A Proclamation by the Postmaster-General of the Confederate States of America.

Whereas, by the provisions of an Act, approved March 15, 1851, and amended by the first section of an Act, approved May 6, 1861, the Postmaster General of the Confederate States "is authorized, on and after a day to be named by him for that purpose, to take the entire charge and direction of the postal service in the Confederate States," and all conveyance of mails within their limits, from and after such day, except by authority of the Postmaster-General thereof, is thereby prohibited:

Now, Therefore, I, John H. Reagan, Postmaster-General of the Confederate States of America, do issue this my proclamation, notifying all postmasters, contractors, and special and route agents in the service of the Post Office Department, and engaged in the transmission and delivery of the mails, or otherwise in any manner connected with the service, within the limits of the Confederate States of America, that on and after the 1st day of June next, I shall assume the entire control and direction of the postal service therein. And I hereby direct all postmasters, route agents and special agents within these States, and now acting under the authority and direction of the Postmaster-General of the United States, to continue in the discharge of their respective duties under the authority vested in me by the Congress of the Confederate States, in strict conformity with such existing laws and regulations as are not inconsistent with the laws and Constitution of the Confederate States of America, and such further instructions as may hereafter be issued by my direction. And the said postmasters, route agents and special agents are also required to forward to this Department, without delay, their names with the names of the offices of which they are postmasters, (giving the State and County,) to be directed to the "Chief of the Appointment Bureau, Post Office Department, Montgomery, Alabama," in order that new commissions may be issued under the authority of this Government. And all postmasters are hereby required to render to the Post Office Department at Washington, D. C., their final accounts and their vouchers for postal receipts and expenditures, up to the 31st day of this month, taking care to forward with said accounts all postage stamps and stamped envelopes, remaining on hand, belonging to the Post Office Department of the United States, in order that they may receive the proper credits therefor in the adjustment of their accounts; and they are further required to retain in their possession, to meet the orders of the Postmaster-General of the United States, for the payment of mail service within the Confederate States, all revenues which have accrued from the postal service prior to the said 1st day of June next.

All contractors, mail messengers, and special contractors for conveying the mails within the Confederate States under existing contracts with the Government of the United States, are hereby authorized to continue to perform such service under my direction, from and after the day last above named, subject to such modifications and change as may be found necessary under the powers vested in the Postmaster-General by the terms of said contracts and provisions of the second section of an Act approved May 9, 1851, conformable thereto. And the said contractors, special contractors and mail messengers, are required to forward, without delay, the number of their route or routes, the nature of the service thereon, the schedules of arrivals and departures, the names of the offices supplied, and the amount of annual compensation for present service, together with their address directed to the "Chief of the Contract Bureau, Post Office Department, Montgomery, Alabama."

Until a postal treaty shall be made with the Government of the United States for the exchange of mails between that Government and the Government of this Confederacy, postmasters will not be authorized to collect United States postage on mail matter sent or received from those States; and until supplies of postage stamps and stamped envelopes are procured for the pre-payment of postage within the Confederate States, all postages must be paid in money, under the provisions of the first section of an Act approved March 1st, 1861.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Post Office Department of the Confederate State of America, at Montgomery, Alabama, the 13th day of May, in the year 1861.

JOHN H. REAGAN,
Postmaster-General.

THE CONDITION OF NEW YORK.

The financial condition of New York was getting to be full of serious apprehension. The effort of the banks to save the credit of the Government has crippled their resources to such a degree that they cannot assist business men, and the consequence is, they are going by the board. The *Evening Post*, a Republican organ, thus unburdens its complaints:

Our dry goods auctioneers are reduced to the necessity of refusing to make sales. The banks will not take their paper, and the owners of goods could not stand the excessive street rates. In fact, we have reached an extremity bordering on general commercial suspension of payment in staple branches of trade.

The bank loans are pretty well maintained, but these consist largely of public securities. * * Federal stocks and Treasury notes taken the place of business paper.

It seems to us that there is no need to submit to discredit and insolvency as a fatality. This is the very emergency when our banks may do the country a great service. They are supposed to be commercial institutions, and their standard relations are directly with commerce—not with the Government. We have no quarrel with their investment of surplus funds in the Federal debts, but we appreciate their legitimate service to commerce, which includes all kinds of labor and industry, would be far better for the common good.

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM ENGLAND.—It will be seen that Lord John Russell has made a speech in the House of Commons, declaring that the Southern States must be recognized as belligerents, that, as "a nation carries on war."

He has also referred the outrageous blockade to the law officers of the Crown. A fleet is coming here, we presume, to enforce which we, never recognized, are indemnified with Southern interests. It also appears that the stream of California gold is flowing direct from New York to London, via Wall street, which has been buying up securities, will to chastise the South, gnash its teeth and howl!

This is but the beginning of the end! We shall yet see "Merry England" and chivalric France, actively aiding the cause of Southern independence.—*Richmond Dispatch.*

GOV. FLOYD.—We learn from the Richmond *Dispatch* that Gov. Floyd has been appointed Brigadier General by President Davis, and has received orders to raise a brigade of troops as soon as possible.

The Abbeville Press.

ABBEVILLE, S. C.

W. A. LEE, EDITOR.

Friday Morning, May 24. 1861.

☞ We are authorised to announce MATHEW McDONALD as candidate for re-election as Clerk of the Court for Abbeville District at the next election.

May 22d, 1861.

☞ The friends of WILLIAM C. MOORE, respectfully announce him a candidate for Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, at the ensuing election.

TO DELINQUENTS.

Persons residing out of this District who are indebted to the *Press* Office for subscription, will take notice that unless the same is paid before the 10th of June next their papers will be discontinued.

Subscribers in this District will also take notice that unless their subscriptions are paid before the expiration of one year, we will in all cases charge Two Dollars and Fifty Cents.

Those indebted for advertising will come forward and settle their accounts. If the debtor cannot pay the money, let him come forward and settle by note.

The letter of our Virginia correspondent was received late and we have been forced to omit a portion of it.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

This Church will be open for Divine Service on Sunday night, and every alternate Sunday night during the Summer. The public are invited to attend.

RAINS.

During the past week very heavy rains have fallen with some hail, and the streams have been very high. Some injury has been done to crops on the low grounds. The nights continue quite cool.

A GOOD PRIZE.

A letter from New Orleans, under date of the 16th inst., to a mercantile house, informs us that the *Ocean Eagle* has been captured by the privateer *Calhoun*, and conveyed into that port. The *Ocean Eagle* is said to be a Medford built vessel, of about 600 tons, and is valued to be worth twenty thousand dollars.

SECESSION OF NORTH CAROLINA.

The good old North State has justified the expectation of her friends in honoring the anniversary of her first declaration of independence. Reliable intelligence gives us the information that she passed the ordinance of secession on Monday, 20th inst., by a unanimous vote.

The two Carolinas are again united by bonds which, we hope, will never be severed. They have both, without a dissenting voice, thrown off the yoke of a corrupt and tyrannical government.

SUDDEN DEATH.

We are pained to announce the sudden death of Mrs. MARSHALL, the wife of Dr. J. W. W. MARSHALL, of this Village, on Tuesday evening last at about 10 o'clock. Mrs. MARSHALL had been slightly indisposed for several days but was not confined to her room, when shortly after supper on Tuesday evening she was attacked with spasmodic affection which terminated her life in about two hours. She was universally esteemed and leaves a husband and four children, and many relatives and friends to mourn her loss.

THE CONCERT.

There was a large attendance at Mr. Rothschild's Concert on last Saturday night—indeed a finer audience is rarely seen in Abbeville.—"The minstrel returned from the war," received here a cordial greeting from his late companions in arms; and our citizens generally turned out to enjoy the gratification of hearing one, whose musical talents are so well known and appreciated. The performances were in Mr. Rothschild's best style, and he was well sustained by Prof. Aichel, and by his pupil Master Willie Jones. Several of the pieces were loudly *encored*, and they were all enthusiastically applauded. Mr. Rothschild has few superiors as a violinist, and competent judges say that he has few equals in this country. He should be careful not to "hide his light under a bushel."

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS.

We direct attention to the card in another column calling for Volunteers, to be organized into a company for immediate service, under the Confederate Government. The names attached are a sufficient guarantee that the company will be raised, and that it will be of the right material. Here then is an opportunity for our public spirited and patriotic young men to participate in the first fruits of the glorious victory which must attend a collision on the Border. An incident for is to be driven back from the frontier, and incalculable benefit must result from the prestige of the first success. The cause of the South is ours, and our safety may demand that the battles of the South be fought on the banks of the Potomac. Our young men we know are ready to go whenever duty and patriotism may lead.

CAPT. PERRIN'S COMPANY.

Capt. JAS. M. PERRIN, at the solicitation of his friends has opened a list for the enrollment of members to another military company to go into the service of the Confederate States. We are informed that it is the object of Capt. Perrin to obtain a mounted company, such as he thinks will be most useful to the country, and he will accordingly confine the enrollment of members to persons who can furnish themselves with horses and equipments. We understand that the company already numbers from thirty to forty men, who have signified their willingness to be ready to march to the scene of action whenever the emergency may call for them. Those interested will call at Capt. Perrin's Law Office for the list, and learn the particulars.

[illegible]

Some of the Kentucky [illegible] is lost [illegible] found out coast.

QUERY.—Have [illegible] another column bearing [illegible] for the "Cherokee Rangers"?

OUR RECOGNITION BY THE FOREIGN POWERS.

The question of the early recognition of the Southern Confederacy by the European powers, has for some time past been one of absorbing interest to our Statesmen, and has of late been receiving much attention in the public journals North and South. To effect so desirable an object, Commissioners were early sent to Europe by the Government at Montgomery, who were instructed to present in a proper point of view, the character, extent and permanence of the great secession movement—our power and resources as a Government, and our claims to a place in the Community of Nations. On the other hand the United States Government has spared no pains to counteract these efforts. They have instructed their foreign ministers to protest against such recognition, and Mr. Seward in his recent letter to Mr. Dayton, the Minister to France and bids him to state explicitly that this Government has no idea of suffering a dissolution of the Union, but that the most vigorous means will be adopted to restore the Seceded States to their former allegiance. In addition it is said that the foreign powers have been notified that the recognition of the Southern Confederacy by any one of them will lead to an interruption of its friendly relations with this Government and the dismissal of its minister.

It is not the policy of France or England to complicate its relations with foreign nations by any hasty or ill-advised action in matters of this kind. England especially, is very careful to avoid any interference in the internal affairs of any foreign power, and to withhold her countenance to revolution until it has become an accomplished fact, and has established a permanent government. In the present crisis, however, the sympathies of the foreign powers, as the Republican journals themselves concede, are clearly with the South, with whom their interests are so much identified; and the prospect of obtaining favorable commercial treaties by so doing may lead to an early recognition. Those Governments are fully informed as to the progress of events here, and the ability and thorough knowledge with which their journals exhibit in the discussion of American affairs, afford an ample guarantee that the weakness and vacillation of the Lincoln Government, and the power and energy of the new Confederacy will be properly contrasted, and the folly of Mr. Seward exposed in attempting to hoodwink the European Governments as to the character of the great secession movement.

We have not yet heard from our Commissioners on the question of recognition; but the recent declaration of Lord John Russell in Parliament that the English Government would recognize the Confederate States as a belligerent power is the first step to such a result, and as such has fallen like a thunderbolt upon the Republicans of the North. Such a declaration amounts to this, that the right of the Confederate States to issue letters of marque and reprisal must be recognised; that their privateers must be regarded as legitimate combatants, and that the English Government will protect them in holding and selling their prizes when brought into an English port.—Such a declaration manifests the design of a great maritime power to invest us with the essential attributes of nationality, to raise us from the category of insurrectionists, and to repudiate Lincoln's proclamation which would affect to treat us as pirates. This is the first step to a full recognition.

To this act upon the part of the foreign powers, the Lincoln Government cannot with any consistency object, since its own declaration of blockade against our ports is a tacit recognition that we are a sovereign and belligerent power. Otherwise she would be involved in the position of disregarding her treaty stipulations with foreign powers, and England and France would have the right to examine how far a nation who had stipulated to allow free access to their vessels could suspend this privilege by the adoption of measures which could only be used by one belligerent against another. We are then belligerents, and with that fact conceded, the Lincoln Government cannot repudiate the long cherished and well settled right of privateering.

Our Privateers, "the militia of the seas," duly commissioned and sailing under a generally recognised flag, will sweep Yankee commerce from the ocean, and derive a profitable trade in the sale of Yankee ships to British ship owners.

THE BLOCKADE OF OUR PORTS.

A question of eager speculation at present, is, whether Lincoln's blockade will be recognised by the foreign powers, and late advices from Washington state that the common rumor there was, that Lord Lyons in a recent interview with Seward had declared that such blockade would not be recognised by England. Lord John Russell's late declaration in Parliament that the blockade must be *effective* is but a statement of the Law of Nations, and which has recently been affirmed by the leading powers of Europe. To prove such a blockade the Navy of the United States is totally inadequate. And as all the public armed vessels at the service of the Federal Government will be required for convoys, for the bombardment of our ports, one for making demonstrations on our coast, the blockade must be maintained by privateers—[illegible] be a paper one. Under such a [illegible] it is the interest of Mr. Lincoln to [illegible] American privateers will prevent a single bale of cotton from reaching England, unless British cruisers are employed to put them down. Nor would Lincoln's England in a war with the United States [illegible] the question of whether the alternative will not be preferable to the stagnation of her cotton trade which must follow the blockade of Southern ports. A leading English journal boldly announces that "cotton is not to Greece," by, by, means the most silly and foolish [illegible] bread of [illegible] millions of [illegible] must be stopped.

The blockade so far appears to be an extraordinary one and the *Niagara* and *Huntsville* after appearing for several days off the port of Charleston, to be departed from, [illegible] leaving the ports of the South all open.

[illegible] Our merchants are now receiving large supplies [illegible] other ports [illegible] New Orleans, via Memphis [illegible] of late have been [illegible] Richmond, [illegible] Southern States [illegible] Mississippi [illegible] Southern papers [illegible] Mobile papers [illegible] Savannah [illegible] Charleston [illegible] Norfolk [illegible] Richmond papers [illegible] Baltimore [illegible] Washington [illegible] Northern papers [illegible] Louisville papers [illegible] Cincinnati papers [illegible] St. Louis papers [illegible] Nashville papers [illegible] Memphis papers [illegible] New Orleans papers [illegible] Mobile papers [illegible] Savannah papers [illegible] Charleston papers [illegible] Norfolk papers [illegible] Richmond papers [illegible] Baltimore papers [illegible] Washington papers