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RALEIGH, N. C.

SATURDAY MORNING, DEC. 21, 1861.

Since the issue of Treasury notes by this State, the shinplasters of other States have ceased to be current in Rateigh.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT INTELLIGENCE SURRENDER OF MASON AND SLI-DELL, AND AN APOLOGY FOR THE INSULT TO HER FLAG.

The news which we publish to-day, and for which we are indebted to the enterprine of the Norfolk Day Book, will be received with profound interest throughout the country. The question naturally arises as to what course Lincoln will pursue in this pursling emergency ! Will be give up his pris- self some fine morning in a condition to aponers and make the apology, or will be measure swords with Great Britain ! For our own part, although we differ from some of our friends, we believe he will pursue the latter course. Indeed, we do not see how he can help doing so. Wilkes acted by his orders, and his action has not only been endorsed by the Administration and Congress, but the Secretary of the Navy, in his letter to him sanctioning the act, intimates to him that if he had gone further, and captured the English vessel, his conduct would have been approved. In the face of these facts, how can Lincoln acknowledge that he has done wrong, and beg pardon for doing so, without making the Yankee nation a by-word, a hissing and a scorn to all the nations of the world ! Again, if Lincoln was himself disposed to back out and apologise, Northern sentiment would not permit him to do so .-The Yankees heard of the capture of our Ministers with exceeding great joy. Everywhere through Yankeedom Wilkes was received with open arms and loud cheers, and the "solid men of Boston" entertained him with a public dinner, and notwithstanding the injunction to the contrary, with "strong ottle deep." Wilkes has thus been sustained on all hands, and Lincoln finds himself in a scrape out of which nothing but a fight will extricate him. He then will refuse to comply with the demand of Great Britain, and the latter power will immediately declare war against him, and at the same time acknowledge the independence of the Confederate States. Of the result of this conflict, who can have a doubt ! But for the Navy which they stole from the South, the Yankees would have succumbed long ago. What will be their fate when they have Great Britain to encounter on the sea and the South on the land ! They will be the most unmercifully thrashed set of miscreants that were ever chastised for their "multiplied villanies," and when whipped into promises of good behavior, and left to themselves, will be the most desolate and God-forsaken

It will be seen, that while there is a difference of opinion on the part of the British press as to the legality of Wilkes' act, they all agree that the people are clamorous for either an apology for the act, the restoration of Mason and Sildell, or a fight. John Bull's blood is up, and no Ministry dare baulk his humor. Alas! for the Yankees.

wretches that ever inhabited the earth.

Since the above was written, the following dispatch from Petersburg, dated Thursday, the 19th inst.; was received in this place : PETERSBURG, VA.,)

Dec. 19, 11 o'clock, A. M. The News from England is fully confirmed. War between England and the Federal Government is inevitable. Adams, the U.S. Minister in London, demanded his passports as soon as the Queen's proclamation was issued.

IRISH BEEF, BUTTER AND CHEESE. The best beef, butter and cheese which the world has ever seen are made in Ireland .-Heretofore the South has, in the main, depended on the Yankees for corned beef, butter and cheese, and millions upon millions of Southern dollars have found their way to Yankee land in exchange for these articles As soon as the blockade is raised, the South. until able to supply herself, will get supplies of these articles from Ireland, at cheaper prices than they were ever afforded by the Yankees. We know one house in Petersburg which imported butter from the North to the amount of \$30,000 per annum.

LOOK OUT "ENGROSSERS !"

We are happy in the belief that a day of retribution for the heartless engrossers and speculators in the necessaries of life is near at hand. If Lincoln declines to comply with the demands of the British Government in the Mason and Slidell affair, his blockade of Southern ports will be raised, and we shall see prices tumble with a vengeance. It would be a most blessed consummation if every speculator and monopolist could be caught with sait held at \$25 a sack and bason at 25 cents per pound.

PRENTICE ON LINCOLN.

The following is a portion of a leading article in the Louisville Journal, which was devoted to a review of Lincoln's message to his Congress. The Journal does not like Abraham's speaking endorsation of Cameron's diabolical scheme for the subjugation of the South, and makes loud appeals to the conservatives of the Union party to use every means to prevent the execution of so destructive a plan. With all his wit-stolen, as we very well know a good deal of it to be, or original-Prentice has not discernment sufficient to discover that it is to the Destructives of his party that Lincoln is bound hand and foot. To them be owed his elevation to the "bad eminence" he occupies, and by them he will be sustained in whatever satanic course he chooses to pursue; and the more satanic such course, the more zealous will be the support he will receive. If Prentice writes many more such articles as the one on which we comment, he will find himpreciate Zimmerman on Solitude

We are serry to be constrained to acknowledge that the President's message is, on the point of chief solicitude to the conservative mun of the country, by no means satisfactory. Nay, the message on this point is deplorably unsatisfactory. We make the confession frankly, because it is true, and because it behooves the loyal men of the country not only to face the truth confessed,

but to firmly grapple with it instantly.

The point to which we refer is of course the future policy of the administration with respect to slavery. Concerning this point in its principal aspect the message contains the fellowing pas-

*Also, obeying the dictates of prudence, as well as the obligations of law, instead of transcending, I have adhered to the act of Congress to confiscate property used for insurrectionary purposes. If a new law upon the same subject shall be proposed, its propriety shall be duly considered. Union must be preserved, and hence all desirable means must be employed. We should not be in haste to determine what radical and extreme asures, which may reach the loyal, as well as the disloyal, are indispensable."

It is impossible to look upon this as anything

more or less than the expression of an indirect and unmanly concurrence in the pelicy asserted recently by Col. Cochrane and approved by Secretary Cameron, to the mortification and shame of every loyal man in Kentucky. The passage is lacking in propriety as wofully as in statesmentic. ship. The manner is as bad as the matter. Both are deeply unworthy. The President, without boldly assuming the responsibility of recommending such a confiscation law as the anti-slavery zealots demand, encourages them to go forward and enact their law; and without openly approving the policy of emancipation, he gives the par-tisans of the policy to understand that in the end they will not be disappointed. In short, the clear import of this passage of the message is, that not only is the President not irreconcilably hostile to radical counsels, but entertains them kindly, and even meditates their adoption. The passage is virtually a bint to Congress that, if that body will take the responsibility of authorizing or re-commending extreme measures, the President will probably take the responsibility of approving them and of carrying them out. And the several bills and resolutions proposing extreme measures which have been already introduced into one or the other House, with overpowering manifesta-tions of favor, show that Congress will not be slow to act upon this hint. Congress is apparently bent on such action. We thus have before us the startling fact that, within a few days or weeks, the President will be called upon to decide for or against the adoption of measures which the conervative men of the country does utterly fatal to the re-establishment, of our government, and which he will conisder with a bias favorable to their adoption. This is the plain truth, deny it who may, and the revelation of this truth marks the real turning-point in the present momentous struggle. Now, of all others, is the critical hour of American nationality.

BEAUFIFUL WEATHER.

We do not remember ever to have seen as long a spell of fine weather as the one through which we are now passing. The mornings and evenings are just cool enough to render fires comfortable, while at midday, the sun, shining from a cloudless sky, renders heavy winter clothing un

We say it not irreverently seem to us that the hand of the Almighty Disposer of human events is especially raised in behalf of this Confederacy, and is rocking the cradle of our infant Republic. A great portion of that Southern City which is the especial object of bate to our Yankee invaders, is laid in ruins, and a large number of people deprived of shelter, and lo! the most extrardinary season of mild and genial weather has ever since prevailed, at a period usually characterized in that latitude by cold rains and inclement weather. The exulting shouts of the Yankees had hardly been raised to full dispason over the fate of what they believed to be the doomed City, when, lo! there are wafted over the Great Deep tidings that they are to be brought to a reckoning with the first maritime power of the earth, and suffer on the ocean the reverses to which the South has subjected them again and again

THE BLOCKADERS BLOCKADED. It will be a glorious sight to witness the blockading of the Yankee ports, and to see Jonathan supping the same same which he so ruthlessly commended to Southern lips in his hour of fancied invincibility.

Southern lips in to Lord Lyons, and will proceed by packet from Queenstown to day. The public will be satisfied to know test these demands are for an apology, and to inset upon a restitution to the protection of the British flag of those who were violently

MORE YANKEE LYING.

It is hard to tell whether the Yankees excel in the gift of lying or running, they are so good at both. The Yanken accounts of the battle of Alleghany mountain state that the "rebels set fire to their camp and retreated to Staunton," while their "firees left the come ever field in good order."

RALEIGH WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 25, 1861.

THE MASON AND SLIDELL AFFAIR IN ENGLAND. mmense Meeting in London Denouncing the

Arrest, and Demanding of the English Government a Vindication of the Honor of the British Flag-

We have before us, says the Norfolk Day Book,. Tuesday, Northern papers of Saturday, whichntain a great deal of European newspaper and ther views of the Mason-Slidell capture. From basty glance, we are inclined to think that the nglish press are disposed to sequiesce in the acon of the Federals. But, on a closer inspection, e find a decline in consols from 92% ex-dividend 914. The London Times' money article alleges at a large portion of the public regarded the et in the worst light, as a confirmation of the adications so long given by Mr. Seward of his esire to involve this country in a collision at any

The Liverpool cotton men held an indignation eeting. After the resolution calling upon the overnment to assert the dignity of the British ing by requiring prompt reparation, had been read, the chairman remarked:

When the news of the outrage resched this town, the feeling crated was one of surprise, mingled with indignation. He remarked that all had heard of the sered dignity of the American flag. That dignit, he proceeded to say, was a means by which persons engaged in the nefarious slave trade could at once protect themselves by hoisting the American flag, which fully enabled them is regist any attempt to seemb such bled them to resist any attempt to search such vessels. He trusted that it would not be allowed vessels. He trusted that it would not be allowed that men prosecuting sonefarious a trade should be protected, and that mn peacefully proceeding on their own affairs, under the protection of our flag, might be forcibly then from our ships.—
(Cheers.) On the contrary, he believed that the people of this contrary weld not, by any means, permit such an outrage. (Cheers.) He said in having agreed to take the hair on this occasion, he did so without reluctance or egret, as he felt deeply that he only expressed the lating, not merely of the meeting, but of the community in general, when meeting, but of the community in general, when he said it was their duty topress on the Govern-ment the imperative necessity of vindicating the bonor and dignity of the Baish name and flag. (Loud and continued cheering.)

After the chairman took is sent several genlumen occupied the floor in to vain endeavor to give another turn to the expresion of the meeting, but their object on being expressed met with the the cold shoulder, and they and to desist. The replution as proposed to be amended by the chairmm, was then put to the meeting and carried amid he most deafening and enthusastic cheers. For the negative only a few handswere raised.

The effect of the news on saldetre, which apcars to have already gone up cosiderably, was to norease its price from 30s. to 40, per cwt., and in little while another advance to 43s. And it is said that an order will be instanty issued by the such centraband of war. And it has been recently discovered that large quantitie of arms have been slipped to the Northern Government under the designation of "hardware." This has also been deermined to be stopped.

FROM LIVERPOOL-EXCITMENT VE R THE TRENT AFFAIR.

Liverpool, Nov. 28 .- The exchement here ver to stoppage of the Trent has ben most inense, acceding anything since the Gimean war. At firsthe public were slow to believe he accounts, supposed them to be exaggerated; but, when the statement of the Purser made its appearance, the

excitement and indignation knew no lounds.

Theortion trade are now firm in the belief that of the commander of the San Iscinto will the active interference of England in the result ! war, at the consequent liberation of the cotton crop though the raising of the blockade.

As withe latter, the arrival of the Nashville

and ber Helen, both from Charlerton within a week, as caused even those heretoforenot dispo-sed to gue the question, to now deeler that it is far forn efficient, and hence not binding upon ernment to lenger recognize t. Meantton maintains a good degree of firm-

nds have been very flat since he Trent news, ad speculators are quite at a loss what

(Fronthe Norfolk Day Book of Wedgesday.) ATE NORTHERN NEWS

We sesent our readers to day with some very importat news, which we clip from the Baltinore Sin and New York Herald of the 16h.

ARRYAL OF THE STEAMER EUPOPA. HIGHLY IMPORTANT FROM ING.

GREAT EXCITEMENT OVER THE MA-ON AND SLIDELL AFFAIR.

Quem's Messenger Sent with Dispatches to Lord Lyons to Demand the Restoration of the Persons of the Southern Envoys.

VIEWS OF THE BRITISH PRESS.

HALIFAX, Dec. 15 .- The Europa arrived here o-day from Liverpool on the 30th ult., and Queenstown on the 2nd inst., where she was de-tained until Monday, by order of the British government. She has the Queen's messenger on oard, with dispatches for Lord Lyon.

London, Dec. 1st .- The Observer states that the government will demand from President persons of the Southern envoys to the Britsh gov-

Yesterday afternoon after five o'clock Her Majsty held a Privy Council at Windsor Castle-Three of Her Majesty's Ministers, including the First Lord of Admiralty and Secretary of State for War, travelled from London to Windsor by special train to be present. Previous to leaving town, the three ministers had attended a cabinet ouncil at Lord Palmerston's official residence The Observer says a special messenger of for-eign affairs has been ordered to carry our demands

and illegally torn from that sacred asylum. erver adds : "There is no reason why they should not be restored to the quarter deck of a British admiral at New York or Washington itself, in the face of ten or twelve men of war, whose preence in the Potomac would render the blustering Cabinet at Washington as helpless as the Trent was before the guns and cutlasses of the San Japinto. It is no fault of ours if it should come even to this."

Arrangements for increasing the force in Canada are not yet complete, but in a very few hours

everything will be settled. In the meantime a large ship, the Melbourne, has been taken up and is now being loaded with Armstrong guns, some eighty thousand Enfield rifles, ammunition and stores at Woolwich. It is not impossible that this vessel will be escorted by one or two

The rifles are intended for the Canadian military, and strong reinforcements of field artillery will be dispatched forthwith.

The London Times' City Article of the 30th says: "The position of the Federal States of America is almost indentical in every commercial point of view with that which was occupied towards us by Russia before the Orimean war — Russia had a bostile tariff while we looked to her for a large portion of our general supply of bread-stuffs; but there is this peculiarity in our present case, that the comme ing up the blockade of the Southern ports, at once set free our industry from the anxiety of a cotton famine, and send prosperity to Lancashire through the winter. At the same time we shall open our trade to eight millions of the Confederate States, who desire nothing better than to be

At a privil council on Saturday, an order wa issued, prohibiting the export from the United Kingdom or the carrying coastwise rate commissioners, or take out gunpowder, saitpetre, nitrate of sods and brimstone.

The Times has no hope that the Federal Government will comply with the demands of

The Morning Star declares that the statement of instructions having been sent to Lord Lyons to obtain the restitution of the Confederate ministers, was premature, and solexaggerated as to be virtually untrue.

The Liverpool Courier believes that the Warrior has been ordered to Annapolis with the ultimatum of the government.

[SECOND DESPATCH.]

It was regarded when the Europa left that there was a hopeful look, and consols and cotton has slightly improved, but after digesting the force of the American press a re-action set in, and fears were entertained that the Washington government would justify the act.

The English journals were very bitter and hostile, continuing to treat the affair as an intolerable insult.

Lord Lyons instructions, in which the Cabinet are said to be unanimous, are explicit and deter-

The Post says an acknowledgment of the error and a surrender of the prisoners will be received with great joy, but if the Federal government fails to do so, no man in England will blind his eyes to the alternative that England must do ber

The Times continues to assert that it has been Mr. Seward's policy to force a quarrel with England, and calls for energetic military preparation

There has been a serious decline daily taking place in Canadian securities, amounting to 12 per

The Times predicts three things to immediately follow the outbreak-namely: the destruction of the Southern blockade; the complete blockade of the Northern ports, and the recognition of the Southern Confederacy by France and England. The Patrie argues pretty clearly that France

will side with England and recognize the South ern Confederacy, and take a decided attitude in the international question. The Liverpool Post gives a rumor that Napo-

leon has been proposed as arbitrator of the ques-tion between England and the United States. The Americans in Paris paid a complimentary visit to Gen. Scott-Mr. Dayton acting as Chair-

COMMERCIAL NEWS.

Cotton was inactive, and prices had declined 1d. Sales of the week 20,000 bales. Breadstuffs were higher and flour was 6dals higher. Wheat 2 to 4d, and Com 1 to 2s

Provisions were quiet, but steady. Consols on Friday closed at 921a924.

STILL LATER.

St. Johns, N. F., Dec. 15 .- The newsboat of the associated press has arrived from Cape Race with the advices of the steamer City of Washington, from Liverpool via Queenstown on the 5th, intercepted off that point.

The ship Lady Franklin, from London for New York, put into Plymouth on the 3d inst., and took fire the same night, and was souttled. Some Southerners among her crew are suspected of firing

The Australasian has been chartered to carry troops and a battery of artillery to Canada. She was to sail on the 12th.

THE LATEST.

Queenstown, December 5th .- The excitement in reference to the Slidell and Mason affair con-

The Paris Temps repeats the statement that Napoleon has tendered his services as a mediator. It is rumored that the steamer Persia has been chartered to convey troops to Canada. This, however, is pronounced premature.

The Australasian was advertised to sail for

New York on the 7th, but the America has been At the banquet given at Rochdale, Mr. Bright

made an elaborate speech on American affairs .-He declined to give a decided opinion the Trent affair. He said he believed t if the act be illegal, America will make a fitting reparation. He strongly condemned war-like feelings in reference to the matter, and scouted the idea that the American Caibinet has resolved to pick a quarrel with England. He made an eloquent peroration in favor of the North.

A letter was read from Mr. Cobden, of the

Pacific line, urging a suspension of judgment. A letter from Gen. Scott in favor of maintaining friendly relations between England and America attracts much attention. The exportation of arms, ammunition and lead

The Paris Patrie has an editorial foreshadowthe government will demand from President ing the disposition of France to recognize the Lincoln and his cabinet the restoration of the Southern Confederacy if England sets the exam-

> The Daily News rejoices that Congress meets before the English demands can get out to Americs, and hopes that it will act with honor and dignity, and that the golden opportunity will not be A large number of naval vessels have been or-

> dered to be ready for immediate commission. The transport Melbourne was to leave Woolwich on the 5th for Halifax, with 30,000 stand of arms and large quantities of ammunition, and six Armstrong guns. She will be convoyed by the Orpheus, of 21 guns.
>
> The frigate Warrior will be ready for foreign

> service immediately. Her destination will depend on the answer from Washington. The shipment of Rifles from England for New York continues.

The funds fell 1 per cent, on the 3d.

Appearances indicate that the French papers
ave been instructed to write in an anti-Ameri-

COMMERCIAL ADVICES. Liverpool, Dec. 5 .- On the 3d flour advance 6d, wheat 2d, corn 6d. Sales to-day were steady at the advance.

Provisions closed quiet. Consols for money 304 a 904, ex-dividend.

THE VERY LATEST.

The Tone of the French Press Moderating-Peaceful Solution of the Question Thought not Impossible.

London, Dec. 5 .- The tone of the French press s changing. The Moniteur considers that a neaceful solution of the question is not impossible. It says that public opinion in the United States is very powerful, but also very fickle; any says it will be best to await a solution of the question.

The Journal Debats approved and reviewed the Moniteur's article, and adds that the French government is in no hurry to recognise the Sou-thern Confederacy. Other French papers express the same opinion

THE SITUATION.

The European news by the Europa and City Washington, telegraphed from Halifax and Cape Race, and which is published in the Herald this morning, is of the highest importance to all clases of our readers. The advices from Great Brita'n are dated to the 5th inst., embracing a record of the events which transpired in England and France from the 28th of November, a period of seven days. So far as the statement relates to the present position of Americans affairs abroad, and the probable future policy of both the above named countries towards the United States, it is of a very serious character.

England was agitated to an intense pitch of excitement by the supposed insuit perpetrated on her flag by the arrest of Mason and Slidell on oard the mail steamer Trent. The anti American section of the London press had lashed the people into a perfect storm of rage, and a Cabinet Council, seld with their noise and clamor ringing in the ears of the Ministers, had almost agreed on making the case a cause of war swith our government. As a first result, the Europa was detained at Queenstown by order of the government to the 2nd inst, and took a Queen's messenger on board, with despatches for Lord Lyons, in which, it is said, the Ambassador is instructed to demand from President Lincoln, in a firm and determined manner, the restoration of Mason and Slidell to the travelling status and position which they enjoyed before Captain Wilkes took them on hand, as well as a disavowal of and government apology for the act of that officer from the San Jacinto towards the Trent.

The London journals intimate that the Pal-merston Cabinet had resolved on this course in con-sequence of having a decision from the law offiers of the crown to the effect that the seizure of the persons of the "Southern Envoys" to Europe was illegal under the circumstances, and as muc an outrage against international law as if it had been effected on British soil.

As an additional stimulus the London Ob erver, a ministerial print, demands that Mason and Slidell should be placed on board a British frigate, in the presence of several other English war vessels, lying either in the Potomac or in the harbor of New York. Great preparations were made to have the naval reserve of England ready for service, so as that her North American and West India fleet may be powerfully and promptly

reinforced if necessary.
Should war be undertaken by England, she ecommended by a London paper to, first, raise the Union blockade of the Southern ports; secondly, blockade our Northern ports, and thirdly, in conjunction with France, to acknowlege the independence of the South.

An active movement has been undertaken reinforce the British army in Canada, and the ships Melbourne and Australasian were chartered to convey troops, artillery and munitions of war to that colony, while the famous iron plated frigate Warrior, with the Orpheus, (21 guns) are to be sent out to North America immediately.

Queen Victoria had issued a proclamation forbidding the export from all parts of the United Kingdom of gunpowder, nitre, nitrate of soda brimstone, lead, and firearms.

Great alarm prevailed in the Stock Exchange in London. The English funds had fallen, consols were fluctuating and lower, American securi ties flat and tending downward, and Canadian-stocks much depreciated in value. The agitation

had also affected the Paris Bourse adversely The English reformers of the Bright and Cob den school were already in favor of peace, and Mr. Bright had delivered a speech in which he counselled a more calm consideration of the affair and generally upheld the cause of the North Mr. Cobden had expressed similar sentiments in a letter. The London Star-a democratic organ denies the assertions of the other journals as to the war resolution and feeling of the Cabi-

Estimates had been published to show the gres naval force which England can immediately bring to operate against us, should hostilities actually take place. In this connection it is interesting to exhibit the strength of her fleets in the waters of North America and the West Indies. the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean, a their united force will no doubt operate against us in the event of war. With this view we publish the following statement. THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN AND WEST INDIA

FLEET. Recapitulation of the British Naval force Designation of fleet. Vessel. Guns. Men. N. American and W. I., 30 Gulf of Mexico, 319 2.210 Pacific, 4,160 1,460 14,445 Grand total.

It was at first said that the Emperor Napoleon approved of England's policy, and the Paris urnals condemned our action in the arrest of the rebel commissioners. The Emperor, it was also alleged, had determined to soon acknowledge the Southern Confederacy. He had also proposed his services, it was said, as mediator between the United States and England; but at the latest moment the French journals were inclined to change their tone in our favor, and the Paris Moniteur of the the 5th inst. quietly warns England of the "pow erful" voice of the American people and advise her to moderate her course in hope of a peaceful arbitration. The Moniteur adds that Napoleon is in "no harry to recognize the South." Gen. Scott was received with great respect in

It was reported that the James Adger had cap-

tured and burned a privateer.

The diplomatic corps in Washington will doubtless be put in a state of ferment for a week or ten days when it becomes known that a special Queen's messenger is passenger by the Europa, and that he is a bearer of despatches to Lord Lyons; also that the Penguin, from Bermuda, brings despatches for that functionary from Admiral Milne. is but little doubt, however, that nothing further atpresent, will be done by Lord Lyons than to open a correspondence with our government relative to the matter in dispute. The news by the Europa

Washington. By the City of Washington we have later intelligence, among which is a report that Louis Napoleon has offered his services as a mediator between the North and the South.

BRITISH ACCOUNT OF THE SEIZURE OF MASON AND SLIDELL-SEIZURE OF THE WEST INDIA MAIL BY AN AMERICAN FRIGATE.

(From the London Times of November 26.) Southampton, Wednesday. By the arrival here this morning of the West Indian mail steamer La Plata, Captain Weller, most important intelligence has been received, involving questions affecting the relations existing between this country and the Federal Government of America. The mail steamer Trent, Captain

Moir, was intercepted by the American steam San Jacinto, com San Jacinto, commanded by Captain Wilkes, while on her passage from Havana to St. Thom-as, and under force of arms, the accredited Commissioners to Europe from the Southern Confede racy, Messrs, Mason and Slidell, were taken pris oners and forcibly taken from the Trent to the San Jacinto. This act was committed in defi-ance of the joint remonstrance of the Commiss-ioners, Captain Moir and Commander Williams, the naval officer in charge of the mail on board

The San Jacinto is a first class steam-of-war, of one thousand four hundred and forty six tons, and carrying thirteen guns. She was refitted at this port in the year 1854.

It appears from the statements which we have received that the San Jacinto, Captain Wilkes, arrived at Havana on or about the 3d of November, from the coast of Africa, bound to New York. She coaled and sailed again on the 4th inst. At this time it was well known at Havans that Messrs. Mason and Slidell, with their suites, were at that place, having arrived there in the steamer Theodore, which vessel ran the blockade at Charleston. These gentlemen had not kept their presence a secret, as from the moment of their landing at Havana they were unquestiona-bly under the protection of the Spanish flag.— Passages to Southamption were booked for them by the British Royal Mail steamer which was to ail from Havana for St. Thomas on the 7th intant, on which day they duly embarked on board

the Trest as follows:—
Mr. Shiall, accredited Commissioner from the Confederate States to France, accompanied by his wife, son, and three daughters.

Mr. Mason, accredited Commissioner from the Confederate States to England. Mr. Eustis, Secretary to Mr. Slidell, accompan-

ied by his wife. Mr. Macfarland, Secretary to Mr. Mason.
The Trent sailed from Havana at eight o'clock,
on the 7th, and nothing occurred worthy of notice till about noon on the 8th, when, in the nar-row passage of the old Bahama Channel, opposite the Paradon Grande light house, a steamer observed ahead, apparently waiting, but showing

On approaching her, Captain Moir, of the Trent, hoisted the British ensign, which met with no response until the two vessels were within about a furlong of each other, when the stranger fired a shot across the Trent's bow, and hoiste the American flag. This proceeding was quite contrary to acknowledged law, as when a vessel of war wishes another vessel to stop, it is custom ary to fire first a blank cartridge. The Trent was still holding on her way, when a shell was fired from a long pivot gun on the American's deck forward, which burst about a hundred yards from the Trent's bow. Captain Moir immediately stopped the Trent, and the American had her broadside of guns run out, and men at quar-

ters ready to fire. Captain Moir then hailed her and the American Captain replied that he wished to send a boat on board. A boat containing two officers and about twenty men, armed with muskets, pistols and cutlasses, then shoved off and boarded the Trent, and demanded a list of the passengers, which the Captain refused to give. The commanding the boat stated the name of the frigate was the San Jacinto, of which he was the First Lieutenant, and further stated that they had passengers were on board whom he would take out. This was also refused. Commander Williams, R. N., the naval charge of Her Majesty's Mails, with Capt. Moir positively objected to their being taken, denying their right to take any person from under the

British flag. The Lieutenant then called out the names of the before mentioned Commissioners and Secretaries, and said that those were the persons he sought, and that he would take them at all has ards. The four gentlemen immediately answered to their names, and requested to know what was wanted of them. The Lieutenant stated that he wished to take them on board the man of war. to which they replied that they would not go until they were taken by force, and turning to Cap-tain Moir, Mr. Slidell said, "We claim the protec-

Ou the Captain's again refusing to give up the passengers, the Lieutenant said he should take charge of the ship. Commander Williams, R. N., then spoke as follows, viz: "In this ship I am the representative of Her Majesty's Government, and in distinct language, I denounce this an illegal act—an act in violation of international law—an act, indeed, of wanton piracy, which, had we the means of defence, you would not dare to attempt." The Lieutenant then beckened to the frigate, and three boats containing thirty marines, and about sixty sailors, officered and heavily armed, came alongside. The men at once leaped on deck, sword in hand. After some more parleying, Messrs. Slidell, Mason, Eustis and Macfarland were

tion of the British flag.'

taken and forced into the boat. The Americans went back to the cabins and took possession of the baggage, and sent it with their prisoners on board the San Jacinito. Mr Slidell said, as the boats shoved off, that he expected redress from the British Government for this outrage while under the protection of its flag, and called upon the English Captain to represent the case properly. The Lieutenant stopped on board, having ordered the boat to return. He then stated that he had orders to take Captain Moir and his papers on board the San Jacinto, and that the Trent was to be moved nearer. Captain Moir replied, "You will find me on my quarter deck; if you want me, you will have to come there for me," and he immediately walked on deck.

The Lieutenant, however, went into one of the boats, and told Captain Moir that he could proceed. The boat pulled for the San Jacinto, and the Trent steamed away for St. Thomas. The indignation felt on board the Trent by

every person, of whatever nation, can better be imagined than described. A considerable number of foreigners, of different nations, were among the passengers, and it is affirmed that every would have fought if called upon to do so; but with such an opposing force, and the unarmed condition of the Trent, it was deemed impossible to make any defence.

The officers of the San Jacinto asked for provisions to maintain the prisoners, as they stated that they were short of stores. Capt. Moir told the four gentlemen that at their request he would supply what was needed, and they having expressed a wish that he would do so, all the ne

saries were supplied.

The despatches of the Confederate emissaries escaped the vigilance of the boarding officers, and they have all arrived safely per La Plata.

The families of Mr. Slidell and Mr. Eustis wer

urged by the First Lieutenant of the San Jacinto to accompany them, but being informed, probably they would be separated from them on their arrival at New York, they have declined the ofer, and have arrived in the La Plata. On the arridoes not appear yet to disturb the government at val of the steamer in the dock, the whole of the party went on board of the Nashville, which is now lying near the entrance of the graving dock, where they were received with every attention and kindness, and left for London by the 3 o'clock

One of the gentlemen of the party has the des-nature in possession, which he of course keeps in close custody till his arrival in London.

It is stated by the friends of Mesers. Mason and Slidell who have come home, that the Lieuten-ant of the San Jacinto said that this was the most painful act he had ever been called upon to per-form, but he was compelled to do it, acting un-der orders.