THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

From the N. Y. Herald, By telegram through the Atlantic cable we have a reflex of the effect produced in Great Britain by the publication of Senator Summer's speech on the Alabama claims difficulty, as well as of the initiatory agitation commenced by the as of the initiatory agitation commenced by the English press on the receipt of the intelligence of the rejection by the United States Senate of the Johnson-Stanley treaty or convention of settlement, negotiated by these ministers when Minister Johnson first arrived in London. The matter is of serious import, and worthy the attentive consideration of our Executive and the people at large, as it shadows forth a certain position likely to be adopted by England in reply, in the words of her Cabinet ministers and the expression of influential writers of her press. The English journals have commented extensively on the subject. The London Star, the organ of Mr. John Bright, and which as such exercises a very considerable influence over the minds of the people of England, asserts that Mr. Sumner's demands are "new and startling" in their character, and must be regarded merely as "enormous," and that if they only shadow the instruc-tions given by the Cabinet in Washington to Mr. Motley, that gentleman will stand in a very different position in London from that occupied by Mr. Johnson, who is classed a "a genial dinernow about to bid adieu to the Court, President Grant's desire for the continuance of peace between the countries is, as alleged, of oubtful sincerity, and as he wants the natural ability of the late Mr. Lincoln, being neither ability of the late Mr. Lincoln, being neither a lawyer nor a politician, he is by nature "intensely American." The Star, having thus induced the inference that General Grant may become dangerous, goes on to deplore the escape of the Alabama, perceiving, as is acknowledged, that that fact established a very dangerous precedent in the event of the future occurrence of a national contingency similar to that which existed in America at that period. Mr. Motley's rejection as American Minister to the Court is again threatened in case his instructions should proach towards Mr. Sumner's expressions either in verbiage or tone. Such demands are utterly untenable, and her Majesty's ministers utterly untenable, and her Majesty's ministers must be careful in entertaining them. Such is the sum and substance of Mr. Bright's advice as conveyed in the London Star, and in it we can perceive a full measure of Quaker repentance. Manchester commercial caution, and words of ministerial evasion, such as are used by all British ministers when scated in the council room in Downing street.

The London Times publishes an article breathing forth a spirit of war in defense of the Treasury cash, classing Mr. Sumner's money estimate of the damages as "portentous" and "enormous," and although his address is worthy of attentive consideration, no contrition or humiliation should either be expressed or endured by England; for if such were to happen, the case would be prejudged against her, and any project of an equitable settlement defeated. Senator's arguments are in this respect "feminine," "unreasonable," and "unstatesman-like," a description in the accuracy of which the London Times will find it difficult to make Americans believe, and to which the English people evidently do not assent, as shown by the great pains which are being taken to divert their judgment from a consider-ation of the real points at issue by inflammatory declamation. We are next told that England's having "thrown her sword" on the side of the Confederates during the war would have altered the issue as in favor of the Union-a statement which we may be permitted to more than doubt, and of the truth of which her rulers were certainly not convinced at the time as shown by their hesitating policy towards both belligerents the neutrality proclamation, blockade running. and general game of "fast and loose" without action. The London Times takes a fling at American "journalists," the "vilifiers" of England, and makes way for the London Standard, Tory organ, which breathes forth a spirit of defiance to our people, and will resist a "capitu-lation" by England to the last. This position is deuied by the Liverpool Post, which says that England cannot afford a quarrel, large or small, with America.

So much for the outdoor expression. In Cab inet Council the subject was debated by Mr. Bright, Mr. Gladstone, and Lord Clarendon. Mr. Bright refuses to entertain Mr. Sumner's claims, ord Clarendon deprecates extreme views, while Mr. Gladstone intimates that he has had assurances of a friendly settlement at an early date. It will thus be seen, both from our complete report by cable telegram and new advices, that the Alabama claims difficulty must soon come to an issue-an issue either by peaceful arbitration and the footing up and prompt payment of our bill of damages, or war. To England we tender the choice. Which will she accept? Our people are aggrieved, but prepared to settle the dispute

BROAD-BRIM AND BREECH-CLOUT. From the N. Y. Times.

As Colonel Parker is to give the new effort to civilize, and perhaps even Quakerize (who knows?), the hitherto hostile Indians every advantage for a fair trial, and as the Friends, on their part, are said to have selected as agents men distinguished for a rare union of business tact with benevolence, of wide knowledge of human nature with spotless integrity, we may declare that the scheme is launched under favoring auspices. And there are other promising omens in the very peculiar circumstances of the "Indian situation" at this moment. In the first place-not to say it in any disparaging way-the hostile tribes were soundly thrashed by Sheridan and Custer last winter, and hence may be approached with peace offerings, without fear of the motive being misinterpreted. Again, the new agents and superintendents go well supplied with what are usually called "the sinews of war," but which are as emphatically the sinews of peace. They earry for disbursement the entire treaty appropriations of the House-something over two millions; and though it is true that they take none of the funds proposed under the unratified treaties of last year, yet they have in their place the discretionary fund of two millions, to be expended, as Congress ordered, in "civilizing" the savage tribes.

Now, it is to be noted that, under this arrangement, we have still subsisting all the benefit which has ever been claimed by its friends behalf of the Indian Bureau machinery. In the next place we may count on having purified the bureau organism by the introduction of honor, honesty, fidelity, business energy, philanthropy, and patriotism as its motive power, in the place of the selfish greed, the treachery, the negli-gence, the knavery, and the bold plunder, it is laimed, which have sometimes disgraced it. Finally, we have, for the first time in our tory, the two great bodies of Government offi-cials who come in contact with the Indian working harmoniously, instead of at cross-purposes. For the first time, we say, the army and the agents are at apparent accord; and the spectacle of the President, the General-in-Chief, the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Indian Commission pulling all one way, instead of three different ways, at least, as hitherto, is most happily significant. Should the new commission save as money, it would be gratifying; should it save us from war, it would be still more so; but should it both save us money and save us from war, it would mark a new era in the civil service.

SPANISH FEROCITY AND WEAKNESS.

From the N. Y. Sun. Without choosing to analyze its effective force, in which regard it is probably about as valid as the Pope's bull against the comet, the wording of Count Valmaseda's proclamation is worth; of consideration, both as to the spirit in which it is dictated and as a sample of the animus that rules the Spanish authorities in

Valmaseda, though positively, according to

issues a proclamation that every male over fif-teen years of age, found out of his domicile, shall be executed. First of all, this part of the proclamation can refer solely to children and old men incapable of bearing arms, and therefore, if not intended purely to inaugurate a massacre of the innocents, could have no other effect than that of driving all males capable of bearing. arms into the camps of the insurgents. The second part of the proclamation, if possible, still more fully confirms the old proverb of "Quos Deus," etc. Women found outside of their houses without sufficient cause, forsooth! and the judges of the sufficiency of the cause Spanish soldiers! The razing of the houses to the ground is of minor import. The people of the Eastern Department are of pastoral character, and their habitations correspond. They are not

marble palaces. The animus, however, which dictated so barbaric a proclamation gives rise in reasoning men's minds to other considerations. We have been told, and are being told daily, that the revolution is conquered; that, at the worst, every semblance of insurgency will be obliterated in epochs varying at most from twenty to sixty days. If these statements tally little with the daily supplications of General Dulce to Spain for further recruits, they still serve, in conjunction with this proclamation of Valmaseda and the character of the Spaniard as de-duced from history in parallel cases, to give us an inside view of the true state of the case.

Spain's motto, whenever the Cuban has dared to lift his voice in the assertion of civil rights common to the subjects of all constitutional monarchies, has ever been, "Cuba shall Spanish or Africau;" and an impending dread of a second Santo Domingo has hitherto been suffi-cient to quell any breath of freedom. To-day, the case is changed. Cubans have cast the die. They know that if, by misfortune, Spain should reconquer the island, their condition will be utterly hopeless; and the Spanish rulers, fully cognizant of the spirit which animates them, seeing that the bugaboo of an African massacre has lost its terror, come out in their true character, and their watchward now is, "Delenda est

This is what Valmaseda means.

MINISTER WASHBURNE. From the N. Y. World.

Mr. Elihu B. Washburne, Minister Plenipotentiary to France by the appointment of President Grant, sailed on Saturday from this port for Paris to enter upon the duties of his mission. If we were to judge by the place he holds in the estimation of the President, Mr. Washburne should occupy the first rank among American statesmen. He is the first man upon whom General Grant resolved to bestow a high office; he is the only man in respect to whose fitness the President dld not think it necessary to de-liberate; he headed the list of the names first sent to the Senate; and after being appointed to the highest office in the gift of the President, he was assigned, after his voluntary resignation, to the foreign mission which requires more varied accomplishments than any other post in the diplomatic service. The natural inference would be that the man on whom public honors are thus

lavished must be our foremost statesman. Unfortunately, neither the career of Mr. Washburne nor the estimate put upon him by the country supports the judgment of President Grant. Public opinion would not have assigned him any office of great dignity; and even if his talents were equal to a high position, the Secretaryship of State and the mission to France are the two offices to which his capacity and training are least adapted. Such abilities as Mr. Washburne possesses are not of the diplomatic order. He is impetuous, passionate, brusque; he is conspicuously destitute of literary and social accomplishments; he must always make a mean figure in the society of cultivated men; he knows nothing of foreign polities beyond what he has picked up by the cursory perusal American newspapers. Even Gene-Grant, narrow, obtuse, and illinformed as he is, would never have made a spontaneous selection of Mr. Washburne for either of the posts to which he appointed o him These great positi only because he requested them, and because the President felt that he could deny no request of a man to whom he was under such deep personal obligations. After the election Washburne intimated his desire for the Paris mission, and General Grant acceded. Just before the inauguration, Washburne, presuming still further upon the President's gratitude, told him he would like, for the honor and eclat of the thing, to be nominated to the Senate for Secretary of the Treasury. (We are stating facts, and defy contradiction.) General Grant replied to this insolent request (certainly insolent, although General Grant may not have so considered it), "that can't be, for the incumbent" (meaning Stewart) "is fixed; but I can, if you wish, send your name to the Senate for Secretary of State." And he did, with the understanding that Washburne was not to qualify, but to be contented with the empty honor. (We wish it to be understood that we are not narrating at random, but reciting facts.) It is not easy to conceive of anything more shameless and dis-reputable than such a traffic of vanity, such an ignoble prostitution of the highest office in the fift of the President to create a counterfeit reputation for a small man. Such a transaction a transaction so hollow, deceptive, and trick-

vicegerent and factorum, and he got General Grant to promise to make Gibbs Consul-General at Paris. After Mr. Fish had been appointed and before his arrival in Washington (he tained in New York a few days), Washburne and Grant together arranged for a large number of diplomatic and consular appointments, thus attempting to foist upon Mr. Fish the creatures and tools of Washburne. Some of these were o intolerable that Secretary Fish would not tolerate them, and their names were not sent to the Senate. Others were nominate 1, including Jones, Hudsor, Pile, and many consuls. These undiguined if an ruyres are sufficient to stamp Washburne as a low intriguer; a vulgar demagogue and charlatan. There is nothing in his history and antecedents to rebut this theory of his character. He has been long in Congress —longer than any other member of the House but he has owed his constant re-elections to the cunning with which he has catered to the local interests of his district. He has never done anything creditable or remarkable in a national point of view; but he has succeeded n bleeding the Treasury for public buildings and other im-provements in the little town of Galena. In 1852, for example, Galena in the elemen enth-western corner of Illinois, was made a port of delivery and part of the control of the contro

ish—is disgraceful to both parties. It was as

infamous for General Grant to make a sham ap-

pointment of this kind as it was for Washburne

to violate the understanding, and undertake the

duties of the office. For what purpose Wash-

burne held on to the office in violation of his

pledge is not known. As he asked at first for the Treasury, which has more valuable patron-

age than any other Cabinet place, it may be

resumed that he intended to establish a

Washburne power by filling the public service with his creatures—a supposition which is supported by the fact that he actually undertook to

dispose of all the most valuable patronage of the State Department. Gibbs was Washburne's

delivery and part of the collection district of New Orleans, and a surveyor of the new port was authorized. Then, March 3, 1855, followed was authorized. Then, March 3, 1800, followed an appropriation by Congress of \$15,000 for beginning a marine hospital (think of it)! at Galena, which, by the subsequent expenditure of other sums, has come to be a large marble structure of the Corinthian order of architecture, as absurdly located as if it had been bullt in the Adirondaes. Next came, August 18, 1856, an appropriation of \$50,000 for beginning a custom-house and post-office in Galena, to be built of stone, with fire-proof floors, iron-beams, roof, shutter-sills, etc. It is by lobbying through Congress appropriations for such local and unnecessary purposes that Washburne has secured renominations and re-clections by his party. And while draining the Treasury for such purposes, he has affected to be, far excellence, the champion of economy, and has steadily resisted appropriations for regional and needed objects such as a master. latest accounts, shut up in a locality which once and has steadly resisted appropriations for was the town of Bayamo, but from which he pational and needed objects, such as a post-of-

neither dare venture with his whole force nor send detachments for the almost indispensable supplies of provisions—Valmaseda, who nominally commands the whole Eastern Department. crable shrewdness, energy, and cunning in exhibiting great zeal for economy by resisting appropriations for every other section, as a blind to enable him to push through bills for the benefit of his own constituents.

cfit of his own constituents.

The means by which Washburne has gained his ascendancy over the mind of General Grant reflect no more credit on his character and talents than the other parts of his career. When the war broke out, Mr. Grant happened to be in the tanning business in Galena. Governor Yates, knowing Grant to be a graduate of West Point, made him a colonel. Washburne, in his speech of February 1, 1864, on the Lieutenant-General bill, spoke of Grant as "my neighbor and my friend, appointed upon my own recommendation." In May, 1862, Washburne began his advocacy of Grant in Congress by defending him after the battle of Pittsburg Landing. His accuracy and fairness stand out in this senaccuracy and lairness stand on tence:—"There is no more temperate man in the army than General Grant. He never into the army of intoxicating liquors." In dulges in the use of intoxicating liquors." In February, 1864, Washburne pushed through the bill for making "my friend and my neighbor" Lieutenant-General, and thus laid the foundation of his influence over General Grant. His mental horizon was no larger in this case than when he succeeded in getting an appropriation for a marine hospital in Galena. It was a demagogue's attempt to strengthen himself by making the most of a local advantage. His zeal was not inspired by the fact that Grant was a great general, but by the fact that he was a resident of Galena.

Washburne's appointment to Paris is the worst and weakest ever made to that country. Benjamin Franklin was our first minister to Paris; Thomas Jefferson the second; and Elihu B. Washburne the last.

"Oh, what a falling off is here, my countrymen!" EDUCATION IN ENGLAND.

From the Pall Mall Gazette, The Endowed Schools bill, introduced by Mr. Forster and Mr. Bruce, together with the discussion as to the constitution of the Select Committee appointed to consider its provisions, assumes small proportions as compared with that much vexed and difficult question which Parliament must soon face. A better scheme of education for the poor is urgently needed. We have a State department of education which not only has failed to do what might reasonably be expected of such a department, but which even appears to have been entirely ignorant of the all extent of its own operations. If a parllamentary paper to which we referred last week be correct, there are in England and Wales 11,972 schools for the poor connected with the Church of England alone; but of this number the Government department annually assists only 5017, leaving 6955 entirely unaided Of this majority of schools it has positively no knowledge. It is ignorant of the quality of the education imparted in them; it contributes not a penny to their maintenance, and it extracts, nevertheless, from the parishes in which these 6955 institutions are struggling on under adverse circumstances, the very money supplies by means of taxation which go to subsidize the minority of the schools for the poor. Such is our present State system. The parliamentary paper before us suggests another important consideration. It shows that while there are 14,709 prrishes and ecclesiastical districts in England and Wales, there are only 11,972 institutions or schools. Can the State Department, can Mr. Forster, tell us whether the 2737 parishes constituting the difference between these two numbers have any provision for education at all? How are these parishes distributed? Doubtless some of them are too small to maintain separate schools, and the children in them, by a short walk morning and evening, may find edu-cation in neighboring parish schools. But a State department ought to be in possession of this information. It ought to know the educational resources of every place. It ought to do something more for the country than annually assist 42 per cent. of national or prrish schools, leaving 58 per cent. entirely unassisted, unrecognized, and, in every sense of the word, strangers to it. Possessing such slender knowledge of the schools of the country, even so far as the Church of England is concerned, to say nothing of those other rellgious denominations, how can it possibly legislate on the subject of education next year? searching inquiry would seem to be absolutely essential as a preliminary to the framing of any really effective and comprehensive scheme. The State department of education is costly. the year ending March, 1867, the cost of administration in Downing street, and of the inspection of schools throughout the country, was less than £78,432. Inspection alone cost upwards of £50,000. From 1839 up to 1868 the parlia-

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mentary grants for education amounted

ready to take its share of a paramount duty.

£5,400,889 for England and Wales; and adding

the grants for the period subsequent to 1860, we may see that the House of Commons is quite

is a pity that the department had not been equally zealous in obtaining exact information

as to the needs of every parish. The difficulties

of such an investigation are not insuperable

and the parliamentary paper now in possession of members of both houses shows that it is

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