

The Convention—When WILL it Adjourn? Tax tendency of power to steal from the many to the few...

There appears to be very little doubt but that things in Europe are approaching some point, at which some action will be required upon, with reference to affairs in this country.

We feel almost certain that the disrespectful references to Messrs. Mason and Sidel, attributed by the New York Herald to the London Times, were never made by the Times.

We have been kindly shown a private letter from a citizen of Savannah to a friend in Wilmington, giving a full and minute account of matters and things there.

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The whole space between the city and the ocean is cut up and intersected by rivers, creeks, cuts and openings. How many of these have been obstructed and how, is not for us to say.

Wall's Cut is an opening from Port Royal into the Savannah river with some 7 or 8 feet depth at high water. This cut opens into the Savannah river about six miles above Fort Pulaski, and of course out of the range of its guns.

On the Georgia side of the river the Unionists have availed themselves of two openings known as Wilmington Creek and Freeborn's Cut, connecting Warsaw Sound with Augustin creek or river, and from thence with Savannah River.

Will anybody seriously assert that the people, in calling together this Convention, or in voting for its members, intended to clothe it with powers subversive of one of the most vital principles of the Declaration of Rights?

We are not in favour of hasty action. We trust nobody is, but it is not evident that a large influence in the Convention is in favour of turning that body into a permanent institution, and not a temporary incident of the change in our national relations.

The writer adds: "There is no alarm felt here. The people are calm and confident." Of course the number of our guns and where mounted—of our troops and where stationed, would be improper to state, farther than to say that they appear to justify the calmness and confidence above expressed.

From late Northern papers we make the following extracts: The Great Burnside Disaster—Latest by Northern Papers of the 29th January.

We are unable to give many more facts in relation to this great Providential occurrence than was published in our telegraphic column yesterday morning. The Yankee Associated Press agent, writing from Fort Monroe, gives an account of the disaster, which we condense into the following.

The expedition sailed from Hampton Roads on the 11th and 12th instants and consisted of 125 vessels of all classes. They arrived at Hatteras between the 12th and 17th, having been greatly retarded by severe storms and adverse winds which prevailed about that time.

After the first storm, it was discovered that, instead of vessels drawing eight and a half feet being able to go over the swash or bars, as Gen. Burnside had been informed, no vessel drawing over seven and a quarter feet could pass into Pamlico Sound.

The water vessels had not reached their destination at last accounts, and had it not been for the commanders on board of some of the vessels and on shore, terrible sufferings would have occurred. As it was, the water casks were old whiskey, camphine, and kerosene oil casks.

It is thought that the Union pilots of Hatteras have proved themselves traitors, having intentionally run several vessels ashore.

One of the storms can only be described as terrific. The waters in every direction were covered with foam, the waves dashing with a clear sweep across the Hatteras shore, and completely cutting off the post from all outside communication.

The large transports with the troops remained outside the bar until the arrival of the S. R. Spaulding, from Port Royal, on the 23d, when Capt. Hawes volunteered to bring them all inside. This was accomplished yesterday afternoon.

Fair weather has now set in, and the schooners are making their appearance with water and coal, and everything looks promising.

Gen. Burnside is confident of ultimate success, and has the respect of every man under his command.

The only troops that have been landed are the 24th Massachusetts regiment and the Rhode Island battery. Col. Hawkins' regiment goes with Gen. Burnside's expedition, and their place will be supplied by the 6th New Hampshire.

Different statements are received at Hatteras from the surrounding population, in relation to the disposition and intentions of the enemy. Some who come in say that they are completely frightened, and will not make a stand.

Another report is, that large masses of troops will be concentrated in the vicinity; and still another story, confirmed by many, is, that their exertions will be directed chiefly to placing obstructions in our progress to Norfolk.

And in conclusion, we ask of the really conservative members of the Convention—We appeal to the true conservative feeling of all, and also to the really conservative papers of the State to cry aloud and spare not.

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ADDITIONAL PARTICULARS. From the Baltimore Sun, of the 29th January, we find the following additional facts:

The steamer Adelaide arrived at her wharf yesterday morning from Fort Monroe. She brought up five passengers from the South exchanged through a flag of truce at Norfolk.

The steamer Pocahontas, with the Rhode Island battery aboard, went ashore and sunk, after thumping on the bar for several hours. Out of one hundred and nineteen horses on board only nineteen were saved; the battery was also saved. The Pocahontas, which is a total wreck, is well known at this port, having for years run between Richmond, Petersburg and Baltimore.

She was not burned, as previously reported, but is ashore. Her clerk and engineer came up in the Adelaide. She is ashore on the inside of Hatteras Inlet, and in a precarious situation at low water. Persons can wade completely around her, but it is hoped she will be finally saved. Gen. Burnside speaks in the lightest terms of the Louisiana sea boat.

The steamer Pocahontas belonged to the Potomac Steamboat Company, of Baltimore. She was built in this city, and was about 350 tons burden.

The Grapeskin is owned in New York. Her value was about \$15,000.

The steamer New Brunswick, of Portland Me., is reported among the lost. She had the 6th Maine regiment aboard, about 700 in number.

A large Confederate force had been thrown into Newbern, N. C., and other points on the coast menaced by the fleet.

Chatham Railroad Ordinance. An Ordinance in addition to, and amendment of, an Act of the General Assembly, passed at the 15th day of February, 1851, entitled "An Act to incorporate the Chatham Railroad Company," and to repeal an Act supplemental thereto, passed at the 22d day of February, 1851.

1. Be it ordained by the delegates of the People of North Carolina, in Convention assembled, and it is hereby ordained by the Governor of the State, that section first of an act of the General Assembly, ratified the fifth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, entitled "An act incorporating the Chatham Railroad Company," be and it is hereby so amended, that the words "to connect with the North Carolina railroad at Raleigh, or some point west of Raleigh, not exceeding twelve miles," be stricken out.

2. Be it further ordained, That the provisions in section four of said act of the General Assembly, be stricken out.

3. Be it further ordained, That an act of the General Assembly, ratified on the twenty-third day of February, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, entitled "An act to amend an act passed at the present session of the General Assembly, entitled, an act to incorporate the Chatham Railroad Company," be and it is hereby repealed and abrogated.

4. Be it further ordained, That all such solvent corporations as shall be authorized by the Governor of the State, to issue bonds for the purpose of raising money to be paid to the public Treasurer of the State of North Carolina, for the amount of their subscriptions to said capital stock, and no more; which said bonds are to be signed by the principal officers thereof, and made payable to the order of the State, and made for any sum not under five hundred dollars each, to bear interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum, which interest is to be paid semi-annually, to wit: the first Monday in January and July, in each and every year, and the principal of said bonds to be made payable on the first Monday in January, in each and every year, after date: Provided, That said bonds shall not exceed in the aggregate, the sum of eight hundred thousand dollars, and, provided also, That said Chatham Railroad Company shall execute and deliver to the Governor of the State of North Carolina, a mortgage under the seal of said company, wherein and whereby, shall be conveyed to the Governor and his successors in office, for the use and benefit of the State, all the estate, both real and personal, belonging to the same, conditioned for the indemnifying and saving harmless the State of North Carolina from the payment of any bond or part of the bonds of the said corporation, by this ordinance to be made by the Public Treasurer and delivered to the several corporations subscribing as aforesaid, to the capital stock of said Chatham Railroad Company.

5. In addition to the deed of mortgage hereinbefore required to be executed and delivered by the Chatham Railroad Company, the State of North Carolina shall, by this ordinance, have a lien upon the estate, both real and personal, of said company, which they may now have, or may hereafter acquire, for the principal and interest of the bonds of the said corporation, to be issued as aforesaid.

6. Be it further ordained, That said corporations so subscribing and depositing their bonds as aforesaid, with the Treasurer of the State, shall be allowed to redeem their bonds at any time before maturity, in the currency of the State, giving their days notice by the Chatham Railroad Company, and the approval of the Board of Internal Improvements.

7. Be it further ordained, That the said railroad may be constructed with termini at any point or points in the said railroad region, that the stockholders in said Company, shall be authorized to issue bonds, to be issued as aforesaid.

8. Be it further ordained, That the corporate authorities of incorporated towns, subscribing to the capital stock of said Chatham Railroad Company, in order to provide for the payment of their subscriptions, and of the principal and interest thereon, shall be authorized to issue bonds, and have authority to levy and collect taxes from all subjects which under the charter of said towns are taxable.

9. Be it further ordained, That the authority of such corporations as may desire to subscribe to the capital stock of said Chatham Railroad Company, shall be judged of by the Board of Internal Improvements.

10. Be it further ordained, That all laws and parts of laws, all acts or parts of acts, inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance, are hereby repealed and abrogated. A. D. 1862.

From the New York Express. A Humiliating Fact. The British Consul at Havana has just been guilty of an act of the grossest discourtesy towards this Government, in neglecting to receive the letters which have been sent to him so ostentatiously attentive to the Southern Commissioners, Mason and Sidel, who recently sojourning in the same city. It is the custom in making up mails to the U. States for Mexico to have what are called dispatch bags. These consist of two or three small bags containing dispatches from the Government at Washington for the Mexican Legation at the City of Mexico; these bags are separate from the general mail, and are marked direct to the Legation, care of the Consul General at Havana. Upon the arrival of the steamer at Vera Cruz from Havana, a courier is immediately dispatched to the City of Mexico, with an express of \$500 each trip. Well, it seems mails were brought to Havana by the Karnak, on her last trip, and delivered, the dispatch bags to the Consul Gen'l as usual, who keeps them in his possession until the sailing of the steamer, when they are sent to the English Consul, to be delivered to the mail agent for Vera Cruz.

The mails were sent as usual on the 23d of December, the general mail was received but the dispatch bags were sent back from Havana with the gentlemanly reply, that they would not receive them at all on board the vessel. The late hour at which this was done left our Consul no time to remonstrate, and he was obliged to open the bags and select a few of what he thought the most important of the contents, and forward by private hands. The bags, it is said, are at the City of Mexico. It is well known that the British Consul there is a warm sympathizer with the Confederates. He has never let slip an opportunity to help them and to slight "the Federalists," since the commencement of the rebellion; and since the affair of the Trent, the man's hatred of "the Yankees" has led him to do many very contemptible things; but we think this last act of his—the withholding of Government dispatches from Washington—is the meanest and most malicious abuse of his "little brief authority," which has yet come to our knowledge. We do not know whether the Government encourages him or not; but one thing is certain, and that is, the Federal Administration must no longer be begging foreign consuls and foreign mail steamers to carry its dispatches, especially as there is not the slightest occasion for it.

INDEBTED HELD OUT.—We find the following strong inducement to recruits in a late Boston paper in the form of an advertisement: "Virginia oysters are much more palatable when eaten on the 'sacred shore.' This can be done by enlisting in the Federal Army. Apply at the General Recruiting Station, 14 Pitts-street."

BERMUDA ARROW-HOOP. JUST received, direct from the "West Indies," a supply of Arrow-Hoop, pure and fresh, which I recommend as the finest article offered in this market for many years. As the article is in great demand, those wishing to purchase, had better call soon.

WALKER MEARS, Market street. 61-ft

Not. 16. Wilmington District.

THE PENDING ELDERS' APPOINTMENTS. February 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31.

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From the London Chronicle, of January 4, we have some interesting facts concerning the "Peace-at-any-Price" party in England, who, it appears, were quite willing to pocket the insult offered them by the Lincoln Government. From the same paper it appears that the Yankees have rather "put their foot in it" by their brazen and barbarous but characteristic boast of having lighted the Great Charleston Fire.

In Birmingham itself, six thousand men have declared, by a majority of ten to one, against the scheme of arbitration in the affair of the Trent. There was the feeling that should have guided them, mellowed their intellects into starchy condition, and taught them that the English flag is a worthless bit of bunting.

The meeting was gotten up, it should be observed, by the Capitalists; every conceivable effort was made to pack the Toth Hall with anti-national Secretaries; the management, the first speakers, and the leading resolutions were monopolized by those whom we must term our Anglo-Chinese. When a vote was taken, however, and the hands rose in forests, and the shouts followed them in thunder, the Quakers, with characteristic honesty, turned up their eyes and claimed a triumph. Whereupon a local magistrate insisted upon a second vote, and the hands that went up in forests, and the shouts that followed them in thunder, were proved to have been in favor of Lord Palmerston's Government, and in favor of the peace-at-any-price faction. We presume that Mr. Bright will have to go down and ascertain how he stands with his constituents, for they have decidedly snubbed him and the unfortunate party to which he belongs. After this we shall hear nothing more of the romantic demonstrations at Brighton; but it is amusing to observe that the organs of the anti-English cabal contained no record of their Birmingham defeat.

This is precisely what might have been expected. The event, however, is too remarkable and too important as an evidence of public opinion to be left in the obscurity of a paragraph. It is especially significant just now, when the naval rights of Great Britain are proposed to be subjected to a species of diplomatic timbreling, in which, of course, the deluded country which puts its trust in a foreign arbitrator would be effectively shamed. And it is useful to contemplate this revolt of Birmingham against the peace party, when we have before us the endless illustrations of American political controversy and civil war. Gen. McClellan's cry hesitates to fight, but Gen. McClellan's agents are not incapable of setting fire to cities and towns in the South.

It is now perfectly understood that the horrible conflagration at Charleston, which rendered hundreds of poor families homeless, and endangered thousands of lives, was the work of a Northern incendiary. Indeed, several attempts were made immediately afterwards, within two days, to set Montgomery in flames; and it has been openly boasted that other rebel centres are to be perished like the Cities of the Plain. Here is a Government professing to be civilized, which makes war at sea by dispatching cargoes of granite to choke forever the entrances of a commercial port, and by land employs worse than assassins to burn down peaceful habitations, and risk the lives of women and children, of the aged and the helpless, indiscriminately. These are the clients of our ultra-pacific preachers, and their savage brutality qualifies them to be approved by fanatics who can detect no crime and no barbarism, except when charged against an Englishman.

We must continue, while anticipating farther intelligence, to scrutinize closely the statements brought from America. In the first place, the conciliatory remark attributed to Gen. McClellan rests upon no authority whatever, beyond that of a New York penny-a-liner. From the same source originated a fictitious report of a conversation at the table of the French Minister. Again, as will be seen by the later information we give to-day, there was not a shadow of truth in the statement with respect to a Cabinet Council at which the English question was said to have been discussed. If we look for absolute facts, we find considerable preparations for a maritime war; a bill voted by Congress for the construction of 20 iron-clad vessels, and, more significantly still, a grant of nearly five millions of dollars to erect gigantic works of defence at New York harbor, and other points of the coast, from the lakes to San Francisco. We also discover frequent testimonials to the inefficiency of the blockade.

Turning to another subject, we have to recommend for the perusal of those credulous beings who fancy that Mr. Lincoln desires to promote emancipation, the narrative of what took place after General Phelps had issued his proclamation to the southwest. There was almost a mutiny in the camps. Both men and officers declared that they were come to fight for the integrity of the Union, and not the abolition of slavery; a large proportion of officers threatened to resign; and we now think what we please about the Federal heroes as Abolitionists. They are not more Abolitionist than President Jefferson himself, and they never made use of the cry with any other object than that of cheating the English public into a false sympathy.

We are far from blaming President Lincoln for refusing to comply with the demand of his hot-headed colleague, Secretary Cameron, by exciting a servile war. Such a power, once set in motion, might drench the land in blood, and render over the prospect with a confusion of burning cities; it might avenge a thousand personal wrongs, and retaliate upon the master an exaggeration of his own bad passions in the madness of the slave, but it would be a crusade which human nature would condemn, and which would render no aid to the real progress of liberty. It may be that a check upon the recklessness of the Cabinet has been discovered in the known confessions of the slave party in the loyalty of the black population. However strong exculpation of it was given at Charleston, where, at first, the North attempted to fix upon the blacks the stigma of that monstrous incendiarism, as airaid of them. But he is too sound and consistent a liberal to hesitate on which side to bestow his sympathy in that unhappy struggle between a people and a Government fighting for their free institutions against an oligarchy of slaveholders. And in a case where the honor of an old nation is engaged on the one side, and the pride of a growing and ambitious people on the other, the member for Bradford is cautious and deliberate in seeking to elucidate the facts of an international question to determine the principles which should govern its adjustment without sacrifice of honor on either side, and without losing off hand and dogmatically on the resort to arbitration before he has ascertained whether the opportunity for arbitration has arrived, he argues that the possibility and propriety of appealing to some better decision than that of the sword should be kept in view. This, in truth, is all that can be advanced with any show of reason or prudence at the present moment in favor of a principle which may not, after all, whether fortunately or unfortunately, be susceptible of application to the present case.

It is not in these columns that our readers will look for a word against a principle to which we cling as a pledge of a happier future for the Old World and the New. But in such a crisis as we are now passing through it is impossible for us to be quite so cosmopolitan as to forget that England is our country, and that English rights and interests are the nearest and dearest to English public writers, as to the rest of their fellow-countrymen abroad or afloat.

It is in this spirit that we earnestly condemn the policy of dividing English opinion on the previous question of national honor, or representing it as divided. Our Government has addressed a demand to the Cabinet of Washington as moderate and conciliatory in form as it is decided in substance; and having done this, it has a right to count for something on the strength and imposing appearance of strength which comes of national union even more than of vast material resources, in supreme emergencies, when the hand is on the sword hilt, but the heart is still for peace.

CONTRADICTIONS. Quere? What is the difference between your corn box and your cousin? Ans. One is your corn-bin and the other is your corn kin.

Quere? What is the difference between a child and its grandmother? The one is careless and happy—the other hair-less and cappy.

MARRIED. In Lower Southwest, on the 29th ult., at the residence of Mrs. L. Gray, by H. H. Sandlin, Esq., Mr. GASON CAPPS, to Mrs. SENA HORN, all of Onslow county, N. C.

Recent Scenes at the White House by a Disbanding Volunteer. The Washington correspondent of the New York Mercury sends the following: There has been an improvin time here between Abraham and Simon. I mean, in course, between the Head of the Nushin and the Head of the War burrow. These two beds had a lively brush on Sunday. Their ideas clashed on the subject of the woollyheads, and after considerable tiffing and butting, they both hauled off without having made the slightest impression on wun another. Honest old Abe, who dearly luv his own way, and has a hart as tender as a bled turnip, wanted Cameron to alter his views about the black secessors from liberty; warrop-on, as I understand, the Secretary declined to the alteration, and the folierin alkathry ensued.

Abe—Sir, the slavery mancipation question is a notty pnt. Thars a split on it now in the North, and what you say in your report about armin the niggers and settin em on to mail thar masters, would only act as a wedge to widen the fissure. You air not axed for opinions, sir, but only for statements. If your dockment was to go to Congress coudocked, all the scortative would say I was barkin up the same tree as yourself, and I should be rallied at as onworthy of my post by all the Southern Unionists. You must doek off that porshin of the tail end of your report whar you say it may be the "dooty" of the Government to "arm and equip" the darkies. Sir, I insist upon it.

Simon—Mister President, I owe it to myself to say it kaint be dun. I want take back a allybully. I've sent the report to the papers with orders for it to go in, and therefore it muss cum out. War to the blif and the nife to the blif, is my watchword, and ef you want to play push-pin with rebelyun, insted of smilin the Blintins hip and thigh, you must git another Sekratry of War.

Abe—(sarcasically)—The jaw of an ass, Mr. Sekratry, isent as powerful a weapon now as it was in the days of Samson and the Blintins, and thare fine ankles to hev the objectionable claws struck out. It is onworthy of your talons as a stateman. Suppose your blood is up—it is your bizyness as a pollytishen to drop it very mild.

Simon—Well, Mister President, all I hev to say, in concloushon is, that even if my report should caww ay discharge, I won't alter it.

Abe—You neednt go off half cock, Mister Sekratry. I'm not going to dismiss you—at least not right away; but I shall wipe out your niggerarmin subjecthans previous to sendin the dockment to Congress.

Simon (rather sulkily)—Well, do as you like, I see that we kant set our horses together.

Abe—Never mind, my friend, so long as you fatten yours at the public crib.

Simon (savagely)—Say, Mr. President, you're fond of canconndrums, ken you tell me why you're like the North wind?

Abe (playfully)—Mebus its because you find me purty cuttling.

Simon (maliciously)—No, sir, its because you're a "blusterer rally."

Abe (cooly)—Very good, Mister Sekratry—and do you know why you're like a sartin profit as was swallered by a whale?

Simon (reflectively)—Perhaps because it shall be hard to keep down and may turn all right when least expected.

Abe (in his usual sly way)—No, but because I shall throw you overboard whenever seth sackrifice is necessary to ally the storm. You would hev to go, my friend, if the public good wrecks wired it; so yeud better squar your pollysee to my wishes, my Simon, ef you want to be Simon—bar Jonah!

COMMERCIAL. Latest dates from Liverpool... Jan. 17. Latest dates from Havre... Jan. 17.

TARDOR! Jan. 31.—Corn—\$3 75 to \$3 per bbl. Fodder, \$1 per hundred. Cotton—\$4 to 5 cents. Bacon—\$10, round, 16 to 17 cents. Lard—18 to 16 cents. Fresh Pork, 10 to 11 cents per pound.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. FAMILY FLOUR. 50 BARRELS Extra Family Flour in store and for sale by WORTH & DANIEL, Feb. 21.

SUPERFINE FLOUR. 150 BARRELS Superfine Flour in store and for sale by WORTH & DANIEL, Feb. 3.

SOUND SALT. 300 BUSHELS best Sound Salt, for sale at lowest rates by WORTH & DANIEL, Feb. 21.

BOTTLES WANTED. WE WISH TO BUY a quantity of empty Wine Bottles, for which a good price will be paid. Apply to WORTH & DANIEL, Feb. 21, 1862.

VERY OLD N. CAROLINA PEACH BRANDY. A SMALL LOT of very old and choice N. C. Peach Brandy, for sale by WORTH & DANIEL, Feb. 21, 1862.

INDEPENDENT GUARD. ATTEND a business meeting of your Company to-morrow (TUESDAY) evening, at 7 o'clock, at the Court House. G. H. KELLEY, Sec'y, Feb. 3.

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