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NAVAL AFFAIRS .- The sloop Havelock, cap-

THE FARM SCHOOL .- We have before had

occasion to notice this institution. The last annual catalogue has just been sent us. It provents the suffaces of the instructions aboling in a promising contribution. The college buildings are just about being a conflicted, thus affording room for over three hundred statements. It has a just graduated its first class, giving the students the degree of Bachelor of Scientific and Pi actical Agriculture.

The course of instruction is designed to be mostly devoted to science and the English branches, will othe stu-

dent performs each day a certain amount-of manual labor non the farm.

The plan of combining scientific study will financial labor is said to have succeeded well during the three years the school has been in operation. All the work of a farm of four hundred acres has been do no by the student dates and their recess in the law recent has been do not by the student acres has been do not by the student acres has been do not be the state.

pars the school has been in operation. All the work of a farm of four hundred acres has been do no by the street acres, and their success in the class-room has been do no by the street acres has been do no by the street acres, and their success in the class-room has been do no by the street acres has been do no by the street the same has a contract of the special peculiarities and advantages of the courte of secing all the practiced operations of the farm, garden, and nursery, in the most approved manner, with the siss of the best manners, seeds, tools, and implements; and, what is of more importance than this, he studies in the class-room and laboratory the scientific principles involved in all he dees, and, by becoming a scientific magnetic and others against the frauds and cheats that are continually being practised upon the uneducated by dealern who are themselves either ignorant of science, or use it to impose upon the examinaty. He learns how to study the geology, mineralogy, and chemistry of the soil he cultivates, the betany of the plant he grown, and the laws of health and diseases of the animals he use.

In a word, he is made theroughly acquainted with the laws and ghencmena of the material world with which he is in immediate contact, and about which farmers are most depictally ignorant; but a knowledge of which is essential to their material success, or intellectual pleasure, in the pursuit of the duties of rural life.

To persons in cities who may wish their sons to become acquainted with the defails of practical agriculture and science, and, as the same time, to unitivate the associations of rural life, either with a view to ultimately setting upon farms, or to increasing their capacity for business in town, by the associations thus cultivated with the habits of the consury, the farm school alfords continued of continues of consurer, we have the depart of the m

PERSONAL ITEMS.—Col. Small, of the Twenty-sixth Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, is now in the city. The chief object of his visit is to secure, if possible, two additional companies to be attached to his command. The Twenty-sixth Regiment was the first of the three-years volunteers to leave Philadelphia, and since their departure, the men have attained a high degree of proficiency in drill. They have seen some rough

sion, expect to be in the lead when the advance is made. Colonel Small was present at Military Hall, Third street mear Green, on Saturday ovening, and addressed a large meeting. His patriotic speech was the means of adding a number of recruits to the roll. Major Berry, of this

r giment, is also at home. He has been very ill with ty

a numer of the time to the for. Hall Begiment, (Sixty-ninds regiment, is also at home. He has been very ill with typheid fever.
Colonel Gwen, of the Irish Regiment, (Sixty-ninds Pennsylvania Volunteers.) is in the city, and looks well. He ryeake in high zerms of commendation of the discipline and drill of the men under his command. Jules Allen, who went away with Baxter's Fire Zuaves as Adjutant, has been appointed Brigade Commissary, for the brigade formed by the Zouaves, First California Ragiment, Colonels Morehead and Owen's Regiments.
Licutenant Samuel C. Reeves, of Company I, Twentyninth Regiment, Colonel Murphy, arrived in town on Friday, and will remain at home for a few days. He brings the intelligence that the hoys of the Twentyninth are anxiously wailing for the advance. Oliver W. Sees, well known in connection with the telegraphic interests of the State, has been appointed by the Governor Cluef of the Transpertation and Telegraphic Department.

MORE RAILBOAD COLLISIONS .- On Saturday

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THE WAR PRESS.

THE WAR PRESS will be sent to subscribers by

VOL. 5.—NO. 125.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1861.

THE REBELLION.

THE TRENT AFFAIR. ITS SETTLEMENT.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN SE-CRETARY SEWARD AND LORD LYONS.

MASON AND SLIDELL TO BE GIVEN UP.

THE CABINET A UNIT ON THE SUBJECT. FRENCH OFFICIAL VIEW OF THE AFFAIR.

HOW THE NEWS IS RECEIVED.

MISCELLANEOUS WAR NEWS. THE ARRIVAL OF CONGRESSMAN ELY IN WASHINGTON.

HIS ACCOUNT OF HIS CAPTIVITY.

LATE NEWS FROM THE SOUTH. THE WAR IN MISSOURI.

THE MASON AND SLIDELL AFFAIR. IMPORTANT OFFICIAL CORRES-PONDENCE.

MR. SEWARD TO MR ADAMS—EXTRACT,

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

WASHINGTON, November 30, 1861.

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS. Esq., &c., &c., &c.

Sin: Your confidential note of the 15th of November, not marked as a despatch, has been submitted to the President, and I hasten to reply to it a time for the Wednesday's mail.

No minister ever spoke or acted more wisely in a crisis which excited deep public solicitude than you did on the occasion of the Lord Mayor's dinner. We are impressed very favorably by Lord Palmorston's conversation with you. You spake the simple fact when you told him that the life of this insurrection is sustained by its hopes of recognition in Great Britain and in France. It would perish in ninety days if those hopes should cease. I have never for a moment believed that such a recognition could take place without producing immediately a war between the United States and all the recognizing Powers. I have not supposed it MR. SEWARD TO MR ADAMS-EXTRACT, the recognizing Powers. I have not supposed it possible that the British Government could fail to see this; and at the same time I have sincerely most heart, be as averse from such a war as I know I am sure that this Government has carefully avoided giving any cause of offence or irritation to Great Britain. But it has seemed to me that the rents that seemed to be bringing the two countries into collision. * * * * * * *

I infer from Lord Palmerston's remark that the British Government is now awake to the importance of averting possible conflict, and disposed to confer and act with earnestness to that end. If so, we are disposed to meet them in the same spirit, as a na-tion chiefly of British lineage, s-ntiments, and sympathies—a civilized and humane nation, a Christian

Since that conversation was held. Captain Wilkes, to long it is the steamer San Jacinto, has boarded a British colonial steamer, and taken from her deck two insurgents, who were proceeding to Europe on an errand of treason against their own country. This is a new incident, unknown to and unforeseen, at tesst in its circumstances, by Lord Palmerston. It is to be met and disposed of by the two Governments, if possible, in the spirit to which I have adverted. Lord Lyons has prudently refrained from opening the subject to me. as I presume waiting instructions from home. We have done nothing on the subject to anticipate the discussion, and we have not furnished you with any explanations. We addrer to that course now, because we think it have not furnished you with any explanations. We adhere to that course now because we think it more prudent that the ground taken by the British Government should be first male known to us here; and that the discussion, if there must be one, shall be had here. It is proper, however, that you should know one fact in the case without indicating that we attach importance to it, namely, that, in the capture of Messrs. Mason and Siddell on board a British vessel, Captain Wilkes having acted without any instructions from the Government, the subject is, therefore, free from the embarrassment which might have resulted if the act had been specially directed by us.

I trust that the British Government will consider the subject in a friendly temper, and it may exthe subject in a friendly temper, and it may expect the best disposition on the part of this Go-

Although this is a confidential note, I shall not object to your reading it to Earl Russell and Lord Palmerston, if you doom it expedient.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD. EARL RUSSELL TO LORD LYONS.

EARL RUSSELL TO LORD LYONS.
FOREIGN OFFICE, November 30, 1861.
THE LORD LYONS, K. C. B., &c. &c., &c.
My Lord: Intelligence of a very grave nature
has reached her Majesty's Government.
This intelligence was conveyed officially to the
knowledge of the Admiratty by Commander Williams, agent for mails on board the contract steamer Trent.

It appears, from the letter of Commander Williams, dated "Royal Mail Contract Packet Trent, at sea, November 9," that the Trent left Havana on the 7th instant, with Her Majesty's mails for England, having on board numerous passengers. Commander Williams states that shortly after noon on the 8th a steamer baying the appearance of a on the 8th, a steamer, having the appearance of a man-of-war, but not showing colors, was observed ahead. On nearing her at 1.15 P. M., she fired a round shot, from her pivot gun, across the bows of the Trent, and showed American colors. While the Trent, and showed American colors. While the Trent, and showed American colors. While the Trent was approaching her slowly, the American vessel discharged a shell across the bows of the Trent exploding half a cable's length ahead of her. The Trent then stopped and an officer, with a large armed guard of marines, boarded her. The officer demanded a list of the passengers; and compliance with this demand being refused, the officer said he had orders to arrost Messrs. Mason. Slidell, McFarlane, and Eustis, and that he had sure information of their being passengers in the Trent. While some parley was going on upon this matter, Mr. Slidell stepped forward and told the American officer that the four persons he had named were then standing before him. The commander of the Trent and Commander Williams protested against the act of taking by force out of the Trent these four passengers, then under the protection of the British flag. But the San Jacunto was at that time only two hundred yards from the Trent, her ship's company

hundred yards from the *Trent*, her ship's company at quarters, her ports open, and tompions out. Resistance was therefore out of the question, and the four gentlemen before named were forcibly the four gentlemen before named were forcibly taken out of the ship. A further demand was made that the command of the Trent should proceed on board the San Jacinto. but he said he would not go unless forcibly compelled likewise, and this demand was not insisted upon.

It thus appears that certain individuals have been forcibly taken from on board a British vassal, the ship of a neutral Power, while such vessel was pursuing a lawful and innocent voyage—an act of violence which was an affront to the British flag and a violation of international law. and a violation of international law.

Her Majesty's Government, bearing in mind the friendly relations which have long subsisted between Great Britain and the United States, are willing to believe that the United States naval officer who committed the aggression was not acting in compliance with any authority from his Covernment, or that if he conceived himself to be so au-thorized he greatly misunderstood the instructions which he had received. For the Government of

you will propose them to him
You are at liberty to read this despatch to the
Secretary of State, and, if he shall desire it, you
will give him a copy of it.

Russery Russell.

MR. SEWARD TO LORD LYONS. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, December 26, 1861.

THE RIGHT HONORABLE LOND LYONS, &c., &c., &c. My Lonn: Earl Russell's despatch of November the 30th, a copy of which you have left with me at my request, is of the following effect. namely:
That a letter of Commander Williams, dated
Royal Mail Contract Packet-boat Treat, at sea, November 9, states that the vessel left Hayana on the 7th of Nevember, with her Majesty's mails for EngPHILADELPHIA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1861.

The Trent then stopped, and an officer with a large armed guard of marines boarded her. The officer said he had orders to arrest Messrs. Mason, Slidell, McFarland, and Eustis, and had sure information that they were passengers in the Trent. While some parley was going on upon this matter, Mr. Slidell stepped forward and said to the American officer that the form reverse he had navied were after the trent when the Trent was proceeding from a natural northern that the form reverse he had navied were officer that the four persons he had named wore standing before him. The Commander of the Trent and Commander Williams protested against the act of taking those four passengers out of the Trent, they then being under the protection of the British flag. But the San Jacinto was at this time only flag. But the San Jacinto was at this time only two hundred yards distant, her ship's company at quarters, her ports open and tompions out, and so resistance was out of the question. The four persons before named were then forcibly taken out of the ship. A further demand was made that the commander of the Trent should proceed on board the San Jacinto, but he said he would not go unless forcibly compelled likewise, and this domand was not insisted upon.

Upon this statement Earl Russell remarks that it thus appears that certain individuals have been forcibly taken from on board a British vessel, the ship of a neutral Power, while that vessel was pursuing a lawful and innocent voyage, an act of violence which was an afforent to the British flag and a violathe same?

a lawful and innocent voyage, an act of violence which was an affront to the British flag and a violawhich was an affront to the British flag and a violation of international law.

Earl Russell next says that her Majesty's Government, bearing in mind the friendly relations which have long subsisted between Great Britain and the United States, are willing to believe that the naval officer who committed this aggression was not acting in compliance with any authority from his Government, or that, if he conceived himself to be so authorized, he greatly misanderstood the instructions which he had received.

Earl Russell argues that the United States must be fully aware that the British Government could not allow such an affront to the national honor to pass without full reparation, and they are willing to believe that it could not be the deliverate intention of the Government of the United States unnecessarily to force into discussion between the two Governments a question of so grave a character,

Governments a question of so grave a character, and with regard to which the whole British nation would be sure to entertain such unanimity of feeling.

Earl Russell, resting upon the statement and the argument which I have thus recited closes with saying that her Majesty's Government trust that when this matter shall have been brought under the consideration of the Government of the United States, it will, of its own accord, after to the British Government such redress as alone could satisfy the British nation—namely, the liberation of the four prisoners taken from the Trent, and their delivery to your fordship, in order that they may again be placed under British protection, and a suitable apology for the aggression which has been committed. Earl Russell finally instructs you to propose those terms to me, if I should not tirst offer them on the part of the Government.

This despatch has been submitted to the Presiwould be sure to entertain such unanimity of

This despatch has been submitted to the President.

The British Government has rightly conjectured. what it is now my duty to state, that Capt. Wilkes, in conceiving and executing the proceeding in question, acted upon his own suggestions of duty without any direction or instruction, or even forewithout any direction or instruction, or even fore-knowledge of it on the part of this Government. No directions had been given to him, or any other naval officer, to arrest the four persons named, or any of them, on the Trent, or on any other British vessel, or on any other neutral vessel, at the place where it occurred, or elsewhere. The British Government of the control of the place where it occurred, or elsewhere.

head of steam, as if with a purpose to pass the San

hoat when he entered the Trent. He stated his in-structions from Capt. Wilkes to search for the four persons named, in a respectful and courteous though decided manner; and he asked the captain of the Trent to show his passenger list, which was refused. The lieutenant, as we are informed, did not employ absolute force in transferring the passengers, but he used just so much as was necessary to satisfy the parties concerned that refusal or resistance would be unavailing.
So. also, we are informed that the captain of the So, also, we are informed that the captain of the Trent was not at any time or in any way required to go on board the San Jacinto.

These modifications of the case as presented by Commander Williams are based upon our official

Thave now to remind your lordship of some facts which doubtlessly were omitted by Earl Russell, with the very proper and becoming motive of allowing them to be brought into the cuse, on the part of the United States, in the way most satisfactory to this Government. These facts are that, at the time the transaction occurred, an insurrec-tion was existing in the United States, which this Government was engaged in suppressing by the employment of land and naval forces; that in re-gard to this domestic strife the United States con-sidered Great Britain as a friendly Power, while she had assumed for herself the attitude of a neutral; and that Spain was considered in the same light, and had assumed the same attitude as Great Britain.

It had been settled by correspondence that the United States and Great Britain mutually recognized as applicable to this local strife these two articles of the declaration made by the Congress of Paris in 1856—namely, that the neutral or friendly flag should cover enemy's goods not contraband of war, and that neutral goods not contraband of war, and that neutral goods not contraband of war.

war, and that neutral goods not contraband of war are not liable to capture under an enemy's flag. These exceptions of contraband from favor were a negative acceptance by the parties of the rule hitherto avery where recognized as a part of the law of nations, that whatever is contraband is liable to capture and confiscation in all cases.

James M. Mason and E. J. McFarland are citizens of the United States and residents of Virginia. John Slidell and George Eustis are citizens of the United States and residents of Louisiana. It was well known at Hayana when these parties and United States and residents of Louisiana. It was well known at Havana when these parties embarked in the Trent that James M Mason was proceeding to England in the affected character of a Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of St. James, under a pretended commission from Jefferson Dayis, who had assumed to be President of the insurrectionary party in the United States, and E J. McFarland was going with him in a like unreal character of Secretary of Legation to the pretended mission. tended mission.

John Slidell, in similar circumstances. was going John Slidell, in similar circumstances, was going to Paris as a pretended minister to the Emperor of the French, and George Eustis was the chosen seto Paris as a pretended minister to the Emperor of the French, and George Eustis was the chosen secretary of legation for that simulated mission. The fact that these persons had assumed such characters has been since avowed by the same Jefferson Davis in a pretended message to an unlawful and insurrectionary. Congress. It was, as we think, rightly presumed that these ministers bore pretended credentials and instructions, and such papers are, in the law, known as despatches. We are informed by our consul at Paris that these despatches, having escaped the search of the Trent, were actually conveyed and delivered to emissaries of the insurrection in England. Although it is not essential, yet it is proper to state, as I do also upon information and belief, that the owner and agent, and all the officers of the Trent, including the commander, Williams, had knowledge of the assumed characters and purposes of the persons before us, instead of presenting a merely flagrant act of violence on the part of Captain Wilkes, as might well be inferred from the incomplete statement of it that went up to the British Government, was undertaken as a simple legal and customary beltigerent proceeding by Captain Wilkes to arrest and capture a neutral vessel engaged in carrying contraband of war for the use and benefit of the insurgents.

The onestion before us is, whether this proceed.

The question before us is, whether this proceeding was authorized by and conducted according to the law of nations. It involves the following inquiries:

1st. Were the persons named and their supposed
despatches contraband of war?

2d. Might Captain Wilkes lawfully stop and
search the Tanat for these contraband persons and
denote the Tanat for these contraband persons and despatches?
3d. Did he exercise that right in a lawful and proper manner?

4th. Having found the contraband persons on board and in presumed possession of the contraband despatches, had he a right to capture the per-

5th. Did he exercise that right of capture in the manner allowed and recognized by the law of nations?

If all these inquiries shall be resolved in the affirmative, the British Government will have no to believe that it could be the deliberate intention of the Government of the United States unnecessarily to force into discussion, between the two Government of the United States unnecessarily to force into discussion, between the two Governments, a question of so grave a character, and with regard to which the whole British nation would be sure to entertain such unanimity of feeling.

Her Majesty's Government, therefore, trust that when this matter shall have been brought under the consideration of the Government of the United States, that Government will. of its own accord, offer to the British Government will. of its own accord, offer to the British Government will of the consideration of the Government will. of its own accord, offer to the British Government and their delivery to your lordship, in order that they may again be placed under British protection, and a suitable spology for the aggression which has been committed.

A sublety might be raised whether pretended in the contraband of the public because the word manipoly of the term and their december of the United States and the consequent of the United States and the consideration of the Government will. of its own accord, offer to the British Government will. of its own accord, offer to the British Government and their december of your enemy on his passage. Despatches are not less clearly contraband, and the bearers or contraband to apply the ambassador of your enemy on his passage. Despatches are not less clearly contraband, and the bearers or contraband to the consequent failure of your side of your enemy on his passage. Despatches are not less clearly contraband, and the bearers or contraband to the public bearers or contraband. The propose them to him

You will propose them to him

You are at liberty to read this despatch to the Secretary of State, and, if he shall the propose them to him

You are at liberty to read this despatch to the Secretary of State, and, if he shall the proper the propose them to him

You are at liberty to read this desp attractive, the British Government will have no claim for reparation.

I address myself to the first inquiry—namely, were the four persons mentioned, and their supposed despatches, contraband?

Maritime law so generally deals, as its professors

A subtlety might be raised whether pretended ministers of an usurping Power, not recognized as legal by either the belligerent or the neutral, could be held to be contraband. But it would disappear on being subjected to what is the true test in all cases—namely, the spirit of the law. Sir William Scott, speaking of civil magistrates who were arrested and detained as contraband, says:

"It appears to me on principle to be but reasonable that when it is of sufficient importance to the enemy that ruch persons shall be sent out on the public service at the public expense, it should afford equal ground of forfeiture against the vessel that may be let out for a purpose so intimately connected with the hostile operations."

the hostile operations."

I trust that I have shown that the four persons who were taken from the Trent by Captain Wilkes, and their despatches, were contraband of war. The second inquiry is, whether Captain Wilkes The second inquiry is, whether Captain Wilkas had a right, by the law of nations, to detain and search the Trent?

The Trent, though she carried mails, was a contract or merchant vessel—a common carrier for bire. Maritime law knows only three classes of vessels—vessels of war, revenue vessels, and merchant vessels. The Trent talls within the latter class. Whetever disputs have existed concerning

that the Trene was proceeding from a neutral port to another neutral port does not modify the right of the belligerent captor.

The third question is, whether Capt. Wilkes exercised the right of search in a lawful and proper

manner?
If any doubt hung over this point, as the case was presented in the statement of it adopted by the British Government, I think it must have already passed away before the modifications of that statement which I have already submitted.

I proceed to the fourth inquiry—namely, Having found the suspected contraband of war on board the Trent, had Captain Wilkes a right to capture the same? the same?

Such a capture is the chief, if not the only recognized, object of the permitted visitation and search. The principle of the law is, that the belligerent, exposed to danger, may provent the contribund persons or things from applying themselves or being applied to the hostile uses or purposes designed. The law is so very liberal in this respect that when contributed is found on hostile nearest applied.

signed. The law is so very liberal in this respect that when contraband is found on board a neutral vessel, not only is the contraband forfeited, but the vessel, which is the vehicle of its passage of transportation, being tainted, also becomes contraband, and is subjected to capture and confiscation.

Only the fifth question? remains—namely, Did Captain Wilkes exercise the right of capturing the contraband in conformity with the law of nations? It is just here that the difficulties of the case begin. What is the manner which the law of nations are sometimes for dispansing of the contraband when prescribes for disposing of the contraband when you have found and seized it on board of the neutral vessel? The answer would be easily found if tral vessel? The answer would be easily found if
the question were, what you shall do with the contraband vessel. You must take or send her into a
convenient port, and subject her to a judicial prosecution there in admirally, which wilt try and decide the questions of belligerency, neutrality, contraband, and capture. So, again, you would
promptly find the same answer, it the question
were, What is the manner of proceeding prescribed
by the law of nations in regard to the contraband,
if it he property or things of material or pecuniary if it be property or things of material or pecuniary

value?

But the question here concerns the mode of pro-

cedure in regard, not to the vessel that was carry-ing the contraband, nor yet to contraband things which worked the forfeiture of the vessel, but to which worked the forfeiture of the vessel, but to contraband persons.

The books of law are dumb Yet the question is as important as it is difficult. First, the bulligerent captor has a right to prevent the contraband officer, soldier, sailor, minister, messenger, or courier from proceeding in his unlawful voyage and reaching the destined scene of his injurious service. But, on the other hand, the person captured may be innocent—that is, he may not be contraband. He, therefore, has a right to a fair trial of the accusation against him. The neutral State that has taken him under its flag, is bound to protect him if he is not contraband, and is therefore entitled to be satisfied upon that important question. The faith of that State is pledged to his sufty, if innocent, as its justice i pledged to his surrender if he is really contraband. Here are conflicting claims, involving personal liberty, life, honor, and duty. Here are conflicting national claims, involving welfare, safety, honor, and empire. They require a tribunal and a trial. The captors and the captured are equals; the neuwhere it occurred or elsewhere. The Brirish Government will justly infer from these facts that the United States not only have had no purpose, but even ne thought of forcing into discussion the question which has arisen, or any other which could affect in any way the sensibilities of the British nation.

It is true that a round shot was fired by the San Jacinto from her pivot gun when the Trent was distantly approaching. But, as the facts have been reported to this Government, the shot was nevertheless intentionally fired in a direction so obviously divergent from the course of the Trent was not approaching the San Jacinto slowly when the shell was fired as a signal.

So also we learn that the Trent was not approaching the San Jacinto slowly when the shell was fired across her bows, but, on the contrary, the Trent was, or seemed to be, moving under a full head of steam, as if with a purpose to pass the San Trent was not approach for the state of the suspected men, together with the suspected men, together with her suspected men, together with the suspected weeks and the submetted man to trial and the belligerent State are equals:

While the law authorities were found silent, it was suggested at an early flay by this Gavernment that you should take the captured are equals:

While the law authorities were found silent, it was suggested at an early flay by this Gavernment that you should take the captured are equals:

While the law authorities were found silent, it was suggested at an early flay by this Gavernment the treat and the belligerent State are equals:

While the law authorities were found silent, it was suggested at an early flay by this Gavernment the target at any on should take the captured are equals:

While the law authorities were found silent, it was suggested at an early flay by this Gavernment the target at any on should take the captured are equals:

While the law authorities were found silent, it was suggested at an early flay by by this Gavernment the target and the beligrent State are equals

weight of a judicial one by a circuitous proceeding. Convey the suspected men, together with the suspected vessel, into port, and try there the question whether the vessel is contraband. You can prove it to be so by proving the suspected men to be contraband, and the court must then determine the We are informed also that the boarding officer (Lieut. Fairfax) did not board the Trent with a vessel to be contraband. If the men are not contraband to the contraband of the there is no judgment for or against the captured persons. But, it was assumed that there would result from the determination of the court concerning the vessel a legal certainty concerning the character

of the men.

This course of proceeding seemed open to many objections. It elevates the incidental inferior private interest into the proper place of the main paramount public one, and possibly it may make the fortunes, the safety, or the existence of a nation depend on the accidents of a merely personal and the fortunes, the safety, or the existence of a nation depend on the accidents of a merely personal and pecuniarly litigation. Moreover, when the judgment of the prize court upon the lawfulness of the capture of the ressel is rendered, it really concludes nothing, and binds neither the belligorent State nor the neutral upon the great question of the disposition to be made of the captured contraband persons. That question is still to be really determined, if at all, by diplomatic arrangement or by war.

One may well express his surprise when told that the law of nations has furnished no more reasonable, practical, and perfect mode than this of determining questions of such grave import between soverign Powers. The regret we may feel on the occasion is nevertheless modified by the reflection that the difficulty is not altogether anomalous. Similar and equal deficiencies are found in every system of municipal law, especially in the system which exists in the greater portions of Great Britain and the United States. The title to personal property can hardly ever he resolved by a court without resorting to the fiction that the claimant has lost and the possessor has found it, and the title to real estate is disputed by real litigants under the names of imaginary persons. It must be confessed, however, that while all aggrieved nations demand, and all impartial ones concede, the need of some form of judicial process in determining the characters of contraband persons, no other form than the illogical and circuitous one thus described exists, nor has any other yet been suggested. Practically,

form of judicial pricess in determining the characters of contraband persons, no other form than the illegical and circuitous one thus described exists, nor has any other yet been suggested. Practically, therefore, the choice is between that judicial remedy or no judicial remedy whatever.

If there be no judicial remedy, the result is that the question must be determined by the captor himself, on the deck of the prize vessel. Very grave objections arise against such a course. The captor is aimed, the neutral is unarmed. The captor is interested, prejudiced, and perhaps violent; the neutral, if truly neutral is disinterested, subdued, and helpless. The tribunal is irresponsible, while its judgment is carried into instant execution. The captured party is compelled to submit, though bound by no legal, moral, or treaty obligation to acquiesce. Reparation is distant and problematical, and depends at last on the justice, magnatimity, or weakness of the State in whose behalf and by whose authority the capture was made. Out of these disputes reprisals and wars necessarily arise, and these are so frequent and destructive that it may well be doubted whether this form of romedy is not a greater social evil than all that could follow if the belligerent right of search were universally repounced and abblished forever. renounced and abolished forever.

But carry the case one step farther. What if the

Renounced and abolished forever.

But carry the case one step farther. What if the State that has made the capture unreasonably refuse to hear the complaint of the neutral or to radress it? In that case, the very act of capture would be an act of war—of war begun without notice, and possibly entirely without provocation.

I think all unprejudiced minds will agree that, imperfect as the existing judicial remedy may be supposed to be, it would be, as a general practice, better to follow it than to adopt the summary one of leaving the decision with the captor, and relying upon diplomatic debates to review his decision. Practically, it is a question of choice between law, with its imperfections and delays, and war, with its evils and desolutions. Nor is it ever to be forgotten that neutrality, honestly and justly preserved, is always the harbinger of peace, and therefore is the common interest of nations, which is only saying that it is the interest of humanity itself.

At the same time it is not to be denied that it may sometimes happen that the judicial remedy will become impossible, as by the shipwreck of the prize vessel, or other circumstances which excuss the captor from sending or taking her into port for confiscation. In such a case the right of the captor to the custody of the captured persons and to dispose of them, if they are really contraband, so as to defeat their unlawful purposes, camet reasonably he denied. What rule shall be applied in

dispose of their, it they are really contraband, so as to defeat their unlawful purposes, cannet reasonably be denied. What rule shall be applied in such a case? Clearly, the captor ought to be required to show that the failure of the judicial remedy results from circumstances beyond his control, and without his fault. Otherwise, he would be allowed to derive advantage from a wrongful set of his own. act of his own.

In the present case, Captain Wilkes, after cap the present case, captain whites, are capturing the contrabund persons and making prize of the Trent in what seems to us a perfectly lawful manner, instead of sending her into port, released her from the capture, and permitted her to proceed with her whole cargo upon her voyage. He thus effectually prevented the judicial examination which night otherwise have occurred. which might otherwise have occurred.

If, now, the capture of the contraband persons and the capture of the contraband vessel are to be regarded, not as two separable or distinct transactions under the law of nations, but as one transaction, one capture only, then it follows that the capture in this case was left unfinished, or was abandoned. Whether the United States have a right to

seize her," he says, "in consequence of my being so reduced in officers and crew, and the derangement it would cause innocent persons, there being a large number of passengers who would have been put to great loss and inconvenience, as well as disappointment, from the interruption it would have caused them in not being able to join the steamer from St. Thomas to Europe. I therefore concluded to sacrifice the interest of my officers and eraw in the prize, and suffered her to proceed after the detention necessary to effect the transfer of those commissioners, considering I had obtained the important end I had in view, and which affected the interest of our country and interrupted the action interest of our country and interrupted the actio

of that of the Confederates."

I shall consider, first, how these reasons ought to affect the action of this Government; and, secondly, how they ought to be expected to affect the action of Great Britain.

The reasons are satisfactory to this Government, so far as Captain Wilkes is concerned. It could not desire that the San Jacobs, her officers and crew, should be exposed to danger and loss by weakening their number to detach a prize-crew to go on board the Trent. Still less could it disavour and, having on board numerous pussengers. Shortly after noon, on the 8th of November, the United States war steamer San Jacinto, Captain Wilkes, not showing colors, was observed ahead. That itemer, on being neared by the Trent, at the action of the seeds of the see

Nevertheless, the question now is, not whather Captain Wilkes is justified to his Government in what he did, but what is the present view of the Government as to the effect of what he has done? Assuming now, for argument's sake only, that the release of the Trent, if voluntary, involved a waiver of the claim of the Government to hold the captured persons, the United States could, in that case, have no hesitation in saying that the act which has thus already been approved by the Government must be allowed to draw its legal consequence after it. It is of the very nature of a gift or a charity that the giver cannot, after the exercise of his benefits. nevolence is past, recall or modify its benefits.

We are thus brought directly to the question whether we are entitled to regard the release of the Trent as involuntary, or whether we are obliged to consider that it was voluntary. Clearly the release would have been involuntary had it been made selly were the first ground seglenced for it by consider that it was voluntary. Clearly the relense would have been involuntary had it been
made solely upon the first ground assigned for it by
Capt. Wilkes—namely, a want of a sufficient force
to send the prize vessel into port for adjudication.
It is not the duty of a captor to hazard his own vessel in order to secure a judicial examination to the
captured party. No large prize crew, however, is
legally necessary, for it is the duty of the captured
party to acquiesce and go willingly before the tribunal to whose jurisdiction it appeals. If the captured party indicate purposes to employ means of
resistance which the captor cannot with probable
safety to bimself overcome, he may properly leave
the vessel to go forward; and neither she nor the
State she represents can ever afterwards justly object that the captor deprived her of the judicial
remedy to which she was entitled.

But the second reason assigned by Capt. Wilkes
for releasing the Trent differs from the first. At
best, therefore, it must be held that Capt. Wilkes,
as he explains himself, acted from combined sentiments of prudence and generosity, and so that the
release of the prize vessel was not strictly necessary
or involuntary.

Secondly How oneth we to expect these ayplaor involuntary.

Secondly. How ought we to expect these explanations by Capt. Wilkes of his reasons for leaving the capture incomplete to affect the action of the British Government?

British Government?

The observation upon this point which first occurs is, that Capt. Wilkes' explanations were not made to the authorities of the captured vessel. If made known to them they might have approved and taken the release, upon the condition of waiving a judicial investigation of the whole transaction, or they might have refused to accept the release upon that condition.

But the case is one not with them, but with the British Government. If we claim that Great British Government. If we claim that Great British ought not to insist that a judicial trial has been lost because we voluntarily released the offending vessel out of consideration for her innocent passengers. I do not see how she is to be bound to acquiesce in the decision which was thus made by us without seem to be seen to be provided to the consideration of the decision which was thus made by us without showledge of the decision which was thus made by us without necessity on our part, and without knowledge of conditions or consent on her own. The question between Great Britain and ourselves thus stated would be a question not of right and of law, but of favor to be conceded by her to us in return for favors shown by us to her, of the value of which favors on both sides we ourselves shall be the judge. Of course the United States could have no thought of raising such a question in any case.

I trust that I have shown to the satisfaction of the British Government, by a very simple and natural British Government, by a very simple and natural statement of the facts, and analysis of the law ap-plicable to them, that this Government has neither meditated, nor practised, nor approved any de-liberate wrong in the transaction to which they have called its attention; and, on the contrary, that what has happened has been simply an inadvartancy, ome implement has been simply at macerisary, consisting in a departure by the naval officer, free from any wrongful motive, from a rule uncertainly established, and probably by the several parties concerned either imperfectly indicated or entirely unknown. For this error the British Government unknown. For this error the British Government has a right to expect the same reparation that we, as an independent State, should expect from Great

I have not been unaware that, in examining this question, I have fallen into an argument for what seems to be the British side of it against my own country. But I am relieved from all embarrass-ment on that subject. I had hardly fallen into that line of argument, when I discovered that I was reline of argument, when I discovered that I was really defending and maintaining, not an exclusively British interest, but an old, honored, and cherished American cause, not upon British authorities, but upon principles that constitute a large portion of the distinctive policy by which the United States have developed the resources of a continent, and, thus becoming a considerable maritime Power, have won the respect and confidence of many lations. These principles were laid down for us in 1804, by James Madison, when Secretary of State in the Administration of Thomas Jefferson, in instructions given to James Monroe, our minister to England. Atthough the case before him concerned a description of persons different from those who are incidentally the subjects of the present discussion, the ground he assumed then was the same I now occupy, and the arguments by which he sustained himself upon the have been an inspiration to me in preparing this reply.

now occupy, and the arguments by which he sustained himself upon it have been an inspiration to me in preparing this reply.

"Whenever," he says, "property found in a neutral vessel is supposed to be liable on any ground to capture and condemnation, the rule in all cases is, that the question shall not be decided by the captor, but be carried before a legal tribunal, where a regular trial may be had, and where the captor himself is liable to damages for an abuse of his power. On it be reasonable, then, or just, that a belligerent commander, who is thus restricted, and thus responsible in a case of mere property of trivial amount, should be permitted, without recurring to any tribunal whatever, to examine the orew of a neutral vessel, to decide the important question of their respective allegiances, and to carry that decision into execution by forcing every individual he may choose into a service abhorrent to his celings, cutting him off from his most tender connections, expesing his mind and his person to the most humiliating discipline, and his life itself to the greatest danger? Reason, justice, and humanity unite in protesting against so extravagant a preceeding." proceeding."

If I decide this ease in favor of my own Government, I must disavow its most cherished principles, and reverse and forever abandon its essential posnd reverse and forever abandon its essential policy. The country cannot afford the sacrifice. If I maintain those principles and adhere to that policy I must surrender the case itself. It will be seen, therefore, that this Government and the seen, therefore, that this dovernment 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 The claim of the British Government is not made in a discourteous manner. This Government, since its first organization, has never used more guarded language in a similar case.

In coming to my conclusion I have not forgotten that, if the safety of this Union required the detention of the captured persons, it would be the right and duty of this Government to detain them. But the effectual check and waning proportions of the existing insurrection, as well as the comparative unimportance of the captured persons themselves, when dispassionately weighed, happily forbid me from resorting to that defence.

Nor sm I unaware that American citizens are not in any case to be unnecessarily surrendered for any

in any case to be unnecessarily surrendered for any purpose into the keeping of a foreign State. Only the cuptured persons, however, or others who are interested in them, could justly raise a question on that crund that ground.

Nor have I been tempted at all by suggestions that cases might be found in history where Great Britain refused to yield to other nations, and even to ourselves, claims like that which is now before us. Those cases occurred when Great Britain, as well as the United States, was the home of generations which, with all their peculiar interests and 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. It would tell little for our own claims to the character of a just and present a present a contract of the contraction of the contraction of the contraction of the contraction of the character of a just and present a present a contract of the contraction and magnanimous people if we should so far con-sent to be guided by the law of retaliation as to lift up buried injuries from their graves to oppose against what national consistency and the national conscience compel us to regard as a claim intrinsi-

conscience compel us to regard as a claim intrinsically right.

Putting behind me all suggestions of this kind, I prefer to express my satisfaction that, by the adjustment of the present case upon principles confessedly American, and yet, as I trust, mutually satisfactory to both of the nations concerned, a question is finally and rightly settled between them, which, heretofore exhausting not only all forms of peaceful discussion, but also the arbitrament of war itself, for more than half a century alienated the two countries from each other, and perplexed with fears and apprehensions all other nations.

The four persons in question are now held in military custody at Fort Warren, in the State of Massachusetts. They will be cheerfully liberated. Your lordship will please indicate a time and place for receiving them.

receiving them.
I avail myself of this occasion to offer to your lordship a renewed assurance of my very high consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD. MR. THOUVENEL TO MR. MERCIER. TRANSLATION.
ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT,
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT,
PARIS, December 3, 1861.
Sir: The arrest of Messieurs Mason and Slidell,
on board the English packet Trent, by an American
cruiser, has produced in France, if not the same
emotion as in England, at least extreme astonishnent and rensation. Public sentiment was at once
engrossed with the lawfulness and the consequence

The fact has appeared so much out of accordance with the ordinary rules of international law that it has chosen to throw the responsibility for it exclusively on the commander of the San Jacinto. It is not yet given to us to know whether this supposition is well founded, and the Government of the Emperor has therefore, also had to examine the Emperor has, therefore, also had to examine the question raised by the taking away of the two passengers from the Trent. The desire to contribute to prevent a conflict, perhaps imminent, between two Powers for which it is animated by sentiments equally friendly, and the duty to uphold, for the purpose of placing the rights of its own flag under shelter from any attack, certain principles essential to the security of neurals, have, after mature reflection, convinced it that it could not, under the circumstances, remain entirely silent. oircumstances, remain entirely silent,
If, to our deep regret, the Cabinet at Washington were disposed to approve the conduct of the commander of the San Jaconto, it would be sither by considering Mesers. Muson and Slidell as enemies, or as seeing in them nothing but rebels. In the one as in the other case there would be a forgetfulness, extremely annoying, of principles upon which we have always found the United States in agreement

wi h us. By what title in effect would the American cruiser, in the first case, have arrested Messrs. Mason and Slidell? The United States have admitted, with us. in the treaties concluded between the two countries, that the freedom of the flag extends itself over the persons found on board, should precedents marked out by our own Government in

measured the sacrifices which this decision would cost. It manifestly, however, did not occur to him that heyond the sacrifice of the private interests (as he calls them) of his officers and crew, there might also possibly be a sacrifice even of the chief and public object of his capture—namely, the right of his Government to the custody and disposition of the captured persons. This Government cannot censure him for this oversight. It confesses that the whole subject came unforeseen upon the Government, as doubtless it did upon him. Its present convictions on the point in question now made, and not of any impressions previously formed.

Nevertheless, the question now is, not whather Captain Wilkes is justified to his Government in what he did, but what is the present view of the Government as to the effect of what he has done? Assuming now, for argument's sake only, that the release of the Trent, if voluntary, involved a present by the capture of the desired property in the property is a property of the desired property. There remains, therefore, to invoke, it mapplanation of their capture, but the present that they were the bearers of official degrees of the Trent, if voluntary, involved a present that they made of the two parties, unless the question is of military people actually in the enemy, Mosses Mason and Sildell could not be assimilated to persons the special property in the present view of the capture of the deliberate of the two parties, and the present state they were the bearers of official degrees of the Trent, if voluntary, involved a present that they were the bearers of official degrees that they were the bearers of official degrees that they were the bearers of official degrees the state of the trent, if voluntary to the capture of the trent, is the present that they were the bearers of official degrees that they were the bearers of official degrees that they were the bearers of official degrees the capture. pretext that they were the bearers of official despatches from the enomy; but this is the mement to recall a circumstance which governs all this affair, and which renders the conduct of the Auseriana programmer with the second programmer

fair, and which renders the conduct of the American craiser sujustifiable

The Trent was not destined to a point belonging to one of the belligerents; she was carrying to a neutral country her cargo and her passengers; and moreover it was in a neutral port that they were taken. If it were admissible that under such conditions the neutral flag does not completely cover the persons and merchandise it carries, its immunity would be nothing more than an idle word; at any mainent the commerce and the navigation of third Powers would have to suffer from their innocent and even their indirect relations with the one or the other of the belligerents. These last would no longer flud themselves as having only the right or the other of the belligerents. These last would no longer find themselves as having only the right to exact from the neutral entire impartiality, and to interdict all intermeddling on his part in acts of hostility. They would impose on his freedom of commerce and navigation, restrictions which modern international law has refused to admit as legitimate; and we should in a word, fall back upon vexations practices, against which, in other epochs, no Power has more carnestly protested than the United States.

United States.

If the Cabinet of Washington would only look on If the Cabinet of Washington would only look on the two persons arrested as rebels, whom it is always lawfiff to selze, the question, to place it on other ground, could not be solved, however, in a sense in favor of the commander of the San Jacinto. There would be, in such ease, misapprehension of the principle which makes a vessel a portion of the territory of the nation whose flag it bears, and violation of that immunity which prohibits a foreign sovereign, by consequence, from the exercise of his jurisdiction. It certainly is not necessary this recall to mind with what angree under exessive to recall to mind with what energy, under every circumstance, the Government of the United States has naintained this immunity, and the right

of asylum which is the consequence of it.

Not wishing to enter upon a more deep discussion of the questions raised by the capture of Messrs. Mazan and Slidell, I have said enough, I Messrs. Mas: n and Sidell, I have said enough, I think, to settle the point that the Cabinet of Washington could not, without striking a blow at the principles which all neutral nations are alike interested in holding in respect, nor without taking the attitude of confradiction of its own course up to this time, give its approbation to the proceedings of the commander of the San Jacinto. In this tate of things, it evidently should not, according to our views, hesitate about the determination to be

taken
Lord Lyons is afready instructed to present the
demand for satisfaction which the English Cabinet
is under the necessity of reducing to form, and
which consists in the immediate release of the persons taken from on board the Trent, and in sonding explanations which may take from this act its
offensive character toward the British flag. The
Federal Government will be inspired by a just and
exalted feeling in deferring to these requests. One
would search in vain to what end, for what interest, it would hazard to provoke, by a different
attitude, a rupture with Great Britain.
For ourselves, we should see in that fact a deplorable complication, in every respect, of the diffi-For ourselves, we should see in that fact a deplorable complication, in every respect, of the difficulties with which the Cabinet of Washington has already to struggle, and a precedent of a nature seriously to disquiet all the Powers which continue outside of the aziating sontate. Weightleve that we give evidence of loyal friendship for the Cabinet of Washington by not permitting it to remain in ignorance, in this condition of things, of our manner of regarding it. I request you, therefore, sir, to seize the first occasion of opening yourself frankly to Mr. Seward, and, if he aske it, send him a copy of this despatch.

Monsieur Henri Mercier, Minister of the Emperor at Washington. MR. SEWARD TO MR. MERCIER.

MR. SEWARD TO MR. MERCIER.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

WASHINGTON, December 27, 1881. }

Sir: I have submitted to the President the copy you were so good as to give me of the despatch addressed to you on the 3d of December, instant, concerning the recent proceedings of Capt. Wilkes, in arresting certain persons on board of the British contract mail steature Trent.

Before receiving the paper, however, the President had decided upon the disposition to be made of the subject which has caused so much anxiety in Europe. That disposition of the subject, as I think, renders unnecessary any discussion of it, in reply to the comments of Mr. Thouvenel. I am permitted, however, to say that Mr. Thouvenel has not been in error in supposing, first, that the Government of the United States has not acted in any spirit of disregard of the rights or of the sensibilities, of the British nation, and wat he is equally just in assuming that the Junited States would consistently windicate, by their practices on this coeasion, the character they have so long maintained as an advocate of the most liberal principles concerning the rights of neutral States in maritime war.

When the French Government shall come to see at large the views of this Government and those of the Government of Great Britain on the subject now in question, and to compare them with the views expressed by Mr. Thouvenel on the part of France, it will probably perceive that, while it must be admitted that those three Powers are equally impressed with the same desire for the establishment of principles favorable to neutral rights, there is, at the same time, not such an entire agreement concerning the application of those principles as is desirable to secure that important object.

The Government of the United States will be happy if the occasion which has elicited this correspondence can be improved so as to secure a more definite agreement upon the whole subject by all maritime Powers.

You will assure Mr. Thouvenel that this Government appreciates as well the frankness ment appreciates as well the frankness of his ex-planations as the spirit of friendship and good will towards the United States in which they are expressed.

It is a sincere pleasure for the United States to

exchange assumnces of a friendship which had its origin in associations the most sacred in the history of both countries.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you, sir, the assurance of my high consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD. MR. HENRI MERCIER, &c., &c.

LORD LYONS TO MR. SEWARD. Washington, December 27, 1861. THE HON. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, &c. &c. The Hon. William H. Seward. &c. &c.
Sir: I have this morning received the note which
you did me the honor to address to my yesterday,
in suswer to Earl Russell's despatch of the 30th
November lest, relative to the removal of Mr Mason, Mr. Slidell, Mr. Macfarland, and Mr. Eusti
from the British mail packet Trent.
I will, without any loss of time, forward to her
Majerty's Covernment a curve of the investor I will, without any loss of time, forward to her Majesty's Government a copy of the important sommunication which you have made to me.

I will alse, without delay, do myself the honor to confer with you personally on the arrangements to be made for delivering the four gentlement ome, in order that they may be again placed under the protection of the British flag.

I have the honor to be, with the highest consideration, sir, your most obedient humble servant,

Lyons.

HOW THE NEWS IS RECEIVED. The National Intelligencer on the Re-

lease. The National Intelligencer, which first published the correspondence, in its comments on the lished the correspondence, in its comments on the atton of our Government says:

We learn that the decision of the President in this affair, as announced and explained in the luoid despatch of Mr. Seward, has to approval of every member of the Cabinet, and, whatever may be the disappointment of any at the result to which the Administration has come in settling a question constitutionally devolved 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 impressed by the conceived drift of public opinion in our own country, has resolved to do what it believes to be right in the premises. And it surely should "give 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 opposition not only to the views of Great Britain, but also to those which the Government of France announces respecting the principles of public law involved in this transaction. The latter Government, in making the declaration it does, under this head, is not open to the suspicion of being animated by any unfriendly sentiment, or by the vindictive feelings which may be imputed to the British Government in making a demand while as yet smarting under a conceived insult to its flag. Least of all cas the Government of France be supposed to act in subserviency to any considerations extrinsic to the international aspects of this case as one of public law important to all maritime Powers, since we find M. Thouvenel merely anticipating from the traditions of our past history the determination to which our Government had come in advance of receiving the representations which the Government of France conceived itself called to make in the interest of the law of nations.

It will not be forgotten by the attentive reader of this journal that while seeking to show, as we have done, that the act of Capt. Wilkes was justifable according action of our Government says:

fiable according to the British precedents, we have at the same time admitted that there was grave reaat the same time admitted that there was grave reason to doubt whether, in consistency with the construction heretofore placed on the international code by the United States, our Government would be able at all points to defend the proceeding. This was indicated under soveral heads in the Intelligencer of the 9th instant, in an article entitled the "Diplomatic Equilibrium," and in which we cited some opinions announced by Mr. Madison in conducting the argument on the part of the United States against the assumed right of the British Government to visit our ships and take from them, by a process as summary as that of which it now vernment to visit our snips and take from whem, by a process as summary as that of which it now complains, certain alleged subjects, on the plea that they were deserters from the British service. At a still later day, in the Intelligencer of the 14th inst., we took occasion to repeat "that the only doubt raised in the case of Messrs. Mason and Slidell was not whether their arrest is justifiable according to British rulings and precedents, but whether our Government could afford to endorse the consequents and reference it tuttum a sound. these precedents and rulings as constituting sound national law, good for all time to come as well as for present emergencies."

It appears that the Administration has refused to

endorse them, and, discarding all justification that might be derived form ancient rulings of the British admirally courts, and even from the principles of public law as defined by many reputable publicists, has determined to adhere strictly to the line of the

the Madisonian eva of the Republic, especially as in the very act of deeps so we are able to conclude the Government of Great Britain, from the sacreise of a pretended right, which, so late as the year 1842, in the negotiations had between Mr. Webster and Lord Ashburtza, the latter refused framally to renounce. We alfude, of course, to the claim of the British Government to impress alleged British sailors from American rights on the high seas. In these negotiations, Mr. Webster then announced as a principle of duty to our own citizens, whether native born or naturalized, by which the Fnited States would stand, that "the practice

announced as a principle of duly to our own cutzens, whether native born or maturalized, by which
the United States would stand, that "the practice
of impressing seamen from American vassels cannot
hereafter be allowed to take pikes." Lord Ashburton, in declining to entertain the subject, expressed the "hope that a satisfactory arrangement
respecting it might be made, so as to set at rest all
apprehension and anxiety." In view of the position now taken by the British Government, in objecting to the summary proceedings of Captain
Wilkes, we may safely assume that Steat Britain
will never again uphold her naval commanders in
visiting American ships and searching for alleged
British subjects, to be seized and impressed into the
British service without further ceremony:
Whatever, therefore, may be said by any in the
way of exception to the extreme terms of the demand made by the British Government in the case
of the Trent, it is at least just to admit that the
case has been so adjusted by our Government has to
subserve, we would hope, the great cause of certral
rights against the assumptions herefolore exerted
by England, but now repudiated by that Power in
common with France and the United States. The
law of nations, as traditionally interpreted by tar law of nations, as traditionally interpreted by car Government, has received a new sanction, though at the cost, it may be, of some national sensibilities waked into disproportionate activity by the temporary exacerbations of our civil feuds. The latter; let us remember, are but for a day. The law of nations is for all time.

The Feeling at Washington. WASHINGTON, Dec. 28:-The settlement of the Trent affair affords much gratification among all conservatives. Prominent Union-loving men, whatever may have been their previous opinions on the subject, regard the adjustment as removing a serious impediment in the presecution of hostilities against the insurgents, and as depriving the enemy of the strength which they would have derived from a war between the United States and Great Britain, and possibly with France. There is a generally-expressed acquiescence in the course of the Government, while the despatches of Secretary Seward are viewed in the light of the highest statesmanlike ability.

The Mason and Slidell Affair at Boston Boston, December 28. The public have received the announcement of the surrender of Mason and Slidell to the British Government very philosophically, having generally anticipated such a finale. The street talk is that Mason and Slidell were not worth their board, here or elsewhere.

The steamer Niagara arrived this afternoon Her advices have been received via Halifax.

MISCELLANEOUS WAR NEWS.

The Return of Congressman Ely. The Washington correspondent of the New York

Times says:

Hon. Alfred Ely arrived at seven o'clock this evening, from Baltimore, and proceeded at once to Willard's, where he was immediately recognized and warmly welcomed by a large number of friends. His robust appearance would hardly indicate that he had heen five months a prisener of war.

The following statement of facts I have gathered from Mr. Ely. And first, it will be gratifying to know, that during his whole period of imprisonment, Mr. Ely has never experienced a desponding moment; that he has been in the best of health, and his buoyancy of spirits has so sustained him that he now returns with his usual vigor, and ready to resume the active duties of his position. The particulars of Mr. Ely's capture have never been fully known, and he states them as follows:

He was captured by a South Carolina company of infantry, about 5 o'clock P: M. of the day of battle. He had stopped at a blacksmith's shop to have his carriage manded, and, after that, waited

awhile for Senator Foster, of Connecticut, who had gone out with him. While waiting, he walked down towards a ravine, in which he saw a company down towards a ravine, in which he saw a company of National treops skulking or in ambush, but as he approached them they receded, and just as Mr. Ely paused, to return to his carriage, a spent musket ball struck the earth near him. He stepped behind a large tree near by, to be out of danger, and continued his observations. In a moment a cannon ball went crashing through the branches of the tree, and seemed to be felling the whole top upon him. By the time he recovered from this surprise, a company of soldiers, accompanied by two well-dressed officers, emerged from the woods near by.

two well-dressed officers, emerged from the woods near by.

On perceiving Mr. Ely, the two officers advanced and demanded hisname. He answered, "Mr. Ely, of New York." The question followed, "Do you bold any civil office in the Government?" For the first time Mr. Ely said he felt he was in trouble. He replied that he was a member of Congress, and thereupon one of the officers clapped his hand upon him and declared him a prisoner, but assured him he should be treated with every consideration. They took him to their colonel, and introduced him formally as "Hon. Mr. Ely, member of Congress from New York." Instantly the colonel drew a pistol, cocked it and leveled it at Mr. Ely's head, not two paces distant, and said, "You d—d

gress from New Lork." Instantly the coloned drew a pistol, cocked it and leveled it at Mr. Ely's head, not two paces distant, and said, "You d—d rascal, I'll blow your brains out." The two officers who had arrested Mr. Ely instantly threw themselves upon the colonel, forced his pistol back, and persunded him away. They then apologized to Mr. Ely, saying they were ashamed of their colonel, who was excited by drinking. This officer was Col. Cash, and the officer who arrested Mr. Ely was Capt. Mullins.

Mr. Ely was put with a large herd of prisoners, and all were started to Manassas. It was a march of seven weary miles, and the prisoners suffered tortures from the dust, heat, and thirst. At Manassas, which they reached at 9 o'clock P. M., they were driven into an open square, surrounded thickly by guards, and all began to fall on the ground, then wet with a fast-falling rais, to seek rest and sleep. While Mr. Ely was preparing for a similar movement, an officer rode into the yard, and called aloud to know if "Mr. Ely, of New York, was present." Mr. Ely thought his time had now come to be shot. Nevertheless, he answered the call, and was told that Gen. Beauregard required him to come rand reached the log house surthe call, and was told that Gen. Beauregard required him to come to his headquarters. He followed the officer, and reached the log house surrounded by a verandah, on the porch of which, with a single candle burning on it, was a table, and around the table sat Jeff Davis, Beauregard, Extra Billy Smith, Porcher Miles, and other rebel officers, apparently reckoning up the result of the day's battle.

Parcher Miles approached Mr. Fly and extended

day's battle.

Porcher Miles approached Mr. Ely and expressed regret at his situation, but, in a moment, changed his tone, remarking that he had no opinion of Congressmen who would come to aid an army in invading a State. Mr. Ely was sent off to sleep in a barn, where he found the captured national officers a barn, where he found the captured national officers.

The next day they were all started to Richmond. The morning after their arrival there, Messrs. Becock and Pryor, of Virginia, and Keitt and Boyce, of South Carolina, called upon Mr. Ety, and stated that they should use their influence to secure his release. They made an application for this purpose to Jeff Davis, who called a meeting of his Cabinet, and the result was a consultation of several hours. The Cabinet generally favored Mr. Ely's release, but Davis, Benjamin, and Hunter were opposed to it, on grounds of public policy, and Walker, the Secretary of War, sont an elaborate communication stating that the Cabinet had come to the conclusion to deny the application. to the conclusion to deny the application.

Mr. Ely's arrival was announced by the Rich-

Mr. Ely's arrival was announced by the Richmond papers and the whole press of the South, by which he soon became notorious. Visitors came to see him by hundreds, and it was not unfrequently the case that he had forty in his room at a time. Among them were Breckinridge, Humphrey Marshall, and ex-Minister Preston, who expressed the opinion that his being held in custody was an outrage. The Governors and Episcopal bishops of most of the rebel States were also visitors. In fact, they came to him from all parts of Jeff Davis' dominions. Bouquets were sent him almost daily, and ions. Bouquets were sent him almost daily, and sometimes not less than a dozen a day. His meals, too, nicely prepared, were sent him by the families of citizens. In his conversations politics were rarely alluded to, except he himself introduced the subject, when there was a free interchange of coninon. opinion.
The position of our hostages at Richmond is painful. Seven of them are confined in a room about twelve by fifteen feet, in the Richmond jail, having two small windows, which admit but little having two small windows, which admit but little light. They are permitted to see no person but the jailor and the negro who waits upon them, and are only permitted to leave their cells thirty minutes in the morning, and the same time in the afternoon, to walk in the narrow promenade between the jail building and the inner wall. Their food consists of jail fare, sobby corn bread and boiled best, and they are not permitted to have anything better even though they purchased it. When Mr. Ely was released he went in company with Mr. Faulkner to the jail, and the two were granted the favor of an interview with the unfortunate officers. Mr. Faulkner expressed his surprise at this rigor, and

Faulkner expressed his surprise at this rigor, and he stated that such was not the treatment that the privateers received in New York and Philadelphia; that though they were held for capital crimes, they were allowed to receive visitors and to have all the comforts compatible with their safe custody. Mr. Ely thinks that, based upon this last statement by Mr. Faulkner, the rebel authorities will lessen the severity of their treatment.

Of the reckiess and outrageous conduct of the rebel guards Mr. Ely speaks in terms of the utmost censure. He states that the prisoners had not been in the tobacco warehouse fifteen minutes before a bullet was fired into the window of one of our prisoners who had ventured to put his head outside, and that in this way seven men had been wantonly killed.

This conduct met with severe censure from all who This conduct met with severe consure from all who were aware of the facts, but he was not apprised that any action had been taken to punish the ofthat any action had been taken to punish the offenders by the rebel authorities.

A few days before his release, Mr. Ely was again
visited by Messrs. Bocock and Boyce, who stated
that they intended to use their efforts to get him oxchanged for Mr. Faulkner. The following day he
raw announced in a Richmond paper that Mr.
Faulkner had been released on his purole for thirty
days, on condition that he should proceed to Richmond and procure in exchange for himself Mr. Ely,
or in the event of failing, to return to Fort Warron,
the could hardly credit this, as he thought had it
been the fact. Bocock and Boyce would have been
aware of it; but as each additional day's intelligence announced the progress of Mr. Faulkner, gence announced the progress of Mr. Faulkner, he became convinced that his release was near at

hand. Mr. Faulkner was received in Richmond with a perfect ovation, thirty thousand people being out. The following day Mr. Faulkner called upon Mr. Ely, and they had a pleasant interview, and, having both been prisoners, they could well appreciate their mutual position in the past. He announced that he had an interview with Jeff Dayis and his ngar he had an interview with sen Dayls and his Cabinet, and he was happy to state that they had decided upon his release. The following day, General Winder came to the prison, and, with much formality and dignity, entered the room, and in the presence of Mr. Ely's fellow-prisoners presented him with his release, and announced to him

that he was a free man, and that he should be happy to see him at his own house. After the in-terchange of a few pressant words, General Winder

lady. No passengors were brought down. The Norfolk Day Book says that the Winans steamer came into the Roads on Wednesday, and

was still there yesterday. The Keystone State was, perhaps, mistaken for the Winans. The Norfolk Day Book learns that General Scott had arrived in New York, that he left England at the request of the English authorities, and that they were about to declare war against the

and stock to the South.

sion of by the rebels on the 24th. Only seven thousand dollars in Kentucky bank bills were found. John G. Davis, a member of the Federal Congress from the Seventh district of Indiana, has arrived at Hopkinsville on his way to Richmond, but for what purpose it is not stated. A force of not less than sixty thousand men, the advance of General Buell's army, had crossed Green river, and is within five miles of General Hindman's advance. Great preparations have been made for the defence of Bowling Preen, and show

Such rights, if any exist, can be enforced through . the loyal civil tribunals of the State, whose mandates will always be duly respected. The military anthorities of this department as military officers cannot decide upon the rights of property or claims. service except so far as they may be authorized by the laws of war or acts of Congress When not so authorized they will avoid all interference with such questions.

Not much Confidence to be Placed in Canadian Aid. DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 23.—Arthur Rankin, member of the Canadian Parliament and colonel of the Lancers, decming further connection with the United States Covernment improper, in view of our present complications with England, has resigned his commission, and will return to England.

New Yonk, Dec. 28.—The British steamer Karnak, from Havana on the 21st, via Nassau, N. P., on the 23d, arrived at this port this evening.

The rebel steamers Isabel and Gordon were at Nassau, and were closely watched by the United States steamer Flambeau. The British steamer Gladiator was also there, and would soon sail for England.

The Burnside Expedition. WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—The transport fleet of the Burnside expedition has been increased by the arrival of the following vessels at Annapolis: Steamer Zouave, Captain William Hunt; bark Voltigeur, Captain William M. Blye; bark Gueritla, Captain R. S. Pearce; schooner Skirmisher, Captain William H. Richardson. Colonel Sackett and Major Sweltzer, of General McClellan's staff, are at Annapolis, inspecting the

regiments of the division. The Cannonading pear Gardner's Bay. GREENPORT, Dec. 28 .- The heavy cannonading near Gardner's Bay, which was the subject of a telegram from Stonington, was caused by General James and others of General McClettan's staff testing the James cannon. The mysterious light was probably either that from some lighthouse, as seen

THE CITY.

ADDITIONAL CITY NEWS ON SECOND PAGE.

MYSTERIOUS FIRES—THEIR ORIGIN.—Yesterday the following singular instances of fires, caused by
children came to our notice, through Fire Marshal
Blackbury, who devoted some time in the investigation
of their origin. The wife of a well-known citizen, residing in the upper part of the city, had occasion, some
time since, during her husband's absence, to leave her
house for a few bours, and piaced her little son, between
three and four years of age, in the charge of a sorvant
girl. The latter being somewhat careless, loft the child
to take care of himself, and he wandered to a neighboring house, where he found two little playnates about his
own age. The three came back to the house and smused
themselves by visiting the second story, where they examined the contents of all the closets, bureaus, &c., found
unlocked. Among other things discovered was a match
affe, placed high against the wall out of their reach, but,
by using a chair and table, they soon possessed it. The
children, as a matter of course, susgested that they
should kindle as bonfire, and the place selected for the
same was under the bed
They then, beautiful the bureau
drawers for materials with which the names that they
should kindle as bonfire, and the place selected for the
same was under the bed
They then, beautiful them the
sum of 378 in bannances, to pay them. First was a grodrawer were a number of bills, and with thom the
sum of 378 in bannances, to pay the serve and inmore drawer were a number of bills, and with thom the
sum of 378 in bannances, to pay the serve and inmore drawer were a number of bills, and with thom the
sum of 378 in bannances, to pay the serve and
drawers that the required amount upon it, and so on to the
lower stratum of the pile.

Not aware of the value of the paper, the youngsters
took it and set fire to it under the bed. The fumes burst
took it and set fire to it under the bed.

Not aware of the value of the paper, the youngsters have
tone it in the server
to set the serv ADDITIONAL CITY NEWS ON SECOND PAGE. MYSTERIOUS FIRES-THEIR ORIGIN.-Yester-

such proceeding, the latter advised him to procure the services of our fire marshal, who soon investigated the whole matter. The lad, who set fire to the stable, made, a clean breast of the affair, and stated that after seeing the place in fiames, concluded not to say anything about the force of the matter of the punished, as he had repeatedly been warned against smoking. In both these cases innocent parties were suspected; and it shows how careful persons should be before arriving at a conclusion. The practice of teaving children in the charge of servants is generally attended with bad results. MEETING OF THE MILITARY.—All the com-

TWO CENTS

that he was a free man, and that he should be happy to see him at his own house. After the interchange of a few pleasant words, General Winder I off.

A meeting of the Prison Association, of which Mr. Ely was the president, was at once convened, and Mr. Ely made a farryris address of nearly as hour in length. In it he rehearsed many of the interior of the history in which they had become part, and that, notwithstanding their confinement, hely had necessary many of the interior of the history in which they had be onne a part, and that, notwithstanding their confinement, help had succeeded in misting their confinement.

The unit of the history in which they had borne a part, and that, notwithstanding their confinement, help had succeeded in misting their confinement, help had succeeded in misting their confinement, help had succeeded in misting their confinement, he was the was so much in the separation from their familierand friends; in the was of common comforts, and friends; in the was of common comforts, and friends; in the was of common ment.

The defends them, therethed never yet been the slightest difficulty during their whole five months' imprisonment.

The defends of the foreign of jay at his department of the year of the difficulty during their whole five months' imprisonment.

At 2 /o lebek in the afternoon, Mr. Faultment again called at the prison with good feeling. Mr. Ely brings a list with the value of the proceeded to the Governor's manison, where they dined to gather, and parted with a succeed with the value visue of the vasas, has been insafely free with all post visues the present was a factor of the present of the present was a factor of the present and an expectation of prison of the prison of prison of the prison of the prison of prison of the prison of prison of the prison of p

FORTRESS MORROE, Dec. 27, via Baltimere, Dec. 28.—A flag of truce this morning took to Craney Island Rev. Mr. Brown, a rebel chaplain, and a Considerable excitement prevails at Yorktown in anticipation of an attack. All the sick were removed on the 21st by order of General Magruder. The publication of the Norfolk Day Book was suspended yesterday for want of a supply of paper. Alcopy of that issue was brought down by the flag of truce, which contains a despatch dated Augusta, December 26, which says that a passenger and freight car came in collision about one mile from there on that afternoon. Three persons had received broken legs, and several horses were killed.

A despatch dated Nashville, the 25th, says that Tom Crittenden, with twelve thousand men, was within forty miles of Hopkinsville, and would advance upon that place at three points. The Southern Rights citizens there are sending their families The banking house of a branch of the Northern Bank of Kentucky, at Glascow, was taken possess-

a terrible conflict to be impending.

From Missouri. Sr. Louis, Dec. 28.—The legal condition of the negroes discharged yesterday by order of the Provost Marshal General is in nowise changed. They are only set free from confinement, imprisonment, service, and, as one of the crack regiments in the div and sale, on the presumption that they are the slaves of rebel masters. General Halleck wishes it understood that this order will not debar any one from enforcing his legal rights to the services of these negroes.

From Nassau, N. P.

More Bridge Burning. Quincy, Illinois, Dec. 28 .- The bridges over the Fabrius and North rivers, on the Palmyra Railroad, were set on fire by the rebels last night, and destroyed.

More Raileoad Collisions.—On Saturday evening, about half-past six o'clock, a collision occurred on the raiway track at Second and Walnut stre-ts. It seems that a freight train was stuck on the track, on Dock street, leaving the end of the last car projecting over the Second-street rails. A car belonging to the "Second and Third" came to a full stop just below Walnut. Then a Bichmond car stopped—then another Second and Third. All these cars were well filled with passengers. While stationary, a couple of heavy freight cars were approaching, at a pretry fast rate. down grade, and when a general smash was inevitable, an attempt with finish to but the "brakes down," but the cars came on, and vlolenty ran the three passenger cars together. The Richmond horses were thrown down under the car, and both of them were somewhat hurt. The screams of the passengers were appulling. The women and children sprang out into the street, and several of them were silghtly bruised and otherwise injured.

While this scene was enacting, there was another collision further up Second street. It seems that the freight teals that had caused all the mischief was immeritately followed by a Bace and Vine-street car, and then in turn came another freight car or two. The Race and Vine-street car was crushed between the two freight teals, that had caused all the mischief was immeritately followed by a Race and Vine-street car, and then in turn came another freight car or two. The Race and Vine-street car was crushed between the two freight teals, and reduced to a wreck in a moment—the dashers were carried away, and the roof was bulged upwards until it formed a figure almost like the letter A. There were but few passengers in this car. The horses excaped only by the intreputity of the driver. The Pennsylvania Rail-road Company has nothing to do with the hauling of the cars over the city track. Five or six hundred dollars will not more than pay for the damage done to cars and horses. These collisions have become alarisinally frequent of late, and prevent their occurrence. ANOTHER FIRE FROM BENZINE-TWO PER-

by landsmen, or an ignis fatuus.

ANOTHER FIRE FROM BENZINE—Two PERSONS BURKED.—OB Saturday afternoon, about 2 o'clook, a fire broke out in the fourth story of the six-storied building at the northwest corner of Second and Cartar streets, occupied by Mr. M. B. Dyott as a manufactory of lamps and gas fixtures. Mr. Dyott occupied all of the building except the fourth story, which was tenanted by Mr. Mongan, manufactures of reeds And heddler. The apartment occupied by Mr. Mongan was burned out, involving a less of from \$2,000 to \$2,000, upon which there was no insurance. By the active exertions of the fireness the flames were confined to the one room, but the stock of Mr. Hyott-suffered considerably from water. His loss, which cannot be ascertained at present, is covered by insurance. Fire Marshal Blackburn investigated the cause of the five, and he informs in that it originated from the explosion of a jug of benzine, which had been thought-lessly placed upon the top of a stove by one of the hands. There were fifteen presens employed in the apartment, all escaped unhurt except Mrs. Elizabeth Ebling, whose clothing took fire from the inflammable materials, and who was bady burned. Daniel McGarigle was burned alout the face and hands while endeavoring to extinguish the fire in Mrs. Ebling's clothing.

As unon several former occasions, the stationary atoms. altoff the face and hands while endeavoring to extinguish the fire in Mrs. Ebling's clothing.

As upon several former occasions, the stationary ground engine and hose belonging to the frug store of Dr. Dayid Jayne & Son did good revice. The first water put upon the fire was through this medium, and the flames were kept in check by it until the arrival of the firemen with their apparatus. OUR FOREIGN EXPORTS .- The ship Crimea was cleared for London, on the 27th inst., by Mea-sea. Peter Wright and Sons, with the following cargo: 8,704 barrels flour; 16,638 bushels wheat, in bulk; 1,400 bags oil cake; 58 bales h.ps; 400 tierces beef; 237 kegs butter; 140 bags cloverseed; 30 casks queretron bark; 45 tierces pork; 10 tierces lard; 75 boxes hams, and 20 ter; 140 bags cloverseed; 30 casks quercitron bark; 46 tieroes pork; 10 tieroes lard; 75 boxes hams, and 20 boxes tongues.

The ship Holyhead was cleared for Liverpool, on the 27th inst. by Messrs. Peter Wright and Sons, with the following Cargo: 6,321 barrels flour; 5,699 bushels wheat, in bags; 20,331 bushels wheat, in bulk; 132 hads, quercitron bark; 456 tieroes beef; 35 casks clarome ore; 143 barrels pork; 211 boxes cheese; 39 bales rags; 30 hhds. tallow: 14 hhds tallow oil; 60 barrels leaf lard, and 37 bexes hams.

The ship Philadelphia was cleared for Glasgow on the 24th inst. by Messrs. Thos. Bichardson & Co., with the following cargo: 28,733 hashels wheat, 5,467 barrels flour, 66 hhds. bark, and 24 hhds. and 1 barrel tallow.

The ship Tuscarora. Dunley, for Liverpool, was cleared on Thursday by Messrs. Cope Bros. with the following cargo: 34,000 bushels wheat, 9,400 do cort, 42 bales rags, 8 cases machinery, and 15 cases merchandies. She has 12 passengers.

The ship Ellen Stewart, Collin, for London, was cleared on Saturday, by Messrs. Workman & Co., with a cargo of 22,359 bushels wheat, 8,991 barrels flour, and 670 bags cloverseed. NORMISTOWN AFFAIRS.—Of FIRMS INDIR-ing, as Mr. John Keaton, freight conductor, on the morn-ing train from this city, was coupling some cars on Schall's sideing, a rotten plank gave way, precipitating binn beneath the tressle work, a fall of six or eight fcct, when the coupling chain descended upon his leg fractur-ing it below the knee. His injuries were attended to by Dr. Dunlap, and he was removed to this city, where he resides.

Dr. Dunlap, and he was removed to this city, where ac resides.

Th. morrow is the last day on which the befough tax can be paid to the borough treasurer. After the tdat, the duplicate will be handed over to the borough collector with five per cent added. The treasurer will be at his office during to-day and to-morrow, and all, those in arrears will enve money by attending to their taxes without turther postpenement.

The borough has been completely flooded by the miserable counterfeits on the Farmers Bank of Schuykill. County, located at Pottsville. They were of the denomination of ones, twos, and threes. These spurious notes made their appearance in Norristown, simultaneously with their flora amagazance in the office in the differ. made their appearance in Norristown simultaneously with their first appearance in the cities.

Jeol Andraws, Est., has invented and received a patent for a new kind of gun or bayonet battery. He has finished as mall model, and is now at work on one on a lurger scale. Mr. Androws, some years since, invanted a plan for burning bricks with coal, which has succeeded very well. Rozerovovem Cave-cooks. - A singular

Belligerent Game-coors.—A stigular scene for the sanctity of a babbath morning, and the quiet viscinity of Twenty-second and Mayket streets to withers, was enacted to thus locality yesterilay forenoon about ten o'clock. A couple of game-cocks had become nutually incensed at such other's crowing, and perceiving no amicable way of adjusting this difference, they referred the matter to the "god of battaga" This was particularly satisfactory to the adjustent corner loungers, who crowind to the arona poll-mail, and even some plous church-going people, who happened to be passing at the time, halted to scan the conflict. And now the contest had became exciting, in regard to the rising clouds of dust, and the flying of the feathers, and the click, click of the spurs. In the milet of the general guiaw, two sancient females appeared upon the scene with broomsticks, and speedily effected a separation of the combassats.

MEETING OF THE MILITARY.—All the come missioned officers attached to the first division of New Jersey militia will most Friday next in Camden, to examinate the militia laws of the State to recommend such miterations as will add to their efficiency.

Every Presentation—Colonel Lyle's REGINERT —A came fing will be presented by Colonea Duffield to Colonel Lyle's Regiment of National Granes, at the house of George Kelly, Frankford, at 2 a clock P. M., to-morrow.