quoted from a London paper, that Great Britain had intimated to our government an intention of withdrawing from the treaty, is categorically denied by Mr. Fish. It is probable that the storm of indignant comment, which has risen as suddenly as that which followed Mr. Sumner's speech, will subside with equal facility. But if popular clamor should defeat the ministry on this question, and compel their successors to denounce and withdraw from the Treaty of Washington, it is not the United States that would be the heaviest loser by such a course.

PREPARING TO BACK DOWN.

The Constructive Damages only Claimed as an Offset to the Confederate Cotton Bonds—No Expectation in Washington that the Arbitrators will Allow the Claim.

The well posted Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune, writing on Sunday last, explains that that portion of President Grant's little bill which has aroused so much ire in England is only a bit of diplomatic "bluff." He says:

The London dispatches intimate that the British Government objects particularly to the claims for constructive damages which the American case contains. It was impossible for the American Government to omit these. The very language with which the treaty opens makes it necessary for us, at least, to urge those claims before the Geneva Conference. The treaty provides "for the amicable settlement of all points of difference between the United States and Great Britain." These claims for constructive damages constitute one of those points of difference. They have been urged by American statesmen ever since the close of the war, and Cobden even informed Parliament, as long ago as 1864, that Great Britain would surely be called upon to pay them. Had the United States omitted these claims from its case, all points of difference would not have been settled by the treaty. Nobody now expects that they will be allowed by the Geneva Conference, but it is a settled principle in international, as well as in other law, that a claimant must always ask for all that he thinks his due, even though he may have no good reason to expect to receive it.

To show that Great Britain has no right to complain because claims for constructive damages are asked for in the American case, it is necessary only to remember the proceedings of the commission which is now sitting in Washington in relation to the payment of the Confederate cotton bonds. It was one of the conditions insisted upon by our government that it would not negotiate with regard to those bonds at all; and Secretary Fish inserted in the notes which passed between him and Minister Thornton a phrase which it was supposed would entirely exclude them from the Washington Commission, notwithstanding Minister Thornton protested that it was not possible for any such claim upon the United States to be laid before that commission, under any circumstances. But those claims were brought into the Washington Conference, and had to be acted upon. The counsel for the United States refused to make any argument on the merits of these claims, but objected to the jurisdiction of the commission. The counsel for Great Britain made an argument in their favor; the commission ruled them out on the question of jurisdiction. The very suggestion that the United States should pay the Confederate cotton loan would cause greater excitement here than now prevails in England; yet, so secure did our people feel, that the feeble attempt of some Democratic journals to alarm them in this respect utterly failed.

Among the claims which our government does expect will be awarded are those for expenses attendant upon the pursuit and capture of the Alabama and other anglo-Confederate pirates. Careful accounts of all our expenses of this kind were kept at the Navy Department, and payment has been asked for. Finally, nobody in Washington who knows the feeling of the English people, believes that England would, under any circumstances, allow the proceedings under the treaty to be suspended. She gained more indirectly by its negotiation than what was simply accorded by the text of the treaty. "For years," said a Cabinet officer, this afternoon, "she had been under bonds not to meddle in the politics of Europe, and the dissolution of those bonds was worth far more to her than all the concessions which we have made. If heavy constructive damages were awarded to us, as is not at all probable, she might be driven by popular excitement into refusing to pay them; but you may rest assured that she will hold on to the treaty until the award is made."

THE AMERICAN CLAIMS.

The New York World makes the following estimate of the modest bill handed in to the Geneva Conference in behalf of the United States:

I. For the destruction of vessels and property belonging to the Government of the United States......$ 25,000

II. For the destruction of merchant vessels, cargoes and property sailing under the flag of the United States 17,900,633

III. For other damages or injuries to persons, growing out of the destruction of each class of these vessels.

[In respect to this item the "case" says it is impossible at present for the United States to present a detailed statement, but the amount of claims cannot be less than hundreds of thousands, and possibly, millions of dollars, on account of hardy, helpless seamen and their families.]

IV. For national expenditures in pursuit of the cruisers.............. 7,080,478

V. For loss in the transfer of the American commercial marine to the British flag.

[In respect to this item the United States asks the arbitrators to estimate the amount which ought to be paid to them, after we submit statistics in respect to our tonnage before and after the rebellion.]

VI. For enhanced payments of insurance by citizens of the United States, so far as now known........ 1,120,795

VII. For prolongation of a civil war, the addition of a large sum to the cost thereof and of the suppression of the rebellion.

[As to this item the United States claim that after the battle of Gettysburg offensive operations by the insurgents were conducted only at sea, through the Anglo-Confederate cruisers, with the hope of involving this country in a war with Great Britain, and that the latter ought in equity to reimburse the United States for the expense thereby entailed upon them.]

VIII. Interest upon all the claims up to the day when the award is payable by the terms of the treaty, which is twelve months after the date of the award, at the usual rate of interest in the City of New York, where most of the claims of individuals are held, which is seven per cent. per annum. The United States claim that interest should be computed from an average day, say July 1, 1863.

According to the foregoing statement, so far as it goes, the figures reach the sum of $26,136,896. It will be observed, however, in the reading of the exhibit, that the amounts for damages or injuries to persons growing out of the destruction of vessels by the Confederate cruisers, the loss in the transfer of the American commercial marine to the British flag, the prolongation of the war, due to the continued offensive operations of the Confederate privateers after the battle of Gettysburg, and interest upon all the claims up to the day when the award is payable, according to the terms of the Washington Treaty, are not enumerated in this schedule. The amount of the claims will vastly increase the American demand.

A CARD.

OAKLAND, KERSHAW COUNTY, February 6.

To the Editor of the Sumter Watchman:

DEAR SIR—It has come to my hearing that a report is current, that in the late race between my mare and Mr. Birch's horse, at Sumter, on the 26th of January, a system of jockeying was resorted to, by which the horse was made to beat the mare. I brand this report, so far as I am concerned, as a base, malicious lie.

In justice to the public who were present at said race, I would state the facts, so far as I was connected with them, not as a vindication of myself, but simply because, as owner of the mare, I deem it due to them. On or about the first of January, Mr. William Fludd made up a race with Mr. Birch, between "Belle of York" and a horse said to be named "Bullet." Mr Fludd sent for the mare about the 10th of the month. I did not see her again until the morning of the race. Mr. Fludd informed me that morning that he had given Mr. Burch one hundred dollars to substitute "Wild Arab" for "Bullet" in the race. I agreed to it, thinking it was a good thing, as the mare had before beaten the horse. You may judge of my surprise when the race ended by the horse winning it. I bet my money on my mare, and advised my friends to do the same. Yours, respectfully,

feb9-1 R. G. ELLERBE.

SIPPINGS FROM PUNCH.

COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON—SCENE IN A BARBER SHOP.

Fond Parent. "I hope you will be very careful, Mr. Stimpson. I have always been accustomed to cut their hair myself."

Mr. Stimpson. "So I should have thought, madam."

"CHEEK"—SCENE IN A RAILWAY CARRIAGE.

Commercial Gent (to Swell who was smoking a fragant Havana.) "Would you oblige me, sir, by changing into another carriage, or putting your cigar out pro tem."

Swell (nonchalantly.) "O, certainly." (Throws his cigar out of the window.)

Commercial Gent (complacently producing and filling his meerschaum.) "Sorry to trouble you, but I never can enjoy my pipe when there's a bad weed a-goin!"

THE RAINBOW

May be accurately described as the real Noah's Arc.

SAT UPON—A DINNER TABLE SCENE.

Hospitable Host. "Does any gentleman say pudden?"

Precise Guest. "No, sir. No gentleman says pudden."

DUTIES AND IMPOSTS—IMPORTANT NOTICE TO TRAVELLERS.

Any person arriving from the Continent is permitted to clear his throat at the Custom-house free of all duty.

NOTE BY A FOREIGNER.

On England's possessions the sun never sets. True; and on one of them, London, the sun never rises.

SALE OF THE GREAT ATLANTA HOTEL.—The Atlanta Sun, of Wednesday, says: "Yesterday the Kimball House was sold by the sheriff at public outcry, before the courthouse door, under a builders' lien, for purchase money, and for State, county and city taxes. Dr. Joseph Thompson was the purchaser, paying $15,010. The State, county and city taxes amount to $9090, and the builders' lien $6000. Dr. Thompson is liable for $54,000 of purchase money for the lot also, making his outlay aggregate about $69,000. Considering that the building cost about $600,000, this may be considered, at first thought, a handsome outlay. The building is mortgaged for $200,000, and of course it will require much litigation to release it of this incumbrance. Mr. B. H. Hill, counsel for Dr. Thompson, paid the $15,010 to the sheriff, and secured the titles to the property."

GRANT'S NEW DILEMMA.

THE TROUBLE ABOUT THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

Will the Administration Back Down or Fight?—England's Chickens Coming Home to Roost—The Fraudulent Reform Legislature—Tammany to be Abolished—Canonization of Jim Fisk—The Amusement Business in New York.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

NEW YORK, February 4.

The temperate, even indifferent, tone of the American press relative to the difficulty which has arisen about the adjustment of the Alabama claims, is in curious contrast with the fury of the London press on the same subject. It was supposed here, at first, that the angry feeling in England was but the natural expression of the surprise with which the announcement of the enormous damages claimed by America was received, and that it would soon blow over, but a special cable dispatch, published in one of the morning papers, gives a more serious aspect to the case. If Chief Justice Cockburn has really counselled the British Cabinet to recede immediately from the Treaty of Washington, leaving to the United States to decide between a new treaty or war, our government is placed in an embarrassing dilemma.

To consent to annul a contract in which we have secured most of the advantages, upon the dictation of the other party, who finds it inconvenient to carry out its provisions, is a humiliation scarcely to be borne. It would cover the political party and the administration submitting to it with ridicule, and insure their defeat in the Presidential campaign. On the other hand, can the government accept the alternative of war? After the revelation of the rottenness and inefficiency of our navy, what hope can we have of successfully coping with England for five years to come? If we cannot afford to go to war with Spain because we would be blown out of the water if we did, how much prospect would there be of our thrashing the biggest naval power of the world? And if we attempt the conquest of Canada, when will the national debt be paid off?

This is General Grant's new difficulty. If England repudiates the treaty, his administration, supported by Congress, must submit to the indignity, and be repudiated in turn by a disgusted people, or he must plunge the country into a war, in which all the first battles are likely to be won by the enemy. Either horn of the dilemma destroys Mr. Grant's chances of re-election. It is probable that the administration newspapers, which have been dozing over the late news from London, will shortly awake to a realizing sense of the perplexity of the situation.

It used to be a favorite saying of Pierre Soule, in Confederate times, that England would come to rue the day when she refused to join Napoleon in giving material assistance to the South. It is an odd verification of this prophesy that the London journals are now engaged in showing how much cheaper it would have been to England if she had intervened then than it will be if she has to pay the enormous claims now made by the American Government. A war waged in conjunction with France, in 1864, would have crippled a rival at a third of the expense now attending a settlement of its indemnification demands, or of a war resisting them. The United States, as a consolidated nation, has had the good luck to reap the benefits of England's blunder; but what will history say of the English statesmanship of the last decade?

It seems to be agreed on all sides that the "Reform" Legislature is a failure. Even the Times, the apologist of Radical frauds generally, is constrained to scold its friends at Albany for the poor show they are making. The Legislature was elected on the reform issue, but it has been six weeks in session and has done nothing towards bettering things in this city. Indeed it appears to be as corrupt as any of its predecessors, for the calendar is filled with jobs and the lobbies swarm with the old familiar faces. The fact is that the Republican politicians are thoroughly corrupt, and not a whit better than Tweed and his Tammany gang. They have more than a two-thirds majority of both houses, and intend to use it, as usual, to make money for themselves. It is well understood that Tweed's agents are at work in the lobbies, and that Tweed will shortly take his seat in the Senate, without opposition from the Republican members. It is to be hoped that he will go over and join the party to which he naturally belongs.

The Reform Democrats of this city were regularly organized last evening by the meeting of their general committee at Apollo Hall. Almost the first action of the new body was the adoption of a resolution calling on the Legislature to repeal the charter of the Tammany Society, or Columbian Order, on the ground that the members had violated the charter by using the society to support a corrupt political oligarchy. It is a sad commentary on our politics that the first meeting of the Reform Democratic general committee developed frauds in the election of its members, and that after the meeting broke up one of the delegates was assailed in the hall and terribly beaten by a gang of ruffians. It seems that parties change, but the politicians are the same as ever.

The interest in the life and death of Fisk has not yet evaporated, for one of our literary Bohemians is about to turn an honest penny out of it. Mr. C. G. Rosenberg, known in newspaper and theatrical circles, announces a lecture (fifty cents admission) at Steinway Hall, entitled "The Good in James Fisk, Jr." He proposes to show the better side of the nature of the late Erie magnate, and for that purpose has been collecting all the information attainable of his deeds of kindness and charity, and his work for the public weal. The colonel's regiment is raising a sum of money to build a monument over his grave at Brattleboro'. His will was lately admitted to probate, the value of his property being estimated therein at one million of dollars, the bulk of which goes to Mrs. Fisk.

Still another theatre has been opened in this city, christened the "Theatre Francais," and dedicated to French comedy. It is situated in Sixteenth street, near Fifth avenue. There are now nearly fifty places of amusement open in New York and Brooklyn, inclusive of picture galleries and minstrel halls. Of these not less than eighteen are legitimate theatres for the performance of plays and operas. Entertainments are given nightly in four languages: English, Italian, French and German. This can be said of no other city of the world, and shows the truly cosmopolitan character of New York. In Paris, its only rival in this respect, English is seldom heard on the stage, and German never, and at present even Italian opera does not pay and is not given. NYM.

A QUEER EXPERIENCE.

Mark Twain's First Lecture.

I was home again, in San Francisco, without means and without employment. I tortured my brain for a saving scheme of some kind, and at last a public lecture occurred to me. I sat down and wrote one, in a fever of anticipation. I showed it to several friends, but they all shook their heads. They said nobody would come to hear me, and I would make a humiliating failure of it. They said that as I had never spoken in public I would break down in the delivery, anyhow. I was disconsolate now. But at last an editor slapped me on the back and told me to "go ahead." He said, "Take the largest house in town, and charge a dollar a ticket." The audacity of the proposition was charming; it seemed fraught with practical wordly wisdom, however. The proprietor of the several theatres endorsed the advice, and said I might have his handsome new opera-house at half-price—fifty dollars. In sheer desperation I took it—on credit, for sufficient reasons. In three days I did an hundred and fifty dollars' worth of printing and advertising, and was the most distressed and frightened creature on the Pacific coast. I could not sleep—who could under such circumstances? For other people there was facetiousness in the line of my posters, but to me it was plaintive with a pang when I wrote it:

"Doors open at half past seven o'clock. The trouble will begin at eight."

That line has done good service since. I have even seen it appended to a newspaper advertisement, reminding school pupils in vacation what time next term would begin. As those three days of suspense dragged by I grew more and more unhappy. I had sold my two hundred tickets among my personal friends, but I feared that they might not come. My lecture, which had seemed "humorous" to me at first, grew steadily more and more dreary till not a vestige of fun seemed left, and I grieved that I could not bring a coffin on the stage and turn the thing into a funeral. I was so panic-stricken at last that I went to three old friends, giants in stature, cordial by nature, and stormy-voiced, and said:

"This thing is going to be a failure; the jokes in them are so dim that nobody will ever see them. I would like to have you sit in the parquette and help me through.

They said they would. Then I went to the wife of a popular citizen, and said that if she was willing to do me a very great kindness I would be glad if she and her husband would sit prominently in the left-hand stage-box, where the whole house could see them. I explained that I should need help, and would turn towards her and smile, as a signal, when I had been delivered of an obscure joke—"and then," I answered, "don't wait to investigate, but respond!"

She promised. Down the street I met a man I had never seen before. He had been drinking, and was beaming with smiles and good nature. He said:

"My name is Sawyer. You don't know me, but that don't matter. I haven't got a cent, but if you knew how bad I wanted to laugh, you'd give me a ticket. Come, now, what do you say?"

"Is your laugh hung on a hair-trigger? that is, is it critical, or can it get off easy?"

My drawling infirmity of speech so affected him that he laughed a specimen or two that struck me as being about the article I wanted, and I gave him a ticket, and appointed him to sit in the second circle in the centre and be responsible for that division of the house. I gave him minute instructions about how to detect indistinct jokes, and then went away and left him chuckling placidly over the novelty of the idea.

I ate nothing on the last of the three eventful days—I only suffered. I had advertised that on the third day the office would be opened for the sale of reserved seats. I crept down to the theatre at four in the afternoon to see if any sales had been made. The ticket-seller was gone, the box-office was locked up. I had to swallow suddenly or my heart would have got out. "No sales," I said to myself. I might have known it. I thought of suicide, pretended illness, flight. I thought of these things in earnest, for I was very miserable and scared. But I had to of course drive them away, and prepare to meet my fate. I could not wait for half-past seven; I wanted to face the horror and end it—the feeling of many a man doomed to be hung, no doubt. I went down back streets at six o'clock, and entered the theatre by the back door. I stumbled my way in the dark among the ranks of canvass scenery and stood on the stage. The house was gloomy and silent, and its emptiness depressing. I went into the dark among the scenes again, and for an hour and a half gave myself up to the horrors, wholly unconscious of everything else. Then I heard a murmur; it rose higher and higher, and ended in a crash, mingled with cheers. It made my hair rise, it was so close to me and so loud. There was a pause, and then another; presently came a third, and before I well knew what I was about, I was in the middle of the stage, staring at a sea of faces, bewildered by the fierce glare of lights, and quaking in every limb with a terror that seemed like to take my life away. The house was full—aisle and all!

The tumult in my heart and brain and legs continued a full minute before I could gain any command over myself. Then I recognized the charity and the friendliness in the faces before me, and little by little my fright melted away and I began to talk. Within three or four minutes I was comfortable and even content. My three chief allies, with three auxiliaries, were on hand in the parquette, all sitting together, all armed with bludgeons and all ready to make an onslaught upon the feeblest joke that might show its head. And whenever a joke did fall their bludgeons came down and their faces seemed to split from ear to ear. Sawyer, whose hearty countenance was seen looming redly in the centre of the second circle, took it up and the house was carried handsomely. Inferior jokes never fared so royally before. Presently I delivered a bit of serious matter with impressive unction, (it was my pet,) and the audience listened with an absorbed hush that gratified me more than any applause; and as I dropped the last word of the clause I happened to turn and catch Mrs. ——'s intent and waiting eye; my conversation with her flashed upon me, and in spite of all I could do I smiled. She took it for the signal, and promptly delivered a mellow laugh that touched off the whole audience, and the explosion that followed was the triumph of the evening! I thought that that honest man Sawyer would choke himself; and as for the bludgeons, they performed like pile-drivers. But my poor little morsel of pathos was ruined. It was taken in good faith as an intentional joke, and the prize one of the entertainment; and I wisely let it go at that.

All the papers were kind in the morning; my appetite returned; I had abundance of money. "All's well that ends well."

THE OLD WORLD'S NEWS.

PARIS, February 8.

Minister Washburn returns to the United States on leave. Colonel Hoffman has charge of the legation.

LONDON, February 8.

The steamers Colorado and Arabian collided just outside the Mersey, when the Colorado was run ashore to prevent her sinking with all on board. The Arabian was comparatively uninjured, and rescued the Colorado's passengers except five steerage passengers, who, through fear, jumped overboard.

The new company which proposes to lay a telegraph direct to New York has been registered. One of the features is to fix the tolls at twenty shillings per ten words.

NEWS FROM CUBA.

HAVANA, February 8.

The captain and crew of thr British schooner Lark, who were driven into Cuban waters by a gale and seized, were bailed at the instance of the British consul-general.

The Cuban General Casandoa was killed. The irregular weather retards and shortens the sugar crop.

☞ CLEAR AND HARMLESS AS WATER—NATTANS'S CRYSTAL DISCOVERY FOR THE HAIR.—A perfectly clear preparation in one bottle, as easily applied as water, for restoring to gray hair its natural color and youthful appearance, to eradicate and prevent dandruff, to promote the growth of the hair and stop its falling out. It is entirely harmless, and perfectly free from any poisonous substance, and will therefore take the place of all the dirty and unpleasant preparations now in use. Numerous testimonials have been sent us from many of our most prominent citizens, some of which are subjoined. In everything in which the articles now in use are objectionable, CRYSTAL DISCOVERY is perfect. It is warranted to contain neither Sugar of Lead, Sulphur or Nitrate of Silver, it does not soil the clothes or scalp, is agreeably perfumed, and makes one of the best dressings for the Hair in use. It restores the color of the Hair "more perfect and uniformly than any other preparation," and always does so in from three to ten days, virtually feeding the roots of the Hair with all the nourishing qualities necessary to its growth and healthy condition; it restores the decayed and induces a new growth of the Hair more positively than anything else. The application of this wonderful discovery also produces a pleasant and cooling effect on the scalp and gives the Hair a pleasing and elegant appearance.

We call especial attention to the fact that a limited number of trial bottles will be given away gratuitously to those wishing to try it. You will notice that in pursuing this course our aim is to convince by the actual merits of the article.

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