

The Local News.

COMMENCED
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ALEXANDRIA, SATURDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 28, 1861.

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DECISION OF THE U. S. GOVERNMENT IN THE TRENT AFFAIR.

The United States government have released from Fortress Warren Hon. James M. Mason and Hon. John Slidell, taken from on board the British steamer Trent, by the U. S. steamer San Jacinto, some weeks since.

The National Intelligencer contains the correspondence in relation to the release.

It appears that on the 30th of November, Secretary Seward notified Minister Adams that Com. Wilkes had acted without the instructions of the U. S. government.

On the same day Earl Russell wrote to Lord Lyons, giving information of the Trent affair, trusting that the United States "would, of its own accord, offer to the British government such redress as alone would satisfy the British nation, namely the liberation of the four gentlemen and their delivery in order that they may be again placed under British protection—and a suitable apology for the aggression which has been committed," and directing that if these terms were not offered by Mr. Seward they should be proposed to him.

Lord Lyons left a copy of the despatch with Mr. Seward, who, on Thursday last, replied thereto in a letter occupying three columns and a half of the Intelligencer, discussing the whole subject and concluding as follows:—

"The four persons in question are now held in military custody at Fort Warren, in the State of Massachusetts. They will be cheerfully liberated. Your lordship will please indicate a time and place for receiving them."

To which Lord Lyons responded yesterday as follows:—

"SIR: I have this morning received the note which you did me the honor to address to me yesterday, in answer to Earl Russell's despatch of the 30th of November last, relative to the removal of Mr. Mason, Mr. Slidell, Mr. Macfarland, and Mr. Eustus from the British mail packet 'Trent.'"

I will, without any loss of time, forward to her Majesty's Government a copy of the important communication which you have made to me.

I will also without delay, do myself the honor to confer with you personally on the arrangements to be made for delivering the four gentlemen to me, in order that they may be again placed under the protection of the British flag."

Appended to the correspondence is a despatch from the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, to the French Minister at Washington, sustaining the claim of the British Government as just and equitable, and urging the United States to acquiesce in the demand. This despatch was read to Secretary Seward, who responds on the 27th of December, that the President had previous to the arrival of the despatch, resolved to remit the gentlemen in question to the protection of the British Government.

FROM BELOW.—Captain Jones, who arrived up from below the Confederate batteries, reports that, when passing Maryland Point, he saw a large schooner sunk, and a propeller either sunk or grounded in shoal water. Coming up, he met a small vessel with a portion of her bow stove in.

A telegraphic dispatch from Washington reports that "it is generally believed the Trent affair has been adjusted." Other accounts say, it is the prevailing belief that the Trent affair cannot be settled.

The steambot Talocca, has arrived in Washington, having passed the Potomac batteries without being fired at. She is intended for the new U. S. government ferry boat at Georgetown, to bring across army supplies, &c.

The general appropriation bill, passed by the Confederate Congress, appropriates \$60,000,000 for the Southern army, and \$4,000,000 for the navy. "A fleet for the South" is now urgently called for in the Southern papers.

The U. S. frigate Santiago captured on the 12th in the Gulf of Mexico, a British schooner from Matanzas, bound to Havana, with a cargo of wool, and also a schooner from Havana to Brazos, taking from her Mr. Zachau, of New Orleans, and several others, suspected of being Southern agents. They were transferred to the U. S. steamer Baltic, and sent to New York, where they have arrived, and been placed in Fortress La Fayette.

AN INCIDENT.—A correspondent of the Baltimore Catholic Mirror, writing from this place, in noticing the departure of the large number of students from all parts of the continent, who attended the schools in this city previous to the present war, narrates the following interesting incident: "There is, I believe, but one, of all the young people from abroad who used to enliven our streets after school hours, with us yet. This little boy, the son of a gentleman in Georgia, was unable, from peculiar circumstances, to return home before the occupation of the city, and has, therefore, been obliged to remain in the family of the principal of the academy in which he is a student. I mention him to introduce a beautiful incident which occurred a few weeks ago. A free woman of color, formerly a slave to his father, and who had been his nurse, was in Washington when the blockade commenced, and was forced to remain there by the impossibility of getting home. Knowing that the little boy's remittances were cut off, and fearing that he might want for something, she sent him ten dollars of her own earnings, in a letter so simply touching, that I cannot forbear quoting it. After mentioning that she had been to see him twice, while he was on a visit in Maryland, she says: 'Oh! how I wish to press him to my arms, and ask him if he has forgotten our dear, sweet, sunny, Southern home; my heart yearns for our sweet home, dear little Hugh, where we could enjoy ourselves without being cramped for fear of offending any person. Dear Hugh, never forget your nurse, who still loves you the same. No matter where I may be forced to live, you will ever be dear to me, and our dear, sunny, Southern home will ever be regretted. I live in hope of yet, one day, being able to get back to my loved home, for it will always be home to me.'"

"The above is only one of a thousand instances which every man acquainted with our Southern social life could recall to his memory, of the gratitude and affection of the African race towards a kind master and his children."

THE FUEL MARKET.—The supply of fuel is rather larger than last week, several cargoes of Anthracite Coal have arrived, and are offered for sale. The arrivals of Wood by river, railroad, and country carts has been larger than usual, and prices of wood show as to some kinds, a slight decline. A cargo of assorted pine and maple sold at \$5.25 per cord, the lowest price for a river vessel for some months. We quote prices as follows:

Wood—Oak, (seasoned) \$7; Pine, (bunker's) \$7; partly seasoned \$5.50; Maple, (unseasoned) \$5.
Coal—Anthracite \$9 per ton; Cumberland, Lump \$7.60; Run of Mine \$6.60; Pine, none in market.

THE MAYOR'S OFFICE.—A single case, that of a man drunk and disorderly, came up this morning, and was disposed of according to law.

Mr. J. Eads, of St. Louis, the constructor of the Mississippi gunboat Benton, has arrived in Washington. The Benton is now completed, and has gone from St. Louis to Cairo, where she lies to lead the flotilla of the West, having been selected for the flagship by Com. Foote.

The U. S. Marshal sold, at public auction, in Philadelphia, yesterday, one half of the prize schooner Extra, being the interest of Wm. H. Armitage, of Virginia, at \$525.

The scene in and around the burned government stables in Washington is sickening. The bodies of more than two hundred dead horses were there yesterday. Many of the horses escaped, have not yet been returned. The origin of the destructive fire is not yet ascertained.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal trade is tolerably active, though the arrivals are not from beyond Dam No. 5, which point is, indeed, blockaded. The price of corn is receding.

Three large steamers have recently run the blockade at the mouth of the Mississippi with full cargoes of cotton.

The U. S. government dispatches represent that Gen. Halleck's recent operations in Missouri have resulted in capturing 2,500 men, 1,200 horses, stores of every description, cutting off Gen. Price from his supplies, and forcing him to retreat.

Mr. Ely states that while he was in confinement in Richmond, many gentlemen called to see him, there never was an indignity offered to him, he was treated with respect, and some very useful presents were made to him.

WAR NEWS.

The Washington correspondent of the New York World continues to predict that a general advance along the whole line of warlike operations will take place shortly.

At Washington the signal for advance is said to be the landing of Burnside's division at some point sufficiently near the Capital to be reinforced from there if the landing is made good.

Gen. Banks, at his headquarters at Frederick, has issued a stringent order in regard to the seizure of forage without the owners consent.

The New York Express learns from Fort Pickens, that serious difficulties have arisen between the staff and line officers of the regiment and Col. Billy Wilson. They are said to be greatly dissatisfied with his abilities as a military man, and accuse him of conduct highly culpable in a commanding officer.

Alluding to the apprehensions of the public that Charleston and Savannah were in imminent danger, the Charleston correspondent of the New Orleans Delta has the following: "The coast at this time, if not absolutely impregnable to any organized invasion, is at least in a condition incomparably more secure than it has ever been before.—Savannah is now unapproachable by water."

Twelve batteries have been completed on the Richmond side of the James river, for the defence of that city. No guns are yet mounted in them, however.

The Richmond Examiner of the 25th charges the released Union men of Drainesville lately in prison in Richmond with having played spies for the Unionists, and thus brought about Gen. Stuart's recent defeat there.

The prisoners taken at Drainesville, state that the Confederates at Centreville are in receipt of Northern papers and letters, which come regularly across the Upper Potomac, and thus kept accurately informed.

General Reynolds has been transferred to a new field of action, superseding General Kelley in command of the Department of the Shenandoah.

FOREIGN NEWS.

Com Williams, the mail agent on the Trent, had been entertained at a dinner in London, at which he gave an account of the seizure of Messrs. Mason and Slidell, differing materially from the reports of Lieut. Fairfax. He read a letter from the lords commissioners of the admiralty, approving of his conduct in the affair.

The tone of the British press continues to be exceedingly belligerent.

The sudden departure of General Scott excited much speculation in Paris, but the general opinion seemed to be that he brings to the cabinet the views of the French government in relation to the difficulty with England. Prince Napoleon is reported to be a firm friend of the U. S. government.

The London Times has published evidence in support of its charge that Mr. Seward has long meditated the embroiling of England with the United States. That journal warns Mr. Lincoln that unless he makes a speedy peace he may have, not one, but a triangular quarrel to deal with.

The London Morning Post—the Government organ—has briefly intimated that a stone blockade might lead to something sharper than remonstrances.

The anti-American frenzy runs so high in Montreal, that the intended celebration of the anniversary of the landing of the pilgrims by the New England Society has been abandoned. Extensive arrangements had been made for the occasion, and Giddings, was to have delivered an address.

The eruption of Mount Vesuvius continued. Houses were falling in Terre del Greco, and the village was in imminent danger of destruction by lava. All communication between places in the vicinity and the mountain was interrupted. Earthquakes were frequent.

The French National Exhibition of 1865 will be the greatest ever undertaken. Sir Joseph Paxton will have charge of the erection of the building which will be provided with a dome five hundred feet high.

GENERAL NEWS.

The New York Express thus speaks of the dry goods trade of that city: "The upward movement lately in cottons has been so rapid that it is difficult to keep track of it, and quotations are, to a great extent, nominal."

Gen. Sickles has gone to New York on a military mission. On dit, that he is to fit out an expedition for the Southern coast.

The expedition against Mexico is still in progress on the part of each of the tripartite allies.

Gens. McClellan and Marcy, U. S. A., who have both been sick, are now rapidly recovering.

Mr. Russell, in his last letter to the London Times, is facetious in his account of the "rush" made on this side of the Atlantic, upon Wheaton, Grotius, and Puffendorf, to find precedents for the capture of Mason and Slidell. He condemns the procedure of the U. S. government.

Prince Albert expired tranquilly, his death bed surrounded by the Queen and the royal family. His illness commenced on the 3d of December, and the typhoid fever supervened.

The interminable marches which skirt the land approaches to Charleston, are said to be more formidable obstacles than fortifications.

Gen. Scott was cheered by some two hundred persons who were on the wharf when he reached New York. He is said to keep entirely silent as to the reason of his return, and his intentions. In reply to "a direct question," the Journal of Commerce says, "he shook his head ominously, and intimated that affairs were very precarious."

The trial of one of the murder cases—there are several to be tried—has commenced before the Criminal Court of Washington city.

The cold weather is closing the navigation of all the rivers, sounds, and canals at the North.

Archbishop Hughes preached in Paris on the 8th. It is said he is to go to Spain and Italy.

The great British iron clad frigate Warrior draws 28 feet water, and can only enter the ports of Portland and Newport, at the North.

Of all articles sold, it is said, that mustard is just now the most and the worst adulterated, except brandy and whiskey.

Winan's soup house in Baltimore continues to dispense food to the poor—and is one of the most useful charities in that city.

It is said in the New York World that the New York banks have no valid excuse for a suspension of specie payments, even if they should wish it.

All the railroads in Missouri have been "put under martial law."

NOTICE.—The subscriber having to pay cash for his purchases, respectfully informs his friends and customers, that, from and after the 1st day of January, 1862, he will supply them with all articles in his line for CASH ONLY, and that the usual reduction for cash will be made upon such purchases. JAS. ENTWISLE, JR., dec 28—3t* Apothecary, 94 King street.

REWARD.—Lost, on Thursday night, Dec. 26th, a FUR CAPE, supposed to have been lost on King street. The finder will receive the above reward on leaving it at Mrs. LEVI HURDLER'S, No. 192 King street. dec 28—1t*

LOST.—A large STORE KEY, new and very bright. The finder will be rewarded by leaving it with DAVY & HARMON, corner of Prince and Royal streets. dec 26—3t

TRUSTEE'S SALE.

BY VIRTUE of a deed of trust, bearing date on the 23d of May, 1854, and by consent of the parties thereto, I will, on THURSDAY, JANUARY 2d, 1862, at 12 O'CLOCK, M., in front of the Mayor's office, in the city of Alexandria, sell at public auction, for cash, a two-story TENEMENT and LOT OF GROUND, on the south side of Cameron street, between Pitt and St. Asaph streets, lying next west of the property owned and occupied by Benjamin Waters, Esq.—The lot fronts on Cameron street about 30 feet, and extends back about 100 feet. dec 23—eots S. F. BEACH, Trustee.

COAL! COAL!! COAL!!!
250 TONS ANTHRACITE COAL,
EGG AND STOVE WHITE AND RED ASH,
received, and for sale at the office on King, near Water street, lately occupied by Wise & Co. T. J. McHAFFEY, B. T. PLUMMER, Agents. dec 27—31w*