

[Continued from the 1st page.]

belligerents broader and deeper and renders peace it appears impossible, till one party or the other have won by the sword, the fight.

Parliamentary proceedings continue unimportant.

In the House of Commons on the 17th, Mr. Layard, in response to Mr. Watkin, bore testimony to the zeal, tact, discretion and ability with which Lord Lyons had discharged his duties at Washington. In no one of many cases had he failed to obtain the highest approval of the Government, and his duties had been so laborious that in one year his dispatches filled sixty tolu volumes. Under such circumstances it was not surprising that his health had broken down, and for the present the Government forbore to press him to decide whether he would return to Washington or not. In the meantime, Mr. Beverley Huine was most satisfactorily discharging the duties of the Embassy.

Mr. Watkin complained that the Government was allowing the Reciprocity Treaty to be set aside with out the slightest attempt to avert it by negotiations. He also complained that an intercepted letter had been published, with an explanation, stating that President Lincoln had himself signed the order for breaking the blockade at Mobile, and that while the American Ambassador was complaining of British subjects being so, he moved for the papers.

Mr. Layard said there were no papers to produce.

The *Index* says that 715 American ships have been transferred to the British registry since the commencement of the war.

Demonstrations in support of the Freedmen's Aid Society took place at Exeter Hall in London on the 15th inst. Sir Thomas Powell Buxton presided. Speeches were made by Levi Coffin and Dr. Haynes from America; Mr. Foster, M. P., and others. Much enthusiasm was evinced in favor of emancipation. Mr. Lincoln, and the Northern cause.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* says the army estimates have been framed so as to reduce the strength of the army by about 3,000 men.

London, 19th.—There is no political news to-day of importance.

France.

The weekly returns of the Bank of France show an increase of over fifteen millions of francs in cash.

A treaty of commerce has been signed between France and Sweden.

The absence of any admission to America in the Emperor's speech to the Legislature attracts attention in England.

The *Pitt-Hall Gazette* says the question of the cession of certain provinces in Mexico to France had been discussed in the French Privy Council. The project was advocated by the Duke de Broglie, supported by M. Fould; but Demoyne de L'Hays objected on account of a possible quarrel with the United States, and the Emperor did not agree with him.

The market for cotton in London was dull, with prices weak, and little inquiry, on the 18th of February. Breadstuffs were quiet. The provision market was quiet.

Consolidated in London at 89 1/8 a 89 1/4 for money, on the 18th of February. The Stock Exchange was still feverish and excited on the subject of the peace negotiations in America. The funds had only partially recovered. United States securities had gone up from fifty to fifty-four and one-half; and were subsequently quoted at fifty-one and one-half and fifty-one and three-fourths.

The French Bourse was firm at 67 50.

THE SINGLETON PEACE MISSION

Contradictory Reports of the Object of the Visit to Richmond.

[From the Richmond Dispatch, March 1.]

It has been announced by the Yankee press, and the announcement has been published by us, that Gen. Singleton and Judge Hughes had obtained passports from Mr. Lincoln to visit Richmond. The Yankee papers said the object of their mission was to convince the Rebels of the hopelessness of further resistance. They arrived at Varina on Monday, but the freshets in the river, by preventing the running of our boats, has delayed their arrival in Richmond. These visits of Northern gentry are always covered with such a cloud of mystery by our officials that it is impossible to learn anything positively about them; and we are left generally to conjecture as to their objects. We heard on yesterday a report about the Singleton-Hughes visit that, coming as it did from a trustworthy source, surprised us not a little. It is said that the object of these gentlemen's visit is purely commercial, their business being nothing more nor less than to make arrangements for buying cotton and tobacco for their Government and selling to our Government beef and bacon. It is a queer story; we give it as we hear it.

[From the Richmond Enquirer, March 2.]

It is stated by one of our city papers that fr. Singleton returns to Richmond upon commercial, not pacific purposes, and that cotton, not peace, is what Mr. Singleton is really after. It would be well, therefore, to drop all reference to this gentleman as a peace man, and hereafter recognize him as the cotton commissioner, or so-called peace messenger. Trading cotton for bacon is a business that requires no mystery, and if Mr. Lincoln desires cotton and tobacco, and is willing to exchange for them provisions at proper prices, why not send his bacon minister here openly and avow his purpose to drive trade even amid the din of war? The spectacle of two nations fighting and trading at one and the same time is novel, and Europe must again recognize the great step made by this country in war trade as well as in war implements. If the United States has outstripped the world in iron-ships, big guns, great armies, and huge debts, it has also taken the first step toward a big trade with its enemy. Having blockaded all the ports and effectually shut

Europe out from the great staples of these States, it monopolizes commerce by opening a neutral ground for trade.— This is said to be Mr. Singleton's and Judge Hughes' business. Trade is what these people want, but whether they want trade only with the Yankees is a matter we think extremely doubtful. Perhaps the Yankees may yet be compelled to open Norfolk as a neutral port. It is not probable the European nations will permit the United States to blockade the coast and then open the inland trade, which is the effect of a law now existing in the United States. The particular mission of Mr. Singleton being one of bacon and beef, as well as of cotton and tobacco, has no political significance whatever. His movements are therefore of no importance. But, at the same time, the public do not relish his return to Richmond.

[From the Richmond Examiner, March 2.] Gen. Singleton arrived here yesterday from the North on a second visit to Richmond, and is stopping at the Spottswood Hotel. Judge Hughes, of Indiana, who was named in the Northern papers as his companion in this visit, did not come through the lines. Gen. Singleton is understood to have returned here on private business, although rumor will have it that he is connected with some new edition of the oft-repeated story of peace negotiations.

The Negro Soldier Question South.

Opinion of Gov. Brown of Georgia on the subject.

No Slave can be armed until Liberated.

The Administration, by its unfortunate policy, having wasted our strength and reduced our armies, and being unable to get freemen into the field as conscripts, and unwilling to accept them in organization with officers of their own choice, will, it is believed, soon resort to the policy of filling them up by the conscription of slaves.

I am satisfied that we may profitably use slave labor, so far as it can be spared from agriculture, to do menial service in connection with the army, and thereby enable more free white men to take up arms, but I am quite sure any attempt to arm the slaves will be a great error. If we expect to continue the war successfully, we are obliged to have the labor of most of them in the production of provisions.

But if this difficulty were surmounted, we can not rely upon them as soldiers. They are now quietly serving us at home, because they do not wish to go into the army, and they fear, if we have us, the enemy will put them there. If we compel them to take up arms, their whole feeling and conduct will change, and they will leave us by thousands. A single proclamation by President Lincoln—that all who will desert us after they are forced into service, and go over to him, shall have their freedom, taken out of the army, and permitted to go into the country in his possession, and receive wages for their labor—would disband them by brigades. Whatever may be our opinion of their normal condition or of their true interest, we cannot expect them if they remain with us, to perform deeds of heroic valor when they are fighting to continue the enslavement of their wives and children. It is not reasonable for us to demand it of them, and we have little cause to expect the blessing of Heaven upon our effort if we compel them to perform such a task.

If we are right, and Providence designed them for slavery. He did not intend that they should be a military people. Whenever we establish the fact that they are a military race, we destroy our whole theory that they are unfit to be free.

But it is said we should give them their freedom in case of their fidelity to our cause in the field, in other words, that we should give up slavery, as well as our personal liberty and State sovereignty for independence, and should set all our slaves free if they will aid us to achieve it. If we are ready to give up slavery, I am satisfied we can make it the consideration for a better trade than to give it for the uncertain aid which they might afford us in the military field. When we arm the slaves, we abandon slavery. We can never again govern them as slaves, and make the institution profitable to ourselves or to them, after tens of thousands of them have been taught the use of arms, and spent years in the indolent indulgences of camp life.

If the General Assembly should adopt my recommendation by the call of a convention, I would suggest that this too would be a subject deserving its serious consideration and decided action.

It can never be admitted by the State that the Confederate Government has any power, directly or indirectly, to abolish slavery. The provision in the Constitution which by implication authorizes the Confederate Government to take private property for public use only, authorizes the use of the property during the existence of the emergency which justifies the taking. To illustrate: in time of war it may be necessary for the Government to take from a citizen a business house to hold commissary stores. This it may do (if a suitable one cannot be had by contract) on payment to the owner a just compensation for the use of the house. But this cannot change the title of the land, and vest it in the Government. Whenever the emergency has passed, the Government can no longer legally hold the house, but is bound to return it to the owner. So that Government may impress slaves to do the labor of servants, as to fortify a city, if it cannot obtain them by contract, and it is bound to pay the owner just hire for the time that it uses them. But the impressment can vest no title to the slaves in the Government for a longer

period than the emergency requires the labor. It has not a shadow of right to impress and pay for a slave to set him free. The moment it ceases to need the labor the use reverts to the owner who has the title. If we admit the right of the Government to impress and pay for slaves to free them, we concede the power to abolish slavery, and change our domestic institutions at its pleasure, and to tax us to raise the money for that purpose. I am not aware of the advocacy of such a monstrous doctrine in the old Congress by any one of the more rational class of abolitionists. It certainly never found an advocate in any Southern statesman.

No slave can ever be liberated by the Confederate Government without the consent of the States. No such consent can ever be given by this State without a previous alteration in her Constitution. And no such alteration can be made without a convention of her people.

THE GREAT INDIANA STOCK FRAUD.

Report of the Commissioners Appointed by the General Assembly, Giving a Full History of the Affair.

[Correspondence of the Cincinnati Gazette.] INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 21, 1865.

It will be remembered that early in the year 1862, it was discovered that a large amount of forged and fraudulent Indiana five per cent stocks had been issued and put upon the market, and that the matter was finally traced to one B. C. Stover, who had been appointed agent of State by Governor Willard, vice Hon. James A. Cravens, who had resigned in the fall of 1859. The matter was concealed for a time on Stover's confessing his guilt, and promising to make good all the bonds issued, which he stated amounted to only \$200,000. It was soon discovered however, that between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000 of these forged bonds had been issued. Governor Morton proceeded to New York and caused prosecution to be instituted against Stover and Samuel Hallett, who were mixed up in the matter, but for various causes, the guilty parties were never punished.

At the close of the session of the General Assembly in 1863, a concurrent resolution was adopted, authorizing the Governor, Auditor and Treasurer of State to appoint a commissioner to investigate the condition of the fraudulent certificates of Indiana five per cent stocks, and to procure their cancellation and surrender.— On the 17th day of March, 1863, Hon. Joseph E. McDonald was appointed such commissioner, and his report of his labors in that behalf has just been presented to the Governor.

Deeming the matter of importance to at least your Indiana readers, I have taken the pains to make a brief abstract of the report in advance of publication. The whole amount of these bonds issued, as near as can be ascertained, was about \$2,440,000. They were all of one plate, and taken from the same book of blanks, and were variously dated from February to June, 1859, during the time James A. Cravens was agent of the State; their issue did not, however, begin until November or December, 1860, long after he had gone out office, and was continued through 1861 and up to May, 1862. They were all made payable to Samuel Hallett, with perhaps three exceptions, and were put upon the market by Samuel Hallett, then doing business as a broker in New York, for money advanced on them as securities.— Up to the time of McDonald's appointment as commissioner there had been cancelled, by Hallett and one Jerome, under agreement made with them by Colonel Hudson, agent of State, bonds to the amount of \$1,295,000, leaving still outstanding about \$1,145,000. These outstanding bonds were held by banks, and individuals as were follows:

Table listing bond holders: Park Bank (\$375,000), Continental (185,000), Atlantic Bank (15,000), Bigelow & Hoagland (19,000), Manhattan Savings Institute (70,000), George Barkley (20,000), James Cronkhite (20,000), Mason & Hartshorn (30,000), Leonard W. Jerome (411,000).

All of these parties claimed to be bona fide holders for money advanced on them to Samuel Hallett & Co. in good faith. This was not disputed by Hallett except as to Jerome's claim.— Hallett told McDonald that he had arranged with the various holders, except Jerome, for the payment of their respective claims, and that these claims were then in process of liquidation, and that as to the bonds held by Jerome, he expected to relieve them of all encumbrances by settlement. He stated also that upon gaining control of the bonds he would surrender them for cancellation. At the time this arrangement was made the debts for which these bonds were held as follows:

Table listing bond holders: Park Bank (\$120,000), Atlantic Bank (9,000), Bigelow & Hoagland (10,000), Manhattan Savings Institute (41,000), George Barkley (10,000), James Cronkhite (9,000), Mason & Hartshorn (8,000).

Total \$207,000

The state of accounts between Hallett and Jerome, as connected with these bonds, was not finally adjusted, and was somewhat disputed, Jerome claiming a much larger balance than Hallett was willing to admit.

McDonald states, as a legal proposition, that Judge bonds were simply forgeries, and created no liability against the State of Indiana, having been countersigned in the name of an agent of State not at the time in office, and issued after the repeal of the law authorizing the use of the blanks which were filled up.— Yet while he did not doubt the right of the State to compel by suit a cancellation of the bonds by whomsoever held, yet the parties holding them claim to have taken them in good faith, and had a right to look to Mr. Hallett for repayment of the money they had advanced on the faith of the securities apparently genuine. It was thought best not to commence legal proceedings that might embarrass them in their collection, but take such precau-

tion as might be advisable to prevent the further use of the bonds, if at any time there should be a danger of this being done, and at the same time to make arrangements with Mr. Hallett for the surrender and cancellation of such as should be relieved by the process then in operation. The following amount of bonds have been cancelled by burning, under the adjustment of Mr. Hallett:—

Table listing cancelled bonds: Continental Bank (\$185,000), Bigelow & Hoagland (19,000), George Barkley (20,000), Mason & Hartshorn (30,000), Leonard W. Jerome (108,000).

Total \$322,000—leaving yet outstanding in the hands of parties the following amounts:—

Table listing outstanding bonds: Park Bank (\$75,000), Atlantic Bank (15,000), Manhattan Savings Institute (70,000), James Cronkhite (20,000), L. W. Jerome (411,000).

Total \$893,000

The death of Hallett, which occurred last, put a stop to any further payments by him to relieve the bonds of encumbrances, the estate being largely insolvent, no further payments will probably be made. The claims against Hallett's estate of those holding the above bonds for security are about as follows:—

Table listing claims against Hallett's estate: Park Bank from \$860 to (1,000), Atlantic Bank (2,000), Manhattan Savings Institute (20,000), James Cronkhite (3,000). The amount due Jerome is not known exactly, but is believed to be 3,000.

Which would make a total of \$36,000. The present holders profess to look to the State for this money. This idea was never in any way encouraged by the commissioner, holding, as he does, that the State is not liable.— Still, as the existence of these bonds acts injuriously upon the State's credit, Mr. McDonald suggests that the agent of State be clothed by the Legislature with some discretion, under the direction of the Governor, to adjust and compromise the claims against them, or to bring suit if a favorable settlement cannot be made.

Charleston Incidents.

From the interesting correspondence of the N. Y. Tribune we extract two or three interesting incidents developed in the fall of Charleston:

A RELIC OF THE MERCURY.

I have another relic, which is equally curious. We went to the office of The Charleston Mercury, but found that Mr. Rhett, its editor, had Rhett-bred, and carried his printing press and types along with him! But, on a starting galley, there was half a column of what the printers call "dead matter"—type that has been used for an issue of the paper and is ready for "distribution." It was almost entirely composed of advertisements, but there were three lines, which seemed significant of the character of the Southern seceders—full of brag, and getting ready to run away—that I took the liberty of securing them for posterity. It had been "set up" for The Mercury.

There are no indications that the author has the first intention of abandoning Charleston, as I have ascertained by careful inquiry.

THE CHARLESTON COURIER.

There was a rather humorous scene at the office of The Charleston Courier. The editor had run away, but the business man remained and hoped to save his property. Col. Woodford called at the office at an early hour, and the following conversation took place:

Col. W.—"Whom have I the pleasure of addressing, sir?" Newspaper proprietor—"Mr. L., sir." Col. W.—"Will you do me the favor, sir, to loan me a sheet of paper?" Mr. L.—(Looking at the Colonel's shoulder straps)—"Certainly, sir, certainly." Col. W.—"Thank you, Mr. L., might I trouble you for pen and ink?" Mr. L.—"With pleasure, sir." Col. W.—(Begins to write)—"Really, sir, I am sorry to trouble you so much, but this ink won't flow; will you be good enough to get another bottle?" Mr. L.—"Oh, certainly, sir; no trouble at all." Col. W.—(writes).

OFFICE PRO. MAR. GEN. D. S., CHARLESTON, S. C., Feb. 20, 1865.

SPECIAL ORDERS—No. 1.

The Charleston Courier establishment is hereby [Mr. L. saw the writing and looked startled and troubled,] taken possession of by the United States.

Mr. L. could not endure this any longer, for he was still overlooking the manuscript, and burst out:

"Colonel, surely you don't mean to confiscate my property. I opposed nullification in 1800! The Colonel tells this story with great zest, as the nearest approach to loyalty in Charleston that he has met among the white people yet.

LOYALTY IN CHARLESTON.

There are a few white Unionists here, but they are chiefly of foreign birth, or poor, and many of these are of the 'Union as it was' sort. A number are beginning to claim that they have been Union all along, but were compelled to talk secession to save themselves.

"Why, you people here who claim to be Union," I said to one of the prominent citizens "seem to have been greater slaves than the negroes. You say you were compelled to say what you did not believe?"

He winced a little, but replied: "Yes it's a fact, sir, you have no idea of what people had to submit to here who were not fire-eaters."

A MAN was thrown from a stage and broke his leg so badly that amputation was necessary. Upon being consoled with by a friend who remarked that it was a very bad accident, the sufferer replied:—

"Yes—especially when wood is so high."