



The Union as it was: The Constitution as it is: Daily Markets and News.

Chapter in French Diplomacy. Mr. Dayton to Mr. Seward. Paris, Nov. 6, 1862.—Sir:—The receipt of your letter No. 25, and of dispatch No. 207, has been acknowledged. I have to-day had a conversation with Mr. Drouin de L'Hays in reference to our affairs. I told him that I had been induced to take an interest in the condition of things in your country. He said no, that everything remained as it had done for some time past; that France, in common with the other Powers of Europe, very much regretted the war and its continuance, but that they had no purpose to intervene or interfere in any way. I then said to him I had seen the statement that France, England and Russia were conferring upon the possibility of mediating between the belligerent parties. He said that it was not possible, and that something would be done with the assent of the belligerent parties. He had spoken of the possibility of mediating, but not that he had been asked to do so. I told him that this once brought me back to the starting point, that the expression of such a wish would be, I presume, an offer of mediation in another form. He said no, that he had no such word which could express less than mediation, that such word should be used. To test the character of this offer or suggestion, which he reserved to himself, I said to him: "Suppose your offer or suggestion, if made at all, be refused, would it be of any consequence?" He said, "nothing," that we would be friends as we had been before. I told him that I had just seen it stated in the English press that such offer of mediation had been made by the three Powers, and in the event of our refusal to accept it, the independence of the South would be acknowledged. He said that was not so; that no such consequence would follow a refusal upon our part; that things would remain as before. I told him that we should look upon an acknowledgment of the South as a form of intervention. To this he assented, and said that they did not think of intruding into our affairs in any way, or interfering in any form; that their intention would be to mediate between the two, if they should mutually request it. He said that such was yet his disposition, and that he would do all in his power to do nothing more, except that the claims of this civil war had increased and strengthened the wish on his part. I may add that I said to Mr. Drouin de L'Hays, unofficially, however, as I told him that such an offer if it should even be made, would come to nothing. The above was the gist of the conversation, although other matters were embraced in it, of which I may write you hereafter. As a whole, the conversation was very satisfactory, and I send it to you at once.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, Wm. H. Seward, Secretary of State.

An Interesting Chapter. It was the practice of an eccentric Irish divine to read a chapter before the sermon; and to the amusement of his auditory, he requested them to read with him one day, "for edification" the last twenty-seven verses of the tenth chapter of Genesis. He might as well have asked them to read the last twenty-seven pages of a Sanscrit lexicon. But the doctor went on with the chapter, and as he enunciated, in his own mouth and sonorous way, one strange sounding word after another, "Meremorph—Maughah—Mushahab—Hahabababab—The eye was strained to the pupil, hardly a soul, for sheer weariness, ventured to draw his breath. At the end of the last verse, the reader put on one of his grimest looks: "You will have got as much good," he exclaimed, "my attentive hearers, from this chapter, as you seem to have got from any chapter I ever read to you, and you will carry home as much of it, and you will carry as much of it in your daily practice."

The Prince of Wales.

His Visit to the Pope—His Views of Matrimony. A Roman letter describes the visit paid by the Prince of Wales to the Pope. In accordance with custom, the Prince of Wales and the Princess of Prussia entered the audience chamber without the members of their suite, and were most affably received by the Pope. His Holiness had formerly known the Prince Consort, he had known the King of Prussia, and he had known the Prince of Wales so lately, that there were plenty of topics for conversation to be found in family reminiscences, besides the customarily commonplace of inquiries and answers about traveling and sight-seeing. The Pope was charming, and kept up a brisk conversation for about ten minutes when the gentlemen and ladies of the Princess' suite were admitted and presented to His Holiness. The whole party, on leaving the Pope's apartments, proceeded to the residence of the Cardinal Secretary of State, to pay him the customary visit of ceremony.

The Prince on Matrimony. A banquet was given at Wick, England, three weeks ago, to celebrate the coming of age of the Prince of Wales. The Earl, the Earl of Caithness presided. In proposing the toast of the evening, the Earl, who in one of the lords in waiting, said: "When I saw that the Queen in council had sanctioned the Prince's marriage with the Princess Alexandra, of Denmark, I wrote to him a congratulatory letter. He immediately sent me a reply by return of post; and, though it is not right to make public the contents of a private letter, I think, without any breach of confidence, I may, without any breach of confidence, I think, repeat to you a single sentence from that letter. His Royal Highness says: 'If I can make the future life and home of the Princess a happy one, I am content. I feel doubly happy in the thought that my approaching marriage is one which has the approval of the nation; and I only trust that I may not disappoint the expectations that have been formed of me.'"

AMERICAN CITIZEN DEORATED. The Emperor Napoleon has conferred upon Col. John E. Gowen, of Boston, the order of "Chevalier of the Legion of Honor." The Boston Herald says: "Col. Gowen has fulfilled his promise to clear the harbor of Sebastopol of the obstructions occasioned by the late Crimean war, but the work not having been performed within the time specified, the Emperor's government seized and confiscated all the property accumulated by him, even the smallest articles, as well as all the apparatus sent by him from the United States, the value of which would not be less than \$500,000. A Quaker once bearing a person to him, he felt for another who was in distress and needed assistance, and he said, 'Friend, hasten thou forth in thy pocket for help!'

First Edition.

FROM THE POTOMAC ARMY. General Battle Yet. MUCH SKIRMISHING. GUN BOATS FIRED UPON.

WASHINGTON, December 15.—On Wednesday our gunboats at Fort Royal, about twenty miles from Frederickburg, were fired upon by a shore battery, supposed to number twenty heavy guns. One shot struck the coal schooner, wounding Captain Simons, who has since died. Another shot struck the Cumtack on the larboard side, passing into the engine room. The fire was very rapid and continued until sundown, when the rebel gun was silenced. Two schooners at the commencement of the fight were being directly in range of the enemy's guns near the shore, but they were brought off by the force. The gunboats of the Potomac Battery, when on duty, were ordered to accompany the Potomac fleet to the Pacific Coast, is reported from Walla, Wash. They arrived about the last of October without serious accident or loss of any kind.

WASHINGTON, December 14.—Up to midnight intelligence of importance had been received from the Army of the Potomac. There was occasional firing during the day, but it was of little consequence in result. The taking of several of the enemy's entrenchments during the day, but it was of little consequence in result. The taking of several of the enemy's entrenchments during the day, but it was of little consequence in result. The taking of several of the enemy's entrenchments during the day, but it was of little consequence in result.

PITTOCK'S, LONDON AND INTERIOR. CELEBRATED REMEDIES. BLOOD POWDER AND BONE OINTMENT. GENTS: PEBBLE, CALF, GRAIN AND FRENCH GOLF TRIPPLE SOLE SHOES.

PROPOSALS FOR MULES. OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR. OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR. OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

W. BODENHAMER, M. D. CHRONIC DISEASES. MONONGAHELA HOUSE. AMERICAN WATCHES FOR SOLDIERS.

REINEMAN, MEYER AND SEIDLE. WINDY CLOAKS, SHAWLS, MERINOS AND DRESS GOODS.

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FIVE HUNDRED PIECES OF DELAINES. W. & D. HUGUS, CORNER FIFTH & MARKET.

BARGAINS FOR THE HOLIDAYS. WHEELER & WILSON'S SEWING MACHINES. NO. 27 FIFTH STREET.

WHEELER & WILSON'S SEWING MACHINES. AWARD THE FIRST PRIZE FOR FOUR COMPETITORS.

GEORGE FRANCIS TRAIN CONCERT HALL. Friday Evening, Dec. 19th.

THE WM. PENN HOUSE FOR RENT. A NEW AND DESIRABLE LOT OF WINTER CLOAKS, SHAWLS, MERINOS AND DRESS GOODS.

COOPERS' AND CARPENTERS' TOOLS FOR SALE. BOWEN & TELLEY.

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THE WM. PENN HOUSE FOR RENT. A NEW AND DESIRABLE LOT OF WINTER CLOAKS, SHAWLS, MERINOS AND DRESS GOODS.

SMITH & WESSON'S RIFLES FOR SALE. BOWEN & TELLEY.