THE DAILY BEE
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NEW ORLEANS:
MONDAY MORNING, JAN. 12, 1863.

Sales at Auction To-Day.

By McCerren & Landry, at their auction mart, furniture and choicest brands of Havana cigars.

By G. P. Phinney, at 11 o'clock, on board the schr. Pontalabloux, lying at the New Basin, boots, shoes, clothing and dry goods.

By Hoffman & Marks, at 10 o'clock, at No. 81 Chartres street, damaged dry goods.

By R. T. Montgomery, at 10 o'clock, at Post 25, Second District, apples; at 12 o'clock, at Post 16, First District, apples.

By D. E. Morphy, at 11 o'clock, at Home Warehouse, on New Levee street, between Poydras and Lafayette streets, flour.

THE VARIETIES THEATRE.—"La Tour de Nesle," a drama of a questionable nature, founded on some passages in the life of the dissolute Margaret of Burgundy, was presented at the Varieties Saturday night, and, if we except the acting of Mrs. Gladstane as *Marguerite* and Mr. Ryer as *Captain Buridan*, was wanting in the most ordinary interest. There was a looseness in the performance of the play throughout that gave the play a conversational character. Let us have no more of such comedies of error. "La Tour de Nesle" is bad enough, of itself, but to convert its tragic environings into a farce is worse.

In the afterpiece, "The Loan of a Lover," Mrs. Baker as *Gertrude*, and Mr. Powers as *Peter Spyke*, managed to infuse the usual spirit among the audience by their humorous renditions.

Last night, in the comic play, "The Youth who Never Saw a Woman," Mrs. Baker as *Celia* was highly effective.

"A Conjugal Lesson," with Mrs. Gladstane as *Mrs. Lullaby*, and Mr. Bowers as *Mr. Lullaby*, was greatly enjoyed by the audience.

Mr. Baker as *Robert Macaire*, in the play of that name, was as comic as one could wish, and Mr. Bowers' *Jaquet Strop* has evidently lost none of its traditional raciness.

"The Cross of Gold, or Theresa's Vow," is to be given to-night, to be followed by "The Good for Nothing" and "Robert Macaire."

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—We perceive that an arrangement has been entered into by which the visitors of the Minstrels may also enjoy a sight of the two Lilliputian wonders, Commodore Foote and Colonel Small. Thus, in addition to the songs, burlesques and negro delineations which the Minstrels nightly offer to their audience, will be presented the additional attractions of the littlemen in songs, dances, etc. This combination should nightly crowd the Academy.

R. T. Montgomery will sell this day, Monday, the 12th inst., some choice lots of apples, as follows: at 11 o'clock, ex bark Quincy, post 25, Second District, 900 barrels choice apples of various kinds; at 12 o'clock, ex ship Groodates, post 26, First District, 208 barrels apples. The above sales are worthy the attention of fruit dealers and market men.

The schooner Fontainbleau, advertised to be sold to-day by G. P. Phinney, auctioneer, will not be sold until Monday, January 19th, 1863. Her cargo will be sold to-day as advertised.

Mr. G. P. Phinney sells this morning, at 11 o'clock, on board schooner Fontainbleau, now lying at the New Basin, boots, shoes, clothing, dry goods, and a general assortment of groceries. The terms are cash in Treasury notes.

Messrs. McCerren & Landry will sell, at their Mart, today, (Monday) 12th instant, a general assortment of furniture and 20,000 Havana cigars. See advertisement.

ANTHRACITE COAL.—Spencer Field, corner of Camp and Girod streets, has reduced the price of his fine Anthracite coal to *fifteen dollars a ton*. See his advertisement.

Later from Mexico.

By the arrival of the Bio Bio we are put in possession of late Mexican intelligence via Havana. The advices from Vera Cruz are up to the 30th ult., of which we give a summary below.

Gen Marquez left Orizaba on the 31 ult at the head of fifteen hundred men and a battalion of foot riflemen. The French General Douay also took the field at the head of eight thousand men, and with the Second Zouaves.

Col Lozada took possession of San Pedro and Mecatlacoatl.

The entire valley of San Andre as far as Amoxoc was occupied by troops which had started out from Orizaba and Jalapa.

Gen. Marquez and the French Gen Bazaine had also entered the same city with great military pomp.

On the 18th of December, 300 Franco-Mexican cavalry attacked, at Cerro Leon, a body of cavalry of the enemy, about 1000 strong, and routed them.

An engagement took place on the 14th of December at San Andree Chalchimomula, between forty nine Chasseurs d'Afrique and a company of the Ninety ninth of the Line, on the one side, and the forces of Carvajal on the other. The latter were routed with loss of a large number of men, and left eighteen prisoners in the hands of the French. A French officer of the Ninty ninth was taken prisoner by the Mexicans, and was immediately assassinated.

The greatest distress prevailed among the poor, and trade was utterly paralysed. Forced taxation is continually being levied. At Puebla a monthly taxation of $152,000 is to be levied.

Juarez had withdrawn from that city all the field artillery which had been posted there, and left in the city nothing but the siege artillery.

Doblado had been appointed Constitutional Governor of Jalisco, and had left for that place at the head of 4,000 men.

Don Domingo Martinez had been appointed acting Governor of the States of Nuevo Leon and Coahuila.

General Berriozabal had lately reached Mexico.

Colonel Juan de la Garza had been appointed commander in chief of the Mexican forces at Tamaulipas, and the papers say that he proceeded to the hope that he would succeed in driving the French out of Tampico.

General Anastasio Parrodi had been appointed second in command of the central army.

The first session of the Mexican Congress closed on the 15th ult., all the acts of the French had been declared null and void.

The French took possession of Matamoras in the beginning of December. They were cordially received in that city, whose population is entirely devoted to commerce, and who hail their advent as a guarantee to their interest and as a close to the spoliations and persecutions with which they have been so long victimized.

Latest News of Army Movements.

We take the following from the summary of the *World*, under the head of the Day's News. These advices have already reached us by Southern sources:

Full particulars of the rebel raid on Dumfries are received. Early Saturday morning a force of rebel cavalry, with a battery of artillery, appeared before Dumfries, having previously cut the wires connecting that place with Falmouth. After a brief engagement they drove off our troops. Meanwhile Grant's forces, under orders from Washington, hastened to Dumfries and routed the rebels, who then moved to Occoquan, where they had a slight engagement with our forces, but gained no advantage. They next went to Alexandria, thence to Warrenton, where they spent Saturday night, finally escaping in the direction of Leesburg, despite all efforts made to capture them.

There was quite a panic in Alexandria on Sunday, in consequence of the hurried arrival there of a number of cavalrymen and teamsters, who declared that the rebel General Stuart was approaching the town. They represented that Stuart's cavalry, with some light artillery, appeared at Pohick Church Saturday night, and on Sunday proceeded to Accotink, twelve miles from Alexandria. At the latter place they were said to have attacked two or three companies of our soldiers, and also to have captured a wagon train at Occoquan on Saturday. The story is believed to be somewhat exaggerated.

General Grant, with his army, had fallen back to the northern side of the Tallahatchie river. The main portion of his army arrived at Holly Springs several days since. It is supposed that he will open the Memphis and Charleston railroad to Grand Junction, and make that his base of operations. The rebels attacked the Federal force at Davies's Mills, six miles south of Grand Junction, on the 20th, but were repulsed with loss.

New Madrid, Missouri, was evacuated by our forces on Sunday. The barracks were burned and part of the magazine was blown up.

John Morgan, the guerrilla, attacked Elizabethtown, Kentucky, on Saturday, and after a severe fight our forces, two hundred and fifty in number, were forced to retreat to the court house and the buildings near it. The ultimate result of the fight is unknown. The same day Morgan destroyed the trestle work near Muldrough's Hill, on the Louisville and Nashville railroad.

There are reports that our pickets on the outskirts of Memphis have been driven within the fortifications.

FROM EUROPE.—The steamship Etna, from Liverpool December 17th, via Queenstown the 18th, passed Cape Race on Saturday, December 28th. President Lincoln's annual message to Congress is mainly discussed by the English papers in relation to his emancipation scheme, nearly all of which regard it as impracticable; some of them view it as preparatory to peace. The New York steamer Tuscarora had overhauled the British steamer Thistle when leaving Madeira for Nassau. The British war steamer Leopard attempted to stop the Thistle to ascertain what the Tuscarora had done, but the Thistle, strange to say, ran away from her. Mr. Slidell is reported to have had another interview with the Emperor Napoleon, and that M. M. Drouyn L'Huys and Persigny favor the South. England offers, with the consent of the other Powers, to cede the Ionian Islands to Greece. Prince Ferdinand, brother of the King of Portugal, declines the candidature for the throne of Greece.

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Important from Richmond.

Proclamation of Jefferson Davis.

The following proclamation of President Davis is published in the New York papers of the 28th:

A PROCLAMATION

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

Whereas, a communication was addressed on the 6th day of July, 1862, by General Robert E. Lee, acting under the instructions of the Secretary of War of the Confederate States of America, to General H. W. Halleck, commander-in-chief of the United States army, informing the latter that a report had reached this Government that Wm. B. Mumford, a citizen of the Confederate States, had been executed by the United States authorities at New Orleans for having pulled down the United States flag in that city before its occupation by the United States forces, and calling for a statement of the facts, with a view of retaliation if such an outrage had really been committed under the sanction of the authorities of the United States;

And whereas no answer having been received to said letter, another letter was, on the 2d of August last, 1862, addressed by General Lee, under my instructions, to General Halleck, renewing the inquiries in relation to the execution of the said Mumford, with the information that in the event of not receiving a reply within fifteen days it would be assumed that the fact was true, and was sanctioned by the Government of the United States;

And whereas, an answer, dated on the 7th of August last, 1862, was addressed to General Lee by General H. W. Halleck, the said general-in-chief of the armies of the United States, alleging sufficient cause for failure to make early reply to said letter of the 6th of July, asserting that "No authentic information had been received in relation to the execution of Mumford, but measures will be immediately taken to ascertain the facts of the alleged execution," and promising that if General Lee should be duly informed thereof;

And whereas, on the 28th of November last, 1862, another letter was addressed, under my instructions, by Robert Ould, Confederate agent for the exchange of prisoners, under the cartel between the Presidents of the United States, Colonel W. H. Ludlow, agent of the United States under said cartel, informing him that the explanation promised in the said letter of Gen. Halleck, of the 7th of August last, had not yet been received, and that if no answer was sent to the Government of the United States before the delivery of this last communication, it would be considered that an answer is declined.

And whereas, by a letter, dated on the 3d day of the present month of December, the said Lieutenant-Colonel Ludlow applied to the said Robert Ould, that the above recited communication of the 12th November has been received and forwarded to the Secretary of War of the United States; and whereas, this last delay of fifteen days allowed for answer has elapsed and no answer has been received;

And whereas, in addition to the tacit admission resulting from the above refusal to answer, I have received evidence fully establishing the truth of the fact that the said William B. Mumford, a citizen of the Confederacy, was actually hanged publicly and in cold blood, by hanging, after the occupation of the city of New Orleans by the forces under General Benjamin F. Butler, when and Mumford was an unresisting and non-combatant captive, and for no offense even alleged to have been committed by him subsequent to the date of the capture of the said city;

And whereas, the silence of the Government of the United States and its maintaining of said Butler in high office under its authority for many months after his commission of an act that can be viewed in no other light than as a deliberate murder, as well as of numerous other outrages and atrocities hereafter to be mentioned, afford evidence too conclusive that the said Government sanctions the conduct of the said Butler, and is determined that he shall remain unpunished for these crimes;

Now, therefore, I, Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America, and in their name, do pronounce and declare the said Benjamin F. Butler to be a felon, deserving of capital punishment. I do order that he shall no longer be considered or treated simply as a public enemy of the Confederate States of America, but as an outlaw and common enemy of mankind, and that, *in the event of his capture, the officer in command of the capturing force do cause him to be immediately executed by hanging.*

And I do further order that *no commissioned officer of the United States, taken in capture, shall be executed or put to work for ignominious labor, until the said Butler shall have met with due punishment for his crimes.*

And whereas, the hostilities waged against this Confederacy by the forces of the United States, under the command of said Benjamin F. Butler, have been so conducted as to make warfare as nearly practicable by the rules of international law, or the usages of civilization, but have been characterized by repeated atrocities and outrages, among the large number of which the following may be cited as examples:

Peaceful and aged citizens, unresisting captives and non-combatants, have been confined at hard labor, with hard chains attached to their limbs, and are still so held, in dungeons and fortresses.

Others have been submitted to a like degrading punishment for selling medicines to the sick soldiers of the Confederacy.

The soldiers of the United States have been invited and encouraged in general orders to insult and outrage the wives, the mothers, and the sisters of our citizens.

Helpless women have been torn from their homes, subjected to solitary confinement, some in fortresses and prisons, and one especially on attachment of barren sand, under a tropical sun, have been fed with bothesome rations that had been condemned as unfit for soldiers, and have been exposed to the vilest insults.

Prisoners of war, who surrendered to the national forces of the United States, on agreement that they should be released on parole, have been seized and kept in close confinement.

Repeated pretexts have been sought or invented for plundering the inhabitants of the captured city by fines levied and collected under threats of imprisoning recusants at hard labor with ball and chain. The entire population of New Orleans have been forced to elect between starvation by the confiscation of all their property and taking an oath against conscience to bear allegiance to the invader of their country.

Egress from the city has been refused to those whose fortitude withstood the test, and even to lone and aged women, and to helpless children, and, after being ejected from their homes and robbed of their property, they have been left to starve in the streets or subsist on charity.

The slaves have been driven from the plantations in the neighborhood of New Orleans until their owners would consent to share their crops with the commanding general, his brother, Andrew J. Butler, and other officers, and when such consent had been extorted the slaves have been restored to the plantations, and there compelled to work under the bayonets of the guards of United States soldiers. Where that partnership was refused armed expeditions have been sent to the plantations to rob them of everything that was susceptible of removal.

And even slaves, too aged or infirm for work, have, in spite of their entreaties, been forced from their homes, provided for them by their owners, and driven to wander helpless on the highway.

By a recent General Order No. 91, the entire property in that part of Louisiana west of the Mississippi river has been sequestered for confiscation, and officers have been assigned to duty, with orders to gather up and collect the personal property, and turn over to the proper officers, upon their receipts, such of said property as may be required for the use of the United States army; to collect together all the other personal property and bring the same to New Orleans, and cause it to be sold at public auction to highest bidders—an order which, if executed, condemns to punishment, by starvation, at least a quarter of a million of human beings, of all ages, sexes and conditions, and of which the execution, although forbidden to military officers by the orders of President Lincoln, is in accordance with the Confiscation Law of our enemies, which he has effected to be enforced through the agency of civil officers.

ON THE LIBERATION OF SLAVES.

And, finally, the African slaves have not only been incited to insurrection by every license and encouragement, but numbers of them have actually been armed for a specific war, a war in its nature far exceeding the horrors and most merciless atrocities of savages.

And whereas, the officers under command of the said Butler have been, in many instances, active and zealous in the commission of these crimes, and no instance is known of the refusal of any one of them to participate in the outrages above narrated;

And whereas, the President of the United States has, by public and official declarations, signified not only his approval of the effort to excite servile war within the Confederacy, but his intention to give aid and encouragement thereto, if these independent States shall continue to refuse submission to a foreign power after the 1st day of January next, and has thus made known that all appeal to the law of nations, the dictates of reason and the instincts of humanity would be addressed in vain to our enemies, and that they can be deterred from the commission of these crimes only by the terror of just retribution

Now, therefore, I, Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America, and acting by their authority, appealing to the Divine Judge in attestation that their conduct is not guided by the passion of revenge, but that they reluctantly yield to the coldest duty of dressing, by necessary severity, crimes of which their citizens are the victims, do issue this my proclamation, and, by virtue of my authority as commander-in-chief of the armies of the Confederate states, do order—

First—That *all commissioned officers in the command of said Benjamin F. Butler be declared not entitled to be considered as soldiers engaged in honorable warfare, but as robbers and criminals, deserving death, and that they and each of them be, whenever captured, reserved for execution.*

Second—That the private soldiers and non-commissioned officers in the army of said Butler be considered as only the instruments used for the commission of crimes perpetrated by his orders, and not as free agents; that they, therefore, be treated when captured as prisoners of war, with kindness and humanity, and be sent home on the usual parole that they will in no manner aid or serve the United States in any capacity during the continuance of this war, unless duly exchanged.

Third—That all negro slaves captured in arms be at once delivered over to the executive authorities of the respective States to which they belong, to be dealt with according to the law of said States.

Fourth—That the like orders be executed in all cases with respect to all commissioned officers of the United States when found serving in company with said slave insurrection against the authorities of the different States of the Confederacy.

In testimony whereof I have signed these presents and caused the seal of the Confederate States of America to be affixed thereto, at the city of Richmond, on the 23d day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

By the President.
J. P. BENJAMIN, Secretary of State.

From Washington.

The correspondent of the N. Y. *Post* writes from Washington as follows:

Washington, December 28, 1862—The Jeff. Davis proclamation will have no effect upon the President's Emancipation Proclamation, which will be promptly issued on Thursday next. The only difficulty in the case is in reference to the States or parts of States to be excepted from the emancipation guaranteed by the proclamation. It is rumored that the whole State of Tennessee is to be excepted. Prominent Union citizens have brought the President to let the institution of slavery alone there, as it is known he will in Missouri and Kentucky. Even Governor Johnson is among those who ask this, and Mr. Etheridge, the Clerk of the House, (and elected by an overwhelming Republican majority) has been exceedingly active in the matter. The people, however, will not grumble at the exceptions which Mr. Lincoln will make, well knowing that if he can overthrow the system in the Gulf and cotton States it will fall by its own weight in the border slave States. Government knows this well enough, but wishes to avoid a complication of matters at present in Tennessee.

THE WESTERN VIRGINIA BILL.

There are very intelligent members of Congress, and excellent lawyers too, who hold that the Western Virginia bill is dead by virtue of the adjournment of Congress. The Constitution provides that "if any bill shall not be returned by the President within ten days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be a law in like manner as it he had signed it, unless the Congress, by their adjournment, prevent its return, in which case it shall not be a law." The ten days are up, and the only question being how the bill is "adjourned" at the present time? If it is not, then each day of the recess counts as a Sunday, or rather counts not at all. There are those who contend that Mr. Lincoln can hold the bill two days after Congress comes together again (he held it eight days before the adjournment last Tuesday night) and sign or veto it at his pleasure, but nearly all the lawyers say that the adjournment of Congress killed the bill. It is a nice question, and may create confusion hereafter in the organization of the bill claim that it is a law without the President's signature.

ORGANIZATION OF THE NEXT HOUSE.

There begins to be some anxiety respecting the organization of the next House, between Republicans and Democrats, especially with reference to men professing to be elected members of Congress from Southern cities and districts belonging to States not yet under our military control. The Clerk of the present House, by usage, prepares the roll of members, and that list of names constitutes the House so far as the organization is concerned. For instance, if Mr. Etheridge puts upon the roll the name of a so-called member from Norfolk, and others from North Carolina, South Carolina, New Orleans, &c., &c., he may have it entirely in his power to organize the House. If these men are Administration men, they will give the majority to the Administration—if Democrats or pro-slavery men, they will give it to the opposition. It becomes, then, a matter of considerable importance to ascertain what are the antecedents of Mr. Etheridge, and what his position now is. That he is true as steel to the Government no man who has seen him twice will doubt. But he is also be very much opposed to the emancipation policy of the President, and has urged him to except the State of Tennessee, at least, from the emancipation provisions of the proclamation. It is said that a member of Congress has prepared a resolution instructing the Clerk to place no name upon the roll of the next House except from recognized Congressional districts at the present time, but it is doubtful whether the present Congress can bind its Clerk after the Congress has expired. If he can retain his office till another Clerk is appointed, and after the 4th of next March can not be controlled by the present House, except through a general law passed by both branches of Congress. That he will be guilty of any wrong act no one for a moment believes, but cases will and have occurred upon this very point, whether men from the new and isolated districts in the South shall be recognized. It is probable enough that Congress will pass some general law upon the subject, for legislation seems to be necessary to guard against a misunderstanding next December.

WAYS AND MEANS.

The Committee of Ways and Means are now decidedly *against* Mr. Chase's bill, and they also look with disfavor upon Mr. Stevens's bill. It is now considered certain that the committee will report a bill next week, which will provide first, for the issue of more greenbacks; second, for the sale of more twenty year six per cent. bonds, and for a limited amount of six per cent. bonds which can instantly be reconverted into Treasury notes; third, for a tax, which will doubtless be incorporated into the bill. It remains to be seen whether Congress will adopt it, or whether it will stand by Mr. Chase. There is no longer a doubt upon this point—the Committee of Ways and Means is opposed to Mr. Chase's banking scheme.

There are rumors of fighting on the Rappahannock, but they are probably premature. The weather is exquisite, the roads are in a splendid condition, and a battle may come off any day.

From the *Times'* special dispatches of the 26th we copy as follows:

GEN. BUTLER.

Gen. Butler, to whom there exists a popular disposition to transfer the *sobriquet* of "Old Bruin," has been ordered to Kansas. First Lieut. Kane, U. S. A., has been ordered to report here, and is probably now on the way.

As the friends of Jeff Davis may imagine that the proceedings of the rebel authorities, to which he alludes in his last proclamation, may have had some influence in the supersedure of Gen. Butler in the command of the Department of the Gulf, we will state that Gen. Banks's expedition will have his cordial approval, and that his own share in the general operations of which it forms a part is to be such as is entirely satisfactory to himself. It is calculated to exalt the good sense of the President in the popular estimation, that he should place Gen. Butler in terms of the highest praise. It seems quite evident that Davis's proclamation is after all, not so much aimed at Gen. Butler as it is a counterblast against that of President Lincoln, now soon expected, and which is more dreaded by the rebels than a whole army of Butlers.

FRENCH SUBJECTS IN LOUISIANA.

In reply to the formal complaints, which we noticed some time ago, made to our Government by the French Minister, in regard to the treatment to which French subjects in Louisiana have been subjected, it is understood that the Secretary of State has given assurances that every thing shall be arranged satisfactorily to the Imperial Government.

The Washington correspondent of the New York *Herald* writes as follows, under date of December 29th:

THE FORTHCOMING MESSAGE OF GOVERNOR SEYMOUR.

The forthcoming message of Gov Seymour is looked for with anxiety by all parties here. It is stated that strong appeals have been made to him to avoid any thing inflammatory in that document. It is regarded as the key-note of the opposition, and there are rumors that the foreign representatives here are waiting for it with intense interest, as an essential preliminary of their future conduct towards those Governments.

FOREIGN INTERVENTION.

Great apprehensions are expressed that the 1st of January will bring with it, not only the President's emancipation proclamation, but also propositions of intervention from abroad. The emancipation proclamation has not yet been prepared. It is believed that it will part claritize the States and parts of States in which emancipation is to be declared, and also those States in which it is to be suspended.

There appears to be some difficulty about discriminating between loyal and disloyal portions of the same State, and it is believed that it will be found necessary to leave the few Union men in certain localities to suffer for the sins of their neighbors, or to exempt a whole State from the penalty for the sake of the ten right-some men who may be found in it. It is not improbable, therefore, that the effect of the proclamation will be suspended temporarily in regard to some of the border States.

Interesting Correspondence—Letter from a Southerner to John Van Buren on the Terms of Peace and Reunion.

The New York *World* of the 30th publishes the following letter, addressed to John Van Buren, Esq., by "a Southern gentleman of high character and influence," says the *World*. Accompanying this letter, is published a correspondence between Mr. Van Buren and the writer, in which the former suggests the publication of the letter as a means of facilitating the adoption of the views which it contains. Mr. Van Buren closes his letter as follows:

This I would recommend, and if you consent I will publish your communication, omitting, if you prefer it, your name, and stating that it comes to me from an influential and highly respectable Democrat of a slave-holding State, and is eminently worthy of consideration. In that event I shall also publish this note.

Truly yours, J. VAN BUREN.

The writer consents to the publication, omitting his name and the place of the letter's date. The following is the document:

December 1, 1862.

My Dear Sir: I have read with great interest your several speeches made during the late political campaign in New York, and with no less admiration the boldness of the sentiments you expressed. There seems to me, however, one prominent defect in those speeches and sentiments, in this: that they advocate no specific plan of settlement—present no particular ground upon which you say invite both North and South to stand—raise no definite issue. You should not expect the South to come forward, lay down her arms, and surrender herself to the tender mercies of the North upon the mere vague assurance, which you and others have given, that the "Democracy will take care of her rights." Such a vague promise, unsupported by any authority even from your own party, cannot have the effect to rally a single man in the South to favor its acceptance, nor would you succeed any better in forming a party in the North upon terms so uncertain and indefinite. A convention promises no better results. With no assurances as to what she would receive at the hands of a convention, the South would never yield its present position to go into one. Before she will ever listen to terms of compromise, she must know in advance what those terms are.

To the valuable services already rendered by you, and others who have and are acting with you, could you not add one other, by devising some plain, simple plan of compromise, easy to be understood, yet full and comprehensive enough to cover the whole ground?

May I not take the liberty of suggesting one? Propose a *reunion* of all the States, upon the condition that the Constitution be amended so as to confer upon each State the right of secession, and right, however, to be suspended until say the 1st of January, 1869 or 1873, which would be immediately after the election of a new President. In the meantime let conciliatory measures be adopted by Congress, to assuage angry feelings and to re-establish former friendly relations among the people, North and South. By the time mentioned, two or three new Presidents and Congressmen will have been chosen, and the people will then have had an opportunity, if they really desire to do so, to remove all just grounds for complaint on the part of the South, which if done in good faith every motive for separation will have been removed, and from the experience of the past we may safely assume that the Union would be more firmly established than ever before. In addition, it may be remarked that within the time named many if not most of those who are now conspicuous in the present war will have passed away from time to eternity, or at least will have withdrawn from the stage of public affairs, and with them will have passed away and been buried the angry passions of the present day.

The power of secession, so far from weakening the bonds of union, will strengthen them, because, knowing that the power exists, no one portion of the country would ever attempt to oppress another, for fear of provoking a dissolution into by those who believe that because the right exists it would make the bond of union a rope of sand, because the existence of the right presupposes the exercise of it. How many twitts we shall enjoy when we hear men think of exercising, under the same world to form a new States? The right of secession, involving as it does the most momentous consequences, would only be exercised when it was demanded by the strongest necessity. The Union was formed, in the terms of the Constitution, "to form a perfect justice, insure domestic tranquility," &c., &c. As long as those objects are secured, what possible motive could States have in withdrawing from the Union? But as soon as they are no longer vouchsafed unto the States, the purposes of the Union have been defeated, and it ought to be dissolved. If the right of State secession had been acknowledged in its widest bearings before the present war commenced, do you believe it would ever have been exercised by one-half of the States that now? I believe not. I believe it would have been a dormant power, which would have slumbered on forever, which they said they were paid in. They were mostly shipped in England by a Government officer.

THE PIRATE'S SPEECH.

Semmes made the following speech to the passengers: "Passengers, you're safe in our hands. You have no occasion to weep or be alarmed. What do you take us for? We are all honorable men; rest assured of that. Did any one harm you as yet?" A voice: "You were near sinking the ship." The pirate continued: "That is only our duty. We make war on the sea, and the Yankees are our enemies." More crying and general alarm.

"I repeat, you have no cause to be apprehensive of us. No one of our officers or crew will insult you. We are gentlemen. Do you think we are ruffians who would attack the helpless, or do you imagine we are robbers? Have confidence in us and we will protect and not injure you. Not an article of your baggage shall be taken from you. You will find we respect private property." The prize crew applauded the pirate's courteous speech, and the passengers soon became more confident. During the two days in which the Ariel was a prisoner, after this speech was made, the passengers freely fraternized with the prize crew, and some of them even expressed unqualified sympathy with the Southern Confederacy. Captain Lowe was the guest of a great number of the cabin passengers.

The Alabama last coaled at Martinique. When she was leaving that port, the San Jacinto aimed her guns at her, when, simultaneously, the guns of the fort were turned on the San Jacinto. This is the statement of the First Lieutenant of Capt. Semmes.

The Alabama claims to have a speed, under twenty-five pounds of steam, of sixteen knots an hour. She overtook the Ariel when running only eleven pounds of steam, and fired two guns at her, when she obeyed.

LATER—SAFE ARRIVAL OF THE ARIEL AT NEW YORK.

New York, December 28.—The steamship Ariel has arrived up at this port.

The news of her capture and release by the Alabama, on her outward trip, as stated by the dispatches from San Francisco, is fully confirmed.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT BY MAIL LAST EVENING—FURTHER OF THE CAPTURE—STATEMENT OF THE PURSER OF THE ARIEL.

The Ariel was captured on her outward passage by the rebel steamer Alabama, under the following circumstances: On the 7th inst, at half past one P. M., when rounding Cape Mayai, the eastern point of Cuba, we saw a vessel about four miles to the westward, close under the high land of Cuba, bark rigged and under canvas. As there was nothing in her appearance indicating her to be a steamer—her smoke-pipe being down—no suspicions were aroused, till, in a short time, we saw she had furled her sails, raised her smoke-stack, and was rapidly nearing us under steam. The American flag was then flying at her peak. Such was her speed in comparison to ours, that in about half an hour she had come up within a half a mile of us, when she fired a lee gun, hauled down the American ensign and run up the rebel flag. No attention was paid to the summons, and the Ariel was pushed to her utmost speed. She then sailed across our wake, took a position on our port quarter, about four hundred yards distant, and fired two guns almost simultaneously—one shot passing over the burtoons deck, between the walking beam and smoke-stack, and the other hitting the foremast and putting it half away. A body of United States marines, consisting of one hundred and twenty-six men, passengers on board the Ariel, had been drawn up and armed; but the officers in command deemed it worse than folly to resist, as we could plainly see they were now trailing a full broadside to bear upon us, and Captain Jones gave orders to stop the ship and haul down the ensign. A boat then put off to us, and the boarding officer, on coming aboard, at once assured the passengers that none should be molested, and that all baggage and private property should be respected. He then demanded the keys to the specie locker, together with all the ship's papers and letters, and informed us that we must be in readiness to go on board the Alabama with him, where he was detained as a hostage till the next day.

The money in the ship, amounting to $9,500, was taken off, and the prize crew, twenty in number, all well armed, put on board. The engine room was taken in charge by two engineers from the Alabama. The officers and marines on board the Ariel were paroled, and their arms taken, as well as some belonging to the ship, stowed away in the main hatchway, disregarded, and endeavored to escape, but she rapidly overhauled us, and fired two shells, one of which struck our foremast a few feet above the hurricane deck, and nearly carried it away. The vessels were then lashed alongside, hundred yards apart. Resistance would have been worse than folly, as the preceding letter states. Hence we promptly advised her surrender. Very respectfully,

L. C. Sartori, Com., U S Navy.
A. Garland, Major, U S M C.
D. M. Cohan, Captain, U S M C.
Truman Seaver, Lieut., U S N.
T. L. McBrath, First Lieut. U S M C.
T. H. Currie, First Lieut. U S M C.
W. H. Rhodes, First Lieut. U S M C.
A. W. Ward, Second Lieut. U S M C.
C. H. Daniels, Second Lieut. U S M C.

INCIDENTS.

While Captain Jones was detained on board the Ariel a barque hove in sight to which the Alabama gave chase and soon overhauled. She proved to be a foreigner, and consequently was not molested. Captain Semmes said had she proved to be an American he would have transferred the passengers and crew of the Ariel to her and then destroyed the steamer.

Captain Jones says that the Alabama deserves all her previous reputation for speed. She can steam fourteen knots with seventeen pounds of steam, and is said to carry twenty-five pounds of steam. She has two engines of fifty-two inch cylinder and seventeen inch stroke, and is, in all respects, a perfect model of beauty. Her armament is, he says, one hundred pounder rifle, and one sixty-eight pounder pivot gun, besides six medium thirty two pounders. He can fight seven guns a side, having arrangements for transferring two of the broadside guns from side to side with great rapidity.

Captain Jones further says that the Alabama has a fine crew and that they are well disciplined, that the ship is in fine order, and that the deck is arranged for two additional pivot guns, which he was informed were one hundred-pounder rifles, and in the Alabama's hold, ready to be mounted, should they be required. He says that "Old Beeswax" treated him remarkably well, as if he had been a visitor. He was not confined, had the privilege of the deck, and messed in the wardroom.

It is the opinion of Captain Jones that Semmes has gone to Aspinwall, or off the Isthmus, to intercept the California steamers both ways.

Naval Affairs.

Under this heading the New York *Evening Post* of the 29th furnishes us with the following intelligence regarding naval movements:

DEPARTURE OF THE TRANSPORT BLACKSTONE.

The United States steam-transport Blackstone left this port yesterday for the blockading fleet. She had on board an immense cargo of supplies for the fleet, and several passengers. A great many officers ordered to men-of-war in the Gulf were also on board, going to join their respective vessels. The Blackstone is chartered at $600 a day, and will remain in this line until the completion of the Mississippi fleets.

THE MEDITERRANEAN SQUADRON.

The United States steamers Tuscarora and Kearsage, which, although marked for "special service" on the Naval Register, have been for some some cruising in the Mediterranean, are now in the eastern hemisphere. Both touched at Syra a few days since. The Vanderbilt, which left here a few weeks ago, had on board officers for one of those vessels. The Chippewa, a steam gunboat, was recently at Gibraltar, so that we were still decently represented in "the straits."

LAUNCH OF THE "WHAT-IS-IT."

This queer specimen of naval architecture was launched this morning at the Navy Yard. Laborers pulled it into the river by means of tackles thrown around the body of the craft. It will be brought to this city in a day or two. Lieutenant Hunt, who invented the machine, will superintend the arming of it. The manner in which it is to be used in battle is a secret, and minute details of its construction are not allowed to be published.

THE NORTH CAROLINA.

This fine looking old line-of-battle ship has now on board quite a good complement of seamen, ordinary seamen and landsmen. Detachments have been sent within the last few months to Norfolk, Cairo, and elsewhere, Sergeant Lilly, of the marines, accompanying them. On Thursday visitors crowd the vessel, and the band is permitted to perform on the quarter deck during their stay. Captain Meade commands her. The hull of the portly craft has been so long embedded in the mud that it is now doubtful whether she could be removed with safety.

THE NEW MEN-OF-WAR BUILDING.

Work has been vigorously resumed on the new men-of-war at the Navy Yard, the ship carpenters having been paid full outside wages. In a few weeks the Mackinaw will be ready to launch. The Shawsheen will follow, and then the iron-clad Miantonomah.

Mr. Littlejohn, purser of the steamship Bio Bio, will please accept our thanks for favors.

New York State Government.

The New York *Post* of the 29th contains the following among its telegraphic dispatches:

From Albany—Governor Seymour's Appointments—Major Sprague Adjutant General.

Albany, December 27, 1862.

Governor Seymour has made the following appointments:

Adjutant General—Major J. T. Sprague, United States Army.

Inspector General—Josiah T. Miller, of Seneca.

Engineer in Chief—Isaac Vanderpool, of Albany.

Judge Advocate General—Nelson J. Waterbury, of New York.

Quartermaster General—S. V. Talcott, of New York.

Military Secretary—Lieut. Kidd, New York State Volunteers.

The other appointments will not be announced until after the inauguration.

Major Sprague, who is now doing bureau duty in Albany, awaits, before accepting of Governor Seymour's appointment, the permission of the War Department at Washington.

NEW YORK MONEY MARKET.—The New York *World* of the 30th contains the following:

Money is without change, at six per cent. Gold closed at 132¾, and Customhouse demand notes at 137¾. Bankers' sterling sixty day bills 146 to 146¾. Foreign exchange market dull. Stock market closed firm, with a strong tendency to advance.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Sent to the Hospital—Stapin, slave of Miss O'Neal, was arrested at the corner of Felicity and White streets, to be sent to the police jail to be mounted, should they be required. He was taken to the Hospital on the ground that he was drunk and disorderly.

Thieving Negro—Joseph Smith, a slave belonging to Dr. Mercier, was arrested yesterday on the charge of stealing articles of clothing from his owner's premises, and carrying them away.

Well known Rogue Apprehended—J. P. Hall was arrested at the Park Hotel, between 2 and 3 o'clock yesterday morning, by Sergeant Lyons, on the charge of stealing the sum of $263, the property of Col. Wilcox, of the Third Louisiana Volunteers, on the night of the 31st ult. He is said to be a notorious bad character, suspected of having committed most of the hotel robberies which have been so frequent of late. The special police have been on his track for some time, but he was at last detected by Officer Lyons, who recognized him. The First District lock up, among the things found on the person, was a pair of outsiders, broken and by which the pieces matching exactly.

Relieving to Disperse—Mr. Wm. A. Freret was arrested yesterday about noon, by officer Cameron, on the corner of St. Charles and Gravier streets, on the charge of persisting in hooting an unlawful assemblage, when required to disperse. Mr. Freret was subsequently released on parole by Gen Shepley, to appear before the Provost Court this morning.

Sixth District Court—Judge Howell—L. Milaudon vs. S. F. Gloss and Geo. Hunnewell. A petition has been filed under this title, setting forth that on or about the tenth day of October, 1862, defendant Gloss, of which the plaintiff claimed defendant $3,000 for safe keeping, that the other defendant sets up a claim to the money and has actually received a portion thereof, and prevents the co-defendant from returning any part of the said money, and that defendants justify their withholding said money from the petitioner by virtue of a certain judgment rendered by the Provost Court, but petitioner alleges the Provost Court was without any jurisdiction in