THE RIGHTS OF NEUTRALS.

WASHINGTON, July 7.

The important State paper as to the position of the United States upon the question of neutral rights has been completed, and was despatched to all our Ministers in Europe by the Persia on Wednesday. It will create a most profound impression, and demonstrate that the present administration will maintain the dignity, character and moral position of the United States. As one of the first commercial nations of the earth, we can no longer permit the grave questions which may arise affecting commerce to be disposed of without our voice and influence being heard and felt in their adjustment.

The present manifesto lays down broad principles which will govern us in the maintenance of our rights as neutrals, and there is every reason to believe that the positions now assumed will be accepted by all the great nations of Europe. The principal points are of course with reference to a limitation of articles which shall be deemed contraband of war. The United States holds that nothing should be embraced in this list but the direct and immediate munitions of warfare, such as powder, muskets, cannon, lead and saltpetre, &c. Coal, which is the very foundation of manufacturing and commercial transactions, is declared by the United States not to be contraband of war, and any attempt to construe it otherwise will be viewed as an encroachment upon our commerce. Provisions are broadstuffs not contraband of war. The broad doctrine is also reiterated that a free flag covers the cargo.

Whilst the despatch makes no allusion to privateering, it is well understood, as a settled principle of the American doctrine, that under no circumstances will we abandon that right.

The views of the new English Ministry are not known, but the hesitation of the last Ministry in declaring its views as to coal, is in striking contrast with the boldness evinced by our Government in emphatically declaring that coal is not in any sense contraband of war.

The promulgation of this despatch will doubtless be followed by large orders for coal in this country, and generally will have the effect of promoting the interests of American shipping.

Austria maintains that coal is contraband of war, whilst France and Russia hold to a contrary doctrine.—*N. York Herald.*

Hon. Wm. C. Rives, of Virginia, has written a letter to the Whig General Committee of the city of New York in reply to a request from that body that he expresses to them his views upon the subject [illegible] under consideration of the Whig General Committee of that city, deprecating the further agitation of the Slavery question in our national politics, and affirming the propriety and expediency of turning the public attention to questions of a more general and pervading character, with reference especially to the great end of "binding together by the ties of interest and fraternal affection the various parts and sections of our widely extended Republic."

To which Mr. Rives has made a patriotic reply, as much as to maintain that the subject of domestic slavery has no proper connection with our national politics. Its general regulation, he says, is admitted by all to be exclusively within the domain of State laws, and State constitutions. The few questions with regard to it, that can come within the province of the general government are settled by the Constitution of the United States, and have received a practical solution, in the natural course of events, which leaves no longer any motive of interest or duty, either to the non-slaveholding or the slaveholding States, for their continued agitation.

Mr. Rives maintains the opinion that a contract is binding as the does the existence of the Union itself and the interest and welfare of the parties interest ed should cease, and give place to the calm consideration of other and more legitimate questions, on which the political happiness of the whole country depends. To which sentiment every true patriot North or South will respond to the echo.

Wilmington Herald.

The only Son of his Mother.—One sees on all sides the blue trowsers and white jackets of the Austrians, who fell here in great numbers. In one place I saw eight Zouaves lying close to each other in a small ravine near the railroad. Around the eight dead Frenchmen I counted the bodies of two hundred and three Austrians. This will give you some idea of the dreadful slaughter that was made of them. The harvest is the arm they deal the most. While under cover and firing at a distance, they stand well the attack, but the moment they see that the French troops are about to attack them with the bayonet, they at once retreat. This accounts for the immense number of them that are killed. Alas! it is a sad thing to see the cards and other [illegible] of the dead picked up here and there, and many little tokens of affection are taken in charge by a friend of the soldier [illegible] so that many a fond mother, when so many are killed, may receive something of necessarily be overlooked. A book [illegible] one of the letters that were in [illegible] of the French soldiers that were killed yesterday, as I found it was a present from a mother to her only son. It is a consolation to know that the Almighty sends [illegible] never only child prematurely [illegible] grave with a heavy heart, and resigned to [illegible] and our journey on to Magenta. [illegible] great battle, the event of most importance, had occurred.—*Cor. Ec. Post.*

The Naturalization Question.—New York has written a letter to a citizen of Louisiana, Va., thus coming with [illegible] sign-manuals to [illegible] military service [illegible] He says he would [illegible] but one naturalization [illegible] powers to the naturalizers of the country.

Fire at Black's.—This place has been [illegible] visited by a most disastrous fire, by which [illegible] whole square on the West Fear having a row floating already and work under burning [illegible] and before it was subdued [illegible] shop, and two store houses, [illegible] the property of [illegible] assumed property to the amount of $25,000. [illegible] proceeding it opens to work on the Locks.—*Fay.*

ALWAYS AT HIS POST.

The Winston Sentinel, having asserted that Mr. Scales was always at his post, in the House, and was very economical in his votes, while on the contrary Mr. Gilmer was not only quite remiss in attending to his duties, but voted for all the extravagant measures of the Administration, the Salem *Press* takes up the matter, and shows from the record that Mr. Scales, so far from being "always at his post," was decidedly lazy, and withal quite extravagant of the public money. From the article of the *Press* we gather the following items:

"During the last session of Congress—ninety days—Mr. Scales was absent eighteen times when the yeas and nays were called.

January 5, 1859, page 210.—House called.—John A Gilmer present, *Alfred M. Scales* absent.

Jan. 10, 1859, page 253.—Resolution pending calling on the Secretary of War for the amount of money expended for barracks, &c., and recommending a more economical system to be introduced. Mr. Davis, of Miss., in order to give his democratic friends an opportunity to think the responsibility of a vote, at 2 o'clock p. m. moved *to adjourn*. Mr. Scales voted for adjournment, Mr. Gilmer against it.

Jan. 14, 1859, page 361.—On motion to print Ewbank's Geological Report, involving a cost of $7,000.

Scales dodged, Gilmer voted against it.

Jan. 27, 1859, pag. 646.—On motion to cut down the salaries of ministers of the Diplomatic Corps, and to reduce the appropriations from $244,000 to 105,000 Gilmer voted for it. Scales dodged.

Jan. 27, 1859 page 633.—On motion to give Mr. Buchanan $75,000, to be spent on a few pets who were to go through the form of teaching, in Africa, some captured negroes.

Gilmer voted No. Scales dodged.

Jan. 27, 1859, page 636.—Scales was absent or dodged three times, when the vote was taken on the African Slave Trade. Gilmer was present.

Jan. 27, 1859, page 641.—A bill was before the House involving an expenditure of upwards of two millions of dollars,

Gilmer voted against it. Scales dodged.

Jan. 31, 1859, page 703.—Resolutions to investigate the White House fraud when Mr. Buchanan's Secretary of War had just ten years for some property.

Gilmer voted to investigate. Scales dodged. Was Scales afraid of involving a political friend?

Feb. 9, 1859, page 894.—When the House had under consideration the Legislative Appropriation Bill, involving upwards of Ten Millions of Dollars.

ADAMS, Mr. Scales, Mr. Gilmer, present.

Feb. 9, 1859, page 913.—When the Legislative and Miscellaneous Appropriation Bill, involving ten millions nine hundred and thirty-two thousand three hundred and sixty-nine dollars and fifty cents, ($10,932,369 50) was on its final vote, yeas 98, nays 83,

Gilmer voted against it,—and SCALES voted for the monstrous bill, for which purpose Mr. Fillmore expended only $7,265,0 0.

Feb 16, 1859, page 1024.—Hour of meeting 10 o'clock. At 11 o'clock but 59 members present, showing also as on Mr. Gilmer's motion to transact business;—98 members were almost among whom was Mr. Scales, without any excuse.

Feb. 17, 1859, page 1093.—The Army Bill, appropriating $15,248,657. 28, (upwards of fifteen millions of dollars) passed—yeas 116, nays 93.

For it, Scales. Against it, Gilmer.

While Mr. Fillmore, for the same purpose expended but $7,898 775, (not quite eight millions of dollars)—Mr. Buchanan has nearly doubled it.

Feb. 24, 1859, page 1227.—A bill to for the House to give 160 acres of land to Privateers, persons who refused to enter the army, but under letters of marque captured unarmed English merchant vessels, not engaged in hostilities:—Every vessel, with its cargo, which they captured, became the property of these Privateers.

This class of men, who fought for plunder on the high seas, Mr. Scales voted to give 160 acres of land, individually, while he was unwilling to give one dollar, by way of pension to the gallant soldier who regularly entered the American Army, and fought in the battles of our country in the second War of Independence.

Gilmer voted for presenting the soldiers, but against giving land to Privateers. Scales voted on the measures, and against the same.

Feb. 25, 1859, page 1276.—Roll called, a quorum present; because of the House despite three hours.—103 members absent, among whom was Mr. Alfred M. Scales, the Sentinel's precinct member.

Feb. 26, 1859, page 1309.—House Post Office bill passed, yeas 108, nays 104.

For it Gilmer.

Against it, SCALES, for the sake of Giddings, Grow, Lovejoy, and others of the rankest abolitionists.

TAX ON SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS.

We are indebted, says the Raleigh *Standard*, to the courtesy of Mr. Treasurer Courts for the following opinion of Mr. Attorney General Jenkins, the law-advising officer of the State, on the subject of the taxes imposed on spirituous liquors:

RALEIGH, N. C., July 8th, 18 9.

Hon. D. W. Courts, Pet. Treas. N. C.

MY DEAR SIR:—Yours of the 7th instant, asking my opinion as to the construction of the 8 section, Schedule A, of the late Revenue Law in regard to spirituous liquors, &c., has just been received, and I hasten to reply.

I am of opinion that all persons who are taxed under the said 8th section, will have to find the amount of their purchases, from the first day of July, 18 9 in the same manner, and at the same time that they list lands, polls, and other subjects required to be listed to the Magistrates in Schedule A—the tax to be collected when the taxes upon the other subjects listed at the same time are collected. It may be said that the State will lose the tax upon liquors for one year by this construction, to this, I say, could not alter the law. But this view does not, I think, [illegible] for under the Revenue laws of 1856 [illegible] 57 all liquor dealers by [illegible] taxes were [illegible] in the 1st of July, 1857, to 1st of July, 1858, and now they are required to list [illegible] first of July, 1859 [illegible] Instead of losing the Sheriff is required in the Revenue Law of 1856 [illegible] are required to act as the Magistrates and the time of payment is postponed to 12 months—The amount [illegible] will have to pay must be governed by the late law, [illegible] the Law of [illegible] [illegible] there are difficulties [illegible] entertained in regard to this matter, but after a careful examination of the subject, I have given you the conclusions to which I have arrived.

Very respectfully,

WILL A. JENKINS.

Lost.—We learn that a morning last Mr. Jones [illegible] on Saturday last at Cattle's, in the county [illegible] and about [illegible] two negro women, Lucy [illegible] was alleged [illegible] in the house with the wife of [illegible] Cattle, and [illegible] two days and [illegible] but [illegible] to be [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]