

AMERICAN VOLUNTEER.

JOHN B. BRATTON, Editor & Proprietor. CARLEISLE, PA., JANUARY 2, 1862.

OUR FLAG.



'Forever float that standard sheet! These breathe the life but fall before us; With Freedom's soil beneath our feet, And Freedom's banner waving o'er us!'

DEMOCRATIC STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Democratic State Executive Committee will be held at the Buehler House, Harrisburg, on Wednesday, January 10, 1862, at 3 o'clock, P. M.

Democratic papers in the State will please copy.

WILLIAM H. WELSH, Chairman.

A WEEK OF PRAYER FOR 1862.

The Committee of the Foreign Evangelical Alliance, composed of distinguished persons from most of the prominent denominations of Christendom, have published their annual circular, recommending the observance of the first week in January, 1862, as a season of prayer for the conversion of the world.

SUNDAY, January 5, 1862.—Sermons by each pastor in his own congregation, on the Holy Spirit; his divinity and personality; his offices and operations. Prayer for the Lord's blessing upon the services of the week.

MONDAY, 6.—Humiliation and confession of sin: as individuals, as families, as churches, as a nation. Thanksgiving and praise for recent religious awakenings. Sermon by Rev. Jacob Farr, at 10 o'clock, A. M., in the Second Presbyterian church, and prayer meeting with brief addresses, in the same church, in the evening at 7 1/2 o'clock.

TUESDAY, 7.—Home objects for prayer; the conversion of the ungodly; the cessation of intemperance and immorality; and the spread of vital religion in our families and household, among our rulers, the rich and poor, our soldiers and sailors, the authors of our literature, secular and religious. Sermon by Rev. Corway P. Wing, D. D., in the Emory Church, at 10 1/2 o'clock, A. M., and prayer meeting, in the same place, at 6 1/2 o'clock, P. M.

WEDNESDAY, 8.—Foreign objects for prayer; the revival of pure Christianity and the extension of religious liberty in Europe and the lands of the East; the overthrow of every form of anti-Christian error; the conversion of the house of Israel; the prevalence of peace among all nations, especially in America; and a yet more abundant blessing upon our brethren and sisters engaged in the work of missions, Christian education and literature in foreign lands. Sermon by Rev. W. Wells, in the Methodist Episcopal Church, first charge, at 10 1/2 o'clock, A. M., and prayer meeting, in the evening, in the same place, at 6 o'clock.

THURSDAY, 9.—The Church of God and the Christian ministry; the increased spirituality of the church and its more decided separation from the world; brotherly love, sympathy and union of labor among the Lord's people; a higher standard of piety and power among Christian ministers and all their fellow-laborers; the outpouring of the Spirit upon our universities and colleges, and on the rising ministry at large; the conversion of the young and a large blessing upon Sunday and other schools. Sermon by Rev. W. Wells, in the First Lutheran Church, at 10 1/2 o'clock, A. M., and prayer meeting, in the same place, at 6 1/2 o'clock, P. M.

FRIDAY, 10.—The word of God; that it may be received with increasing faith, reverence and love; that its assimilants may be enlightened and brought into the way of truth; that the power of the divine Spirit may attend its private study, and its circulation throughout the world. Sermon by Rev. Joseph A. Ross, in the First Lutheran Church, at 10 1/2 o'clock, A. M., and prayer meeting in the evening, at 6 1/2 o'clock.

SATURDAY, 11.—The Lord's Day; that its divine institution may be recognized and its desecration at home and abroad prevented. Sermon by Rev. H. M. Johnson, D. D., in the German Reformed Church, at 10 1/2 o'clock, A. M., and prayer meeting in the same church at 6 1/2 o'clock, P. M.

SUNDAY, 12.—Sermons on the signs, dangers and duties of the present times; motives to personal holiness and Christian activity.

The Report of the Secretary of the Treasury has been sent to Congress. He says the public debt of the United States, by the 1st of July, 1863, will amount to \$900,000,000. He proposes to lay a tax on Tea, Coffee and Sugar and Whiskey, and to circulate \$150,000,000 Treasury notes through the land-banks, instead of their own notes. Uncle Sam is in a fair way of getting over head and ears in debt.

As a proof that girls are useful articles, and that the world couldn't very well get along without them, it has been stated, by a late writer, as a fact, that if all the girls were to be driven out of the world, in one generation, the boys would all go after them. Well, they would.

WHICH MASTER?

Many of the small-pop-guy Republican journals like like kicked out articles in the Democratic press, and denunciations of any act of the Administration. To find fault with the speculators, whose patriotism consists in piling up princely fortunes at the expense of the people, is almost "treason" in the eyes of these very virtuous journalists. And yet these are the very papers that have lived upon scandal for years. No Democratic President—no matter what policy he pursued—escaped the poisoned arrows of these unprincipled and reckless editors. The greater the prosperity of the people and the country, the louder would be their denunciations. During the terms of Presidents Jackson, Polk, Pierce and Buchanan, they discussed diply about the "freedom of the press," and at the same time hurled their lying anathemas at the administration and against the Constitution itself, often terming this sacred instrument "a covenant with death and an agreement with hell," and expressing the wish that it might "slide."

ly every means they could bring to their power—by writing, speaking and falsifying—they have for years labored to bring the administration and the country into disrepute. These political desperadoes are the men who now set up a sickly howl when a Democratic editor dares to utter a word against the present administration, or that nest of hissing vipers who compose a majority in the two Houses of Congress. And yet at this very hour they are themselves almost in open opposition to the President of their choice because he refuses to perjure himself (by over-riding the provisions of the Constitution) in the effort now making to put down rebellion. These are the creatures, we repeat, who, feeling comfortable in the enjoyment of ill-gotten power and patronage, cannot bear to have their base acts laid bare and their corruption probed by an independent Democratic press. If we did know that the country has suffered and is suffering by their penulances and false professions, we might pity their distress; but we can feel no pity for those whose patriotism is measured by the amount of money they can filch from the bleeding country.

But, when Republican editors complain about "attacks upon the administration," we desire that they be a little more specific, and inform us what part of the administration they have reference to. Do they mean the Cameron wing, or the Lincoln wing of the administration? It is well known that the President, SEWARD, BATES and BLAIR have no sympathy whatever with the views of HAMLIN, CAMERON CHASE and WELLS. The President struck out a column or more of Cameron's Report (written by GREELEY), and yet the Republican papers were mean enough to publish and fully endorse this very part that the President had drawn his pen over. When CAMERON sent out and had published the rejected portion of his Report, "old Abe" should have put his "foot down," and removed Cameron from office at once. This is what "old Hickory" would have done under similar circumstances. Gen. JACKSON required his Cabinet officers either to agree with him in sentiment, or leave, which they pleased.

But the Republican press continue to laud CAMERON for having published the rejected portion of his report. In doing this are they not attacking the President in a most cowardly and clandestine manner? Are they not condemning his views and approving of CAMERON'S? Certainly they are. They, therefore, must consider CAMERON the administration and LINCOLN nobody.

We feel no desire to be constantly finding fault, but yet we intend to hold this administration responsible for the calamities that are now upon us. We must get out of this scrape by crushing rebellion, and punishing Union-breakers, both North and South. If the President continues to resist the importunities of one-half his Cabinet and a large majority of his partisans in Congress, then the people will sustain him. If he falters, it would be better for him had he never been born.

DARE NOT GIVE THEM UP!

This government dare not give up Mason and Sidellet. The people of this section were incessantly pained at reading a letter in last Tuesday's Philadelphia Press from "Occasional," looking to such a possible contingency as the release of these two arch conspirators. It brought back the gloomy and soul-dispiriting days when there was a talk of manly yielding up Fort Sumter without a blow. The very thought of such a crushing humiliation is horrible to contemplate. These men, who are now secure in Fort Warren, would at once sail for England, and their landing on her shores would be the occasion of a grand reception of them by all the band of enemies of this country who now infest that imperious and impudent island of the sea. They would hold them with shouts of applause, and reward us with spears and expressions of scorn such as no nation ever felt. In the train of this national humiliation would come every possible indignity that our ancient foe could heap upon us. Not a fortnight would elapse before she would insult us to our teeth, and we should then either have to fight, or die, nationally in a sea of disgrace. We have captured Mason and Sidellet on the high seas, by virtue of a law of nations fully recognized by England, and by every American statesman whose opinion is worth respecting. Our Government has virtually approved of the act of Com. Wilkes, and to back out of it now would call down the anathemas of twenty millions of freemen. We must hold them whether it be to us good or ill—West Chester Republican.

We take the above article from JOHN HICKMAN'S organ, the West Chester Republican, one of the most vindictive and unscrupulous Black Republican papers in the State. The Republican's advice has not been heeded by the administration—"old Abe" became weak in the knees when he heard the British lion roar, and he did dare to do the very thing Republican leaders said he could not do without "national humiliation." By surrendering those arch traitors, Mason and SIDELLETT, the President has disgraced himself, as well as the Government.

(Good Nature.—) One cannot imagine any quality of the human mind whose greater advantage can arise to society than good nature, seeing that man is a social being, not made for solitude, but conversation. Good nature is not only one of the sorrows of life, but one of the greatest comforts.—It is more agreeable expression to the countenance, and induces a multitude of the most amiable observations. Where it is not for good nature, men could not exist together, nor hold intercourse with one another.

An Astonishing Exposure of Fraud and Misfeasance.

"If the people of the United States have heretofore been astonished at the developments of speculation, plunder and misfeasance, they have from time to time been exposed to the newspaper press during the progress of the war against the rebellion, they will experience a still more intense emotion when they come to read the disclosures made by the Van Wyck Committee of Investigation, an abstract of which, with such details as we could find space for, we publish today. In reading it, words of burning indignation spring instinctively to the lips, but we forbear to use them until the record of these infamous transactions is spread more fully before the country. In the meantime, let no citizen fail to read the report and the testimony."

The above is the language of the Philadelphia Inquirer, a Republican Journal, on publishing the portion of the Report of the Congressional Investigating Committee given in another part of the Volunteer, and all honest men who puruse this astounding development of official and semi-official robbery of the Government, will unhesitatingly admit that the language is not stronger or more severe than the character of the rascally transactions demands.

The West Chester Jeffersonian says that this Report makes it evident that the fraud and chicanery, under Fremont and his paid friends, in the West, has been fully equalled by the Cameronians and Wellstites in the East. Cummings—Alexander Cummings—is well known in this State as one of Cameron's most intelligent, active, and unscrupulous schemers and operators; and when he was appointed to make purchases, &c., for the Government, there was not a Pennsylvanian who knew him and Simon, who did not feel assured that just such doings as are now brought to light would be perpetrated.

And, then, who was Cummings' superior? None other than the Black Republican Governor of New York—E. D. Morgan. True, the Governor did not act directly and personally, but assigned his part of the work to another Morgan—a brother of the Governor and brother-in-law of Mr. Wells, Secretary of the Navy. The extent of the plunder secured through the Governor's relative was certainly no trifling, for in the one matter of purchasing and hiring vessels for the Government, the Report shows it, in all probability, has exceeded NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS!

The Report states one fact which, of itself, must be conclusive with every honest and unprejudiced reader, that the appointment of Morgan & Cummings was intended for plundering purposes, and that fact is, that there was no necessity for their appointment, the Government having, at the time, honest men—regular commissioned officers—under pay and bonds, who could and would have attended to all this purchasing and hiring; without a dollar's cost!

Since the foregoing was put in type, we have seen more extensive portions of the Report than are contained in our paper; and the developments made by the Committee are most damaging and damning to the Fremonts, Cameronians, and Wellstites, and exhibit an awful and astounding system of swindling the Government, in purchases, &c., for the army and navy. All the robbing and plundering of the Government, from Washington's administration to the present, if concentrated into one grand operation, would fall equal, in culpable recklessness and bold rascality, the dishonesty and fraud brought to light by this Report.

Two articles appear in the "American Volunteer" of this week, which we presume will be attended to and answered by the Editor on his return home. His usual hesitancy or intention to indulge in personalities unless forced upon him.—Carleisle Herald of Friday.

Had the editor been at his post two weeks ago, we feel satisfied the ill-treated, unkind and unfeeling-rodling at our paper would not have appeared in the Herald. We certainly have great aversion to personal controversies as the "sub" of the Herald, and it has always been our desire to maintain a friendly demeanor toward our contemporaries. Editors, like other men, have their feelings, and those feelings should be respected. We permitted the Herald for weeks to throw dirty squibs at us, without reply, for we knew the editor of that paper was not in the sanetum; but when our neighbor, like the frog in the fable, attempted to swell himself and to speak of his own sheet as being highly "respectable," and ours as "infamous," we thought it our duty to respond. However, it will not be our fault if unpleasant controversies ensue.

The PENNSYLVANIA SIXTH IN THE DRAINVILLE AFFAIR.—At the recent battle and victory at Drainesville, the Sixth Pennsylvania Regiment took an active part, as will be seen by the following account. Our townsman, Lieut. Col. W. M. PENROSE, had command of the regiment, (owing to the illness of Col. RICKETTS), and acquitted himself nobly. We take the following from the report of the battle:

The part taken in the Drainesville affair by the Sixth Pennsylvania Reserve Volunteer corps has been almost overlooked in the various accounts which have been written. Col. Ricketts, of the Regiment, is exceedingly ill, from disease contracted in the service, and the command devolved on Lieut. Colonel Penrose. The Sixth marched down the Leechburg road, near to the town of Drainesville, where it halted just before the enemy's battery opened fire before the road. A portion of the Regiment, led by Lieut. Col. Penrose and Captain Painter, of General Ord's staff, both mounted, was moved up under the full fire of the enemy's battery to the support of four of Eston's guns, placed some distance in advance of the Sixth. The shot and shrapnel of the rebels flew around in all directions.—Had their guns been managed by experienced artillerymen, the slaughter in our ranks would have been terrible, as the position held by this division of the Sixth was immediately in front of the rebel battery. The other division of the Regiment, led by Captain Ent and Lieut. McKean, made a detour into the woods, where they made several brilliant charges upon the enemy, in conjunction with Colonel Kane's Bucktail rifles. The rebels were completely driven out of the woods. The Sixth lost three men killed, and had fourteen wounded. The entire Regiment behaved gallantly throughout. Colonel Ricketts, in consequence of the precarious state of his health, it is feared, will be compelled to resign his commission. He is a graduate of West Point, an accomplished and brave soldier, and much beloved by the men under his command.

Deaf-Blind children learn good and bad things indiscriminately. To be sure, the bad might be eradicated in after years, but it is easier to sow clean seed than to cleanse dirty wheat.

THE WAY GOVERNMENT IS FLUNDERED.

BY THE FREMONTIERS AND CAMERONIANS. MORE ASTOUNDING DISCLOSURES. Report of Congressional Investigating Committee.

SIMON'S FRIEND CUMMINGS'S OPERATION.

To illustrate the importance of system in the purchase of supplies, as well as the prudence of only employing the reasonable amount of credit, the following is a summary of the operations of the Hon. Alexander Cummings, in the city of New York, under the direction of the Secretary of War, in the purchase of these supplies, without advertising for competition, was clearly justifiable. But the failure to employ in this business an experienced public officer, furnishes a just ground of public complaint.

These purchases were made on the spur of a pressing necessity, commencing about the 21st of April; but at that time there were in the city of New York, at the head of Quartermaster and Commissary departments, gentlemen familiar with every part of the army, familiar with the New York markets, and possessing every other advantage which years of experience could confer. Major Eaton, the Assistant Quartermaster-General at New York, and Col. Tompkins, the Assistant Commissary-General, at the same city, were fully entitled to the confidence of the Government on the score of capacity, experience, integrity and disinterestedness. The legitimate duties of each of these gentlemen, to some extent, been performed by persons, or to some extent, to the Government, and of so limited experience, and so far as the committee is informed, without any public necessity, for the head of these departments at New York have been fully able to execute any emergency.

On the 21st of April, Alexander Cummings, who for twelve years was the editor of the Evening Bulletin in Pennsylvania, and for the eight months the publisher of a newspaper called The World, in New York city, received two letters from the Hon. Alexander Cameron, Secretary of War; the one apparently a private letter, the other more official, stating that the War Department needed an intelligent, experienced and energetic man to assist in the purchase of troops and supplies, and calling his attention to the fact of his knowledge of the internal arrangements and connections of the railroads in Pennsylvania, says, "With this view, I will thank you to consult with the officers of the army and the navy, to assist in estimating, or arranging with the railroad companies for the accommodation of the troops as fast as they are ready to march to their destination, and also to assist them in making purchases and other arrangements, and to communicate at the earliest moment any information of service to this Department."

No person but the Secretary of War, seems to have been aware of Mr. Cummings's peculiar fitness for the duty as the purchase of supplies, when great business experience and familiarity with the New York market, and army supplies in general, were indispensable, but on the 23d of April, 20, Cummings was instructed to cooperate with the Quartermaster-General, and to execute the duties of the Secretary of War issued the following order:

DEPARTMENT OF WAR, April 23, 1861. In consideration of the extraordinary emergency which demand immediate and decisive measures for the preservation of the nation, and the defence of the National Government, I hereby authorize Alexander Morgan, Governor of the State of New York, and Alexander Cummings, now in the city of New York, to make the necessary arrangements for the transportation of troops and munitions of war, and to employ the services of officers of the Army of the United States, until communication by mails and telegraph is completely re-established between the cities of New York and Washington. Either of them, in case of inability, to employ another, may exercise the authority hereby given.

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And on the 4th of May, Gov. Morgan issued the following order: "ALBANY, May 4, 1861. Duties at the capital preventing a personal exercise of the powers within conferred upon me, I delegate my portion thereof to George D. Morgan, Esq., of Albany, and to Alexander Cummings, Esq., of New York, the latter of whom is hereby appointed as a franchise, subject to be transferred at pleasure."

In connection with the appointment of Morgan and Cummings to make those purchases, and to make the necessary arrangements, as is stated by Mr. Cummings, but in the way, placed in the hands of General Dix, Mr. Opdyke and Mr. Blatchford, of New York, \$2,000,000. This large sum of money was placed in the hands of Messrs. Morgan and Cummings, or either of them, (See page 31.) Messrs. Dix, Opdyke and Blatchford were distinguished citizens of New York, and prominent members of the Union Defense Committee, and, singular enough, while these \$2,000,000 were being placed under the safe-guard of these well-known citizens of New York, it was in effect placed at the entire disposal of Messrs. Morgan and Cummings, or either of them, by the Secretary of War.

Within a few days after Cummings was invested with this authority, he was appointed to the Committee, through the Sub-Treasurer, Mr. Cison, at New York, \$250,000, \$300,000 of which he paid for the purchases made by the Committee, and the residue, \$40,000, he placed to his own credit in the Park Bank in New York city, and he states, in his evidence, that he made purchases for the Government for an amount of \$130,000.

Mr. Cummings employed a clerk, Mr. James Humphrey, and exhibited in that, as in most other transactions, a confiding disposition highly consistent with a thorough business man engaged in public duty.

Mr. Cummings appears to have known nothing whatever about this Humphrey, except that Thurlow Wood said he was "reliable." This clerk was authorized to make purchases character for about fifteen days. The \$300,000 was paid to Mr. Blatchford, or to the Committee with which he was acting, by Mr. Cummings, without any examining into the character of the expenditures, either by himself or anybody else.

Mr. Cummings seems to have expended the \$160,000 placed to his own credit in the Park Bank according to his own fancy. He says he expended about \$25,000 in clothing, and at that point says: Questions. Of whom did you purchase clothing? Answer. I cannot recall the names now. They were nearly all strangers to me. I will produce the vouchers.

Q. Did you purchase the clothing in the market? A. Yes, sir. I called to my assistance a clerk, through whom I purchased what I could. Q. What were the clothes, full suits? A. No, sir. There were two items which covered the larger part of the purchase—pantaloons and hats.

Q. On what requisition did you purchase hats and pantaloons? A. No requisition.

Q. How came you to purchase hats and pantaloons rather than anything else? A. Because I thought they would be needed, as the weather was coming on. I had seen the soldiers pass through here with warm winter clothing, which I believed they could not endure when warm weather should come on.

Q. Then you were guided by your own information and judgment as to what would be needed at Washington? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Had you any other guide? A. No, sir.

Q. Had you any limits imposed upon your actions except such as were imposed by your own discretion? A. No, sir.

Q. You purchased such kind, quality, and amount as was dictated by your own judgment solely? A. Yes, sir.

Q. The clothing was linen pantaloons and straw hats to the amount of over \$24,000. Again, on this subject, Mr. Cummings says: "I took the liberty to consult with any authority as to the purchase of introducing linen pantaloons into the army?"

A. Not until after it was done. After it was done I talked with Major Sibley, and he said that was not in accordance with the regulations; but then I had ceased to purchase; and I had ceased to purchase.

THE WAY SIMON'S FRIENDS BUY PROVISIONS AND GROCERIES OF ALBANY HARDWARE MERCHANTS. Mr. Cummings purchased provisions, and groceries. On this subject he says: Q. Can you give me the name of any firm of whom you purchased any of those groceries or provisions? A. I think some of them were purchased of Corning & Co., of Albany.

Q. Do you know what they were? A. Of the potatoes who are furnishing the Navy Department with coal. Q. Did you go to Albany to see the firm? A. No, sir.

Q. With whom did you do the business? A. With Mr. Davidson, a member of the firm. Q. Where did you see him? A. At the residence of the firm. Q. What was the nature of the supplies you purchased of the firm? A. They were provisions.

Q. Did you ascertain from him beforehand as to his familiarity with that branch of business? A. I suppose he knew all about it. Q. The provisions were of the kind in which he dealt? A. I suppose so.

Q. Did you seek him out? A. I met him at the Astor House. Q. Did you seek him out for this purpose? A. No, sir; he came to me.

Q. Then Davidson came to you and proposed to sell you something which you now think was some kind of provisions? A. Yes, sir. Q. What was the amount of that bill? A. I do not remember. The vouchers will show it.

Q. Was it large or small? A. It amounted to several thousands of dollars. Q. Would it exceed or fall short of \$10,000 for itself? A. I cannot say. The bill will show for itself.

Q. Did you see the articles? A. No, sir. Q. How were they furnished? A. By him; and put on board of the vessel. Q. Did you know how he had you of the quality of the articles furnished? A. I could not have much knowledge of it. That was out of question.

Q. Did you employ any gentleman to see the articles? A. Only my clerk, Mr. Humphrey. Q. Were those articles brought from Albany here and shipped? A. I suppose so.

Q. Were they in Albany when you made purchases? A. I suppose so. Q. Had you any absolute knowledge upon that point? A. No, sir.

Q. What was Davidson's statement to you in reference to that thing? A. That he was familiar with that kind of business—that he knew the value of the articles of which the Government were in need. Q. What business had he say he was familiar with? A. I think the purchasing of supplies and provisions.

Q. With what branch of the supplies you were then purchasing did he say he was familiar? A. Mainly beef and pork, I think. Q. Did he tell you he was of the firm of E. Corning & Co.? A. I assumed that.

Q. Had you any knowledge then of the particular business in which E. Corning & Co. were engaged? A. No, sir; except as dealers in produce.

Q. Then you relied entirely on his own statement? A. Yes, sir.

Q. And whether the firm was engaged in the provision business you did not know? A. That was my impression.

Q. The firm of E. Corning & Co. were a firm, not the grocery and produce, but in the hardware business, in Albany, New York.

THE WAY SIMON'S FRIENDS BUY HARD BREAD. Q. What was the next considerable item of your purchases? A. Hard bread.

Q. What amount of that did you purchase? A. I do not now remember the precise amount.

Q. Did you purchase it personally? A. My clerk purchased it. Q. From whom? A. From a house in Boston, I think.

Q. Did you have any personal knowledge of that transaction? A. No, sir.

Q. Did you furnish the clerk with the funds, or did you draw in favor of the seller? A. I do not recall for after it arrived here. Q. Paid to whom? A. Directly to the party selling, I suppose.

Q. By you? A. By my clerk, I suppose. Q. What was your own personal connection with the transaction? A. Nothing further than that I ordered the purchase to be made and the article to be shipped. I was spoken to about the subject first, and it was thought to be wise to make the purchase.

THE WAY SIMON'S FRIENDS CHARTER VESSELS. Mr. Cummings also chartered vessels. He testifies, with reference to the charter of the Contrecoeur, that: Q. With whom did you make the contract? A. With Mr. Roberts, the owner.

Q. Did you make a personal examination? A. I had previously been upon her. Q. Did you invoke the aid of anybody else in making this contract with Mr. Roberts? A. I think not, specially.

Q. Did you examine her boilers? A. No, sir. Q. What was her tonnage? A. 1,180 tons.

Q. For how long a time did you charter her? A. I am not sure there was any time specified.

Q. Before the contract was concluded with him what other inquiries did you make for supplies to charter? A. What ships were here and what could be had was subject of inquiry at that time, and I heard of a number. Several came to see me about ships.

Q. What other ships did you examine? A. I did not examine any ships. I took it for granted that they were what they were represented to be.

Q. State the terms of the charter party? A. I can not. Q. How much did you pay? A. Either \$1000 or \$1250 a day. The price was considered very high, but not more than

was being paid at the time, and in the pressure we thought it wise to take her. SIMON'S FRIENDS BUY SHOES. Mr. Cummings interested himself in other purchases for the Government. Q. Since the termination of your duties under that commission, have you had any other transactions with the Government of any kind. A. Not in the way of contracts. I had one transaction which, perhaps, might come under the scope of your question. When at Washington after that, I made a great clearing on my account; of the want of shoes, among others, I had heard Gen. McDowell say that there were regiments that could not march on account of the want of shoes, and I stated this fact to the Secretary of War. He gave me a letter to the Assistant Quartermaster, Philadelphia, Col. Thomas, telling him that if he had not a sufficient supply for a force of not less than 200,000 men was obtained, taking care that no greater sum should be paid therefor than the Government had before paid. I took the letter to Col. Thomas, and he authorized me to procure shoes and forward them to him, if I could find anybody to make them. He ordered 75,000 pair.

Q. What did you do? A. I came to Benedict & Hall, of this city, a large firm in Broadway, very well known, and I took them into my confidence, and told them that it cost the Government, to make their own shoes, about \$2.20 a pair, which was the amount he had limited me to pay. They said they would undertake to make them at that price, although the Government standard price made the shoe worth about \$2.50. They took the order. Q. When was this? A. It was in May or June.

The Trent Difficultly—Mason and Sidellet to be Given up.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28. The National Intelligencer of this morning has the official announcement of the adjustment of the Trent difficulty, and the correspondence between Lord Lyons and the Secretary of State is published in full.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—The decision of the President, in the Trent affair, as announced and explained in the dispatch of the Secretary of State, has the approval of every member of the Cabinet. The National Intelligencer, in an article apparently semi-official, says: "Whatever may be the disappointment of any at the result to which the Trent question has come in the settlement of a question which constitutionally devolves upon the Executive branch of the Government, we are sure that all will applaud the firmness and sincerity with which the Administration, resisting a natural tendency to compromise, has maintained the principle of public opinion in our own country, has resolved to do what it believed to be right in the premises, and it surely should give a pause to all who may be disposed to challenge the propriety of the resolution to which the Administration has come, when they note that a contrary decision would leave us in a position, not only to the views of Great Britain, but also to those which the Government of France announces respecting the principle of public law involved in the transaction."

"Whatever therefore may be said by the way of exception to the extreme demand of the demand made by the British Government in the case of the Trent, it is at least just to admit that the operation has been so adjusted by our government as to be altogether to be hoped, the great cause or neutral right against the assumptions heretofore asserted by England, but now repudiated by that power in common with France and the United States."

"The law of nations, as traditionally interpreted by our Government, has received a new sanction, though at the cost, it may be, of some national sensibility, waked into disproportionate activity by the temporary exasperation of civil heads. The latter, let us remember, are but a day—the law of nations is for all time."

The Intelligencer has five columns of correspondence. The editors say, that Russell, Her Britannic Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in a circular, states the circumstances under which he understood the British flag, and after expressing the hope and belief that it had not been authorized by our Government, and in consequence of the importance of such an aggression, that the four gentlemen designated should be released, and that an apology should be given for what the Government of Great Britain deems an affront to her flag.

In responding to this demand Mr. Seward, after reviewing the circumstances under which the report of our naval officers, and thus depicting the inaccuracies and omission of the British statements, proceeds to analyze the facts and principles of public law involved in the case, and arrives at the conclusion that the neglect of Capt. Wilkes, partly voluntary as it was on his part, in bringing the Trent in violation of the law of nations, was a mistake, and that the Government, as well from this consideration, as in consistency with its own national policy respecting the maritime rights of neutral nations, would be in its own wrong if it should refuse a compliance with the British demand, so far as relates to the disposition that shall be made of the persons now in our custody by Capt. Wilkes, under circumstances believed to be justly open to exception on both grounds thus indicated. So far as regards the release, asked by the British Government, none is tendered, because a statement of facts as they are, suffices to show that no offence could have been intended on the part of our Government as it had given no instructions whatever in the premises; while the British demand, in so far as it insists on a benefit to the captives, is to be refused, and to conform to the rules of public law, was dictated by considerations of kindness and forbearance.

The decision of the President in this affair, as announced and explained in the dispatch of Mr. Seward, says the National Intelligencer, "has the approval of every member of the Cabinet."

Secretary Seward, in conclusion, says: "If I decide this case in favor of my country, I erudicate, I must disavow my most cherished principles, and adhere to that policy; I must surrender the case itself. It will be seen, therefore, that this Government could not deny the justice of the claim presented to us in this respect, upon its merits. We are asked to do to the British nation just what we have always insisted all nations ought to do to us. The claim of the British government is not made in a discourteous manner. This government, since its organization, has never used more guarded language in a similar case."

In coming to my conclusion, I have not forgotten that the safety of this Union required the detention of our captives. It would be the right and the duty of this Government to detain them; but the effectual check and warning proportions of the existing importance of the capture of persons themselves, when disproportionately weighed against the loss of men from resorting to that defence. Nor am I unaware that American citizens are not in any case to be unnecessarily surrendered for any purpose into the keeping of a foreign State. Only the captives of persons, how many or others who are interested in them, could justly raise the question on the ground. Nor have I been tempted at all by suggestions that cases might be found in history where Great Britain refused to surrender captives, and even to surrender, claims like that which are now before us. These cases occurred when Great Britain, as well as the United States, was the home of generations which, with all their peculiarities, and with all their passions, have passed away. She could in no other way so effectually disavow any such injury as we think she does by assuming now as her own the ground upon which we then stood.

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