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NEW ORLEANS:
SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 14

# The New Orleans Bee.

Office, 73 Chartres street. NEW ORLEANS, SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 14, 1861. Vol. XVII—New Series. Vol. XXXIV.—Whole No. 12,259.

SUBSCRIPTIONS BY THE WEEK

The carriers of the BEE are authorized to receive subscriptions to our paper, at the rate of 25 cents a week, payable in all cases to the carriers themselves.

Auction Sales This Day.

By Francis Fernandez, at 10 o'clock, at his auction room, corner St. Louis and Chartres streets, No. 114, dry goods, shoes, &c.

By D. E. Morphy, at 10 o'clock, at the Mississippi Warehouse, hides; also, at 11 o'clock, at the corner Lafayette and Foucher streets, yellow metal.

By J. B. Crozat, at 12 o'clock, at the Merchants and Auctioneers' Exchange, property in Sabine Franklin.

SALES THIS DAY BY THE SHERIFF.—At 12 o'clock, M., at the City Hotel, Common street, improved real estate, situate at the corner of St. Ann and Roman streets, Second District, and on Music street, between Dryades and Olivd, Third District. See advertisements.

THE LESSONS THEY TEACH.

When ABRAHAM LINCOLN proclaimed war upon the South, by issuing a proclamation calling for seventy-five thousand volunteers, there appeared to be some measure and moderation in his hostile manifesto. In that document he proposed simply to retake the forts held by the Confederate States, and disclaimed the intention of invasion beyond what might be necessary for the attainment of that object. The veil of duplicity was skillfully worn, and for a short time it concealed from multitudes the hatred felt towards the South, and the stern resolve to devastate her which animated the hearts of her deadly enemies. Events, however, rapidly developed the occult purposes of the North, and no sooner did the Federal Congress assemble on the 4th July last, than the mask was almost entirely discarded. Bills to raise half a million of men and five hundred millions of dollars were presented and quickly passed, while for the most part the speeches of the members displayed an intense Abolition zeal, and an irrepressible desire to distinguish the struggle by a persistent effort at a scheme of general emancipation. In spite, however, of the gigantic preparations of the foe, he was successfully resisted and beaten back on every occasion when he ventured to measure arms with the Confederates. These checks and reverses have only added to his fury. In the outset of the war, acts of extreme Vandalism were comparatively unfrequent, perpetrated upon a limited scale, usually by the lowest dregs of louferdom enlisted in the Federal armies, and to some extent repressed and even punished by the superior officers. But speedily did the contest assume a more revolting character. Just in proportion to the inability of the Yankees to achieve triumphs on the field, did they seek more ignoble and safer victories obtained by suppressing independent sheets, by arresting harmless civilians, by incarcerating innocent and defenseless women, by isolating and laying waste every acre of Confederate soil over which their legions passed, by establishing a system of espionage in every town, city and village in the North, by immuring captured privateers in dungeons, loading them with fetters as criminals of the deepest dye, and trying and convicting them of the capital offense of piracy.

Such is a brief and bald outline of the mode in which the detestable minions of Lincolnism have prosecuted this war. Of late their reckleenss, their vindictiveness, their rapacity, and their cruelty seem to be intensified. The more hopeless their cause, the more desperately bent are they on destroying and ruining the people and the country which they cannot subjugate. Like a fiend of the Arch fiend, they will have become their good. Wherever they tread, blighted industry, and blazing dwellings, plundered harvests, and stolen flocks and herds attest their sinister advent. Their fell associates are murder, plunder, and arson. They seize and carry off every thing movable, and shatter to pieces and give to the flames whatever cannot be taken away. Their presence is a horror and a dread to the gentle, the young, and the defenseless. And now, to fill to the brim the chalice of bitter wrath and hideous iniquity, they propose to amalgamate all these elements of terror, and to render them more appalling by proclaiming freedom to our servile population, and by arming them expressly for the slaughter of their masters.

It is not difficult to predict the upshot of a conflict waged in so diabolical a spirit. The South, long suffering and patient under a system of hostilities the most galling and insupportable, has sought to maintain the war according to the usages of civilized nations, but her efforts have been met and thwarted by the merciless despotism of the North. The time cannot be far distant when the stern statute of retaliation will be resorted to in defiance of consequences. We cannot and will not consent perpetually to exhibit levity and forbearance to miscreants who hail with savage exultation the most frightful calamities, and are filled with gladness at the prospect of spreading grief, poverty and desolation amidst the hearths and homes of the South. The conduct of the Yankees has, with a few honorable exceptions, stamped them as outlaws, and they merit about the same consideration and kindness we should extend to the midnight marauder and burglar, caught in the very act itself. We foresee, not without profound regret, that the period will at length arrive when the South will be forced in self defense to inflict on the foe the same war of extermination to which he seeks to subject us. We to the Yankees when the weaked wrath of the South shall adopt this fearful alternative! They will then learn the awful lesson that the evil we commit returns with redoubled violence on our own head.

The fire in Charleston is a dreadful calamity—due, we have not a doubt, to the hatred and malevolence of the Yankees, either directly or indirectly. If it be true, as reported, that the flames burst forth in three distinct parts of the city at once, the proof of design is incontrovertible. God grant that the fiendish authors of this awful crime may be discovered, and that an unswerving justice may mete them a fitting retribution. The lesson should not be lost upon us. Redoubled care and vigilance should be exercised, to protect our fair city from so horrible a catastrophe.

"THE VOLUNTEER'S FRIEND."—The third and last number of this excellent and eminently successful little paper will be issued on Tuesday, 24th instant. The number of copies printed will be over 5000. We are requested to state, and we do so with pleasure, that a portion of the last issue will be devoted to advertisements, which will be published at the usual rates. Persons disposed to favor the "Volunteer's Friend" in this way can leave their announcements, with the money, at Geo. Ellis's bookstore, opposite the Post-Office. As the circulation of the sprightly sheet in question is extremely large, we should consider the opportunity one which advertisers might profitably embrace. So give the "Volunteer's Friend" one more lift for the sake of the cause.

THESPIAN PERFORMANCE.—A number of amateurs of decided histrionic talent give a dramatic representation this evening at Concert Hall. The pieces selected for the occasion are the "Golden Farmer," and "Boots at the Swan." The proceeds of the performance will be applied to the benefit of the Orleans Guards, Captain A. Hart—a company which for months has been in active service on the peninsula in Virginia, and which has hitherto neither asked nor received any donations from our citizens. Tickets may be procured from the Committee of Arrangements, and must be purchased during the day, as none will be sold at the door.

DISEASES OF THE THROAT, LUNGS AND HEART.—Persons afflicted with complaints of the throat, lungs or heart are referred to the announcement of Dr. Follin in our columns. Dr. Follin was the resident partner of the celebrated Dr. Hunter, and is practically familiar with his method of treatment. Dr. Adolphus Follin's office is at No. 152 Canal street, and that of Dr. A. F. Follin, his brother, at No. 247 Canal street.

FROM LINCOLNSHIRE.—Federal intelligence from Charleston reports that the blockade there is constantly violated by inland channels to Edisto and the Moffit or North channel. Vessels are certain of twelve feet of water in the latter. Within a few weeks the brig West Indian and bark Helena, with naval stores, and the schooner Gen. Sigley, with rice, have arrived, besides others of less note. The steamer Isabel, thoroughly fitted up and loaded with ten thousand bales of cotton, and the Prince of Wales are awaiting an opportunity to run out.

With reference to the Confederate strength on the coast, a dispatch from New York says: "There are about twelve thousand North and South Carolina and Georgia troops on the railroad to Savannah, and five thousand in Charleston. Most of the South Carolina regiments are still in Virginia. Five gunboats are building at Charleston. They are confident at Charleston that they can gather forces enough to meet us at any point on the main land we may choose."

## BY TELEGRAPH.

[TRANSMITTED TO THE NEW ORLEANS BEE.]

### From Baton Rouge.

LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE.

Baton Rouge, December 13.—In the Senate, the following bills were introduced:

A bill to authorize the issuance of State bonds to the railroad in accordance with an ordinance of the Convention to make a donation and grant of lands for the construction of a railroad between New Iberia and Orange, in Texas.

A bill to amend the laws relative to the manner of collecting the revenue.

A bill to license gambling-houses, and to punish unlicensed gambling.

A bill to encourage ship building in this State, and to abolish the office of Superintendent of Public Education.

A bill was passed through both Houses appropriating $50,000 for the payment of the Louisiana volunteers.

In the House, a memorial from the citizens of New Orleans, setting forth that the relief for the people could be had only through the Banks, was referred to the special committee of cotton-planters. An effort to refer this to the banking committee was defeated.

A joint resolution was passed declaring the sense of the Legislature that the duties on foreign importations should be suspended during the continuance of the war.

A resolution was adopted directing the Finance Committee to report a bill for the assumption of the Confederate war tax by the State.

### From Columbus.

Federals Moving in Immense Numbers into Tennessee.

Columbus, December 13.—There was great commotion here on yesterday, and more troops were sent General Bowen. One regiment from Felicians, also one regiment from Union City.

The Federals have changed their policy at Cairo. Now, none are allowed to leave there, and all communication has ceased. The Government transports are idle in the day time, but busy at night, and it is supposed in high official quarters that the Federals are moving in immense force to the Tennessee river, to cut off the communication with Bowling Green.

### From Charleston.

Additional Particulars of the Fire.

Charleston, December 13.—The *Mercury* of this morning says that in the fire of Wednesday five churches were burned—the Cathedral, St. Peter's Church, the Episcopal Church on Canal street, and the Methodist and Circular churches. Among other buildings destroyed is Institute Hall, St. Andrew's Hall, Apprentices Library, the Southern Express office, the Palmetto Saddle and Charleston Savings Institutions, the Art Association Hall, one cotton press, and Cameron & Co's foundery. All the slaves of the city worked zealously and faithfully to assist the firemen. Captain J. E. Bowers was slightly injured by an explosion. The *Courier* gives a list of two or three hundred sufferers by the fire, and says their losses will amount to five or seven millions. Russell, in whose sash and blind factory the fire originated, thinks it either the work of an incendiary, or the carelessness of negroes quartered near by his establishment.

Reports from Beaufort say the Yankees advanced to a position near Fort Royal Ferry on Tuesday last, crossed under cover of their artillery to the mainland, and destroyed some Confederate rifle pits.

### From Augusta.

Augusta, December 13.—A meeting of the citizens was held here this morning to furnish relief for the sufferers by the Charleston fire, and over $5000 were subscribed in a short time.

### From Richmond.

Richmond, December 13.—J. M. Hill, of New Orleans, was found dead in his room at the Spottswood Hotel yesterday morning. It is supposed he died from apoplexy.

### From Lincolndem, via Richmond.

Washington, December 10.—Seward's letter to Minister Drayton, in France, is out, in which Seward expresses an anxious desire to abolish privateering, and rejects the proposition of neutrality.

Wilkes, in his official statement of the arrest of Mason and Slidell, charges the British agent with complicity in their escape for Europe.

### Lincoln Congress.

Washington, December 10.—Pendleton, of Ohio, moved that Congress alone has the power to suspend the habeas corpus, and spoke at length on the motion. The resolution was tabled by a vote of 4 to 1.

### From New York.

New York, December 10.—Cotton firm; sales 1800 bales. Middling Uplands 31 to 31½c.

### From Baltimore.

Baltimore, December 11.—The news of the Mason and Slidell affair had not reached England when the last steamer sailed. The Nashville is still at Southampton, creating much discussion. The London *Times* says the Nashville must be treated as a ship of war, on the same footing as those of the United States.

AID TO THE CHARLESTON SUFFERERS.—The Directors of the Southern Bank have promptly commenced the work of sending succor to Charleston, as will be seen by the annexed letter:

SOUTHERN BANK,
New Orleans, Dec. 13, 1861.

*Right Rev. Bishop Lynch:*

RT. REV. DEAR SIR: The telegraphic wires convey to us intelligence of the lamentable fire which has just devastated your city.

The Directors of the Southern Bank of New Orleans, deeply sympathizing with the citizens of Charleston on the occasion of the great calamity which has just overtaken their city, have directed me to transmit to you, by to day's mail, $500, which please distribute as you may deem best among those requiring relief.

THOS. LAYTON, Cashier.

VOTE OF LOUISIANA.—The following is the aggregate vote of the State for electors of President and Vice President:

| | Total No. of Votes |
|---|---|
| C. Derbigny | 20,285 |
| A. G. Carter | 20,235 |
| D. Augustin | 20,247 |
| J. P. Freret | 20,245 |
| F. Duffel | 20,250 |
| W. R. Barrow | 20,247 |
| S. Fenn | 20,251 |
| S. L. Chambliss | 20,252 |

FROM MISSOURI.—Gen. Halleck published a very savage proclamation on the 6th, announcing, among other things, that, in consequence of alleged depredations of Price's army in Southwest Missouri, all rebels caught would be shot as spies. The *Democrat* suggests that, as there are some 800 or 1000 loyal Unionmen in St. Louis, who are homeless and homeless on account of alleged losses by depredations of Price's soldiery, that the Government ought to quarter them on the secession families in St. Louis, and suggests that such families prepare their best parlors for the reception of all such sufferers. In a general order issued by Halleck, he says:

The laws of the United States confiscate the property of any man or in a slave used for insurrectionary purposes. Should Congress extend this penalty to the property of all rebels in arms, or giving aid, assistance and encouragement to the enemy, such provisions will be strictly enforced. Military officers do not make laws, but they should obey and enforce them when made.

POSITION OF DELAWARE.—The Legislature of Delaware has been convened in extraordinary session. Gov. Burton has sent in his message, which relates entirely to the national troubles and the position of the State in relation thereto. The message opened as follows:

It is with unfeigned regret that I cannot address you on the usual congratulations on the peace, prosperity and happiness of the country; but, notwithstanding it is unfortunately involved in a civil war, one of the most deplorable calamities that befall any country, we have every reason to render thanks to the Ruler of the Universe that Delaware is not the scene of action, and that we are not in the midst of its horrors and terrible scenes.

Our citizens have acted in a manner highly creditable to them, and well deserve the quiet they have enjoyed. Those, if there be any, and doubtless there are some everywhere, who sympathize inclined to the South, are quiescent, laying no impediments in the way of the Government, nor affording its enemies any sort of aid. Some of the innumerable rumors afloat throughout the country may, perhaps, represent a different state of things; but were the test of truth properly applied to these reports, most of them would be found wholly unreliable.

The Governor declines to discuss the causes that led to the war, and proceeds to recommend the enactment of such laws as are rendered necessary by the direct taxation laws of the late extra session of Congress.

THE FISHMONGERS OF LONDON.—The London correspondent of the New York Times, in alluding to Mr. Adams's speech at the Lord Mayor's banquet, thus refers to the Fishmongers, addressed on the same evening by Mr. Yancey:

Its effect was not materially lessened by the speech of Mr. Yancey, at the Fishmongers' Hall, on the same evening. Mr. Yancey is too well known to be believed, and none of his remarks made a very favorable impression. His friends can hardly maintain them. How he came there at all is a curious question, and the consideration of his speech with that of Mr. Adams looks as though he had known that Mr. Adams would speak, and had invented this occasion in order to counteract any bad results. The idea of a fishmonger in one of the old and wealthy corporations which still exist in the city—the fragments of a state of society which have long since passed away; but though the original meaning of the institution has been lost and forgotten in the lapse of time, it is still an honor which very great men are proud to accept, to be enrolled as members of the ancient Guild. Mr. Yancey, therefore, spoke to no mean audience, and was applauded by no quinquentent men.

The Buccaneers at Fort Warren—Interesting Incidents and Anecdotes of Life at the Fort.

It has already been announced that a number of prisoners confined in Fort Warren have been released. The Boston *Traveller* says of them and the incidents of life in the fort:

The discharged prisoners were brought up to this city yesterday afternoon, and several of them went to New York last night with Mr. Williamson, who was discharged the day previous. Most of them are young men. Colonel Hoskurt was a member of the Maryland Senate and Messrs. Landing and Quinlan, of the Maryland House of Delegates.

One of the prisoners, S. B. Frost, was taken at Fort Hatteras. He is a young man, and a native of Connecticut, where his father resides. When the rebellion broke out, he was keeping school at the South. He says he went to Fort Hatteras to visit a friend among the officers of the garrison, and while there the place was stormed and captured. That he might be better used than the bulk of the prisoners, he claimed to be the Colonel's orderly, and by doing so he was "unmasked" with the officers. After their arrival at Fort Warren, he wrote to Secretary Seward a statement of his case, and was therefore placed upon the list of political prisoners. An investigation, by order of Mr. Seward, resulted in his discharge, and he now goes home to Connecticut. He says that while there are some ignorant men among the Hatteras prisoners, the large majority of the privates are persons of ordinary intelligence, and some of them are wealthy citizens.

Mr. Quinlan is a middle-aged man of intelligence, representing a district fifteen miles from Baltimore. He says he never has been a Secessionist, although he was opposed to the war, and that not more than seven men of the Legislature would have voted for a Secession ordinance. Mr. Quinlan was in feeble health while at Fort Lafayette, and did not expect to leave that place alive. The accommodations are better at Fort Warren, and his health has somewhat improved. He was the only man among the political prisoners who was sick, though several are consumptive. Mr. Landing, who is a wealthy land-owner, was a Representative of Worcester county.

One of the discharged men was a member of Marshal Kane's police. One young man asked to stay in the fort till he could send to Baltimore to get money to return home with, but this was not allowed.

Prisoners are generally apt to be a little cross for the first day or two after their arrival, but this wears off as they find that their companions are cheerful. Most of them find acquaintances among the prisoners. Parker H. French found several friends, and made himself at home from the fire, evidently well pleased with being in such good society.

The leading rebels are somewhat inclined to be exclusive, though they converse freely with the others, and endeavor to prevent any from taking the oath of allegiance. Mr. Carter, one of those who refused to take the oath yesterday, is a wealthy citizen of Baltimore, and was a member of the Legislature.

[A telegraphic dispatch says Mr. Carter has been released.]

The released prisoners say that Marshal Kane is indignant that stories have been circulated that he had attempted to escape. He denies it, and says it originated with political enemies. Many of the prisoners say they are imprisoned solely at the instigation of personal or political enemies. Some of them have been in the round of the forts, having been at Hatteras, Monroe and Lafayette, before coming here.

They have many stories to tell of amusing incidents. As an example, we give the following:

One evening while the commitor was at Fort McHenry, a prisoner was brought in, and introduced to his companions as Mr. Bacon, of Delaware. One of the prisoners took his hand, and with much solemnity inquired, "Did I understand that your name is Bacon?" "Yes," said the new comer, "my name is Bacon!" "Then," said the other, "I am sorry to inform you that you will be very well cooked!" "Do you get out?" Mr. Bacon didn't see the joke, and doesn't yet, although he has been two months in custody.

Among the prisoners is a clergyman, Rev. N. G. North, of Virginia. He holds religious services on each Sabbath, which are attended by most of the prisoners, and generally by officers of the garrison.

We understand that Messrs Slidell and Mason were much pleased upon learning that they would be allowed to read newspapers. They had expected to be deprived of that privilege. They have been introduced to most of the political prisoners with whom they were not previously acquainted.

The Hatteras prisoners have faith in the success of the rebels, and they frequently sing to the tune of "Dixie" a verse composed in part of the following lines:

"We have no fleets, we have no navies,
But we put our trust in old Jeff. Davis."

The soldiers of the garrison are almost as much prisoners as those whom they guard. Their walks are limited, and their conversation must at all times be circumspect. They are not allowed to speak to prisoners except in the performance of duties.

Yesterday Mr. N. Broughton, the agent of the American Tract Society, went down to Fort Lafayette, carrying about two hundred dollars worth of books, contributed by the booksellers of Boston and vicinity for the use of the prisoners. He offered books to several prisoners in person, and among others to Mr. Mason. The books offered to the rebel commissioner were of a devotional character, written by eminent English clergymen. Without examining either of them, he declined to receive them, with the remark, "Do you suppose we have any one in attention?" Others of the prisoners received the books with evident gratitude.

Lincoln View of Fort Pickens.

The St. Louis *Democrat* of the 5th instant has the following:

The force at Fort Pickens consists of about 1100 regulars, and Billy Wilson's New York Zouaves, who are mostly at Santa Rosa, but really not worth more than half that. The Zouaves are said to be in a serious state of disorganization and mutiny. A large number of the Zouaves have been sent to Portsmouth as "incorrigible" subjects, and they behave so badly there that two howitzers loaded with grape and canister are kept at the sally port in case of disturbance. The situation on the island at last accounts was this:

About a quarter of a mile from the fort there is a deep entrenchment, divided by a plank road which communicates with the encampment of Wilson's Zouaves, which is about a mile distant. The day pickets proceed only about one mile from camp, and those at night about four miles, leaving the island open at any time to the descent of the enemy.

Since the last battle, Colonel Brown, the commandant of the fort, has issued orders, in case of an attack, for the Zouaves to leave their quarters, and proceed behind the entrenchment, which are strengthened with howitzers and mortars on all sides, other than the one diametrically opposite the rear of the fort, where the guns are ready to belch forth at any time through the opening on the rebels, if they should land. The greater part of the island is thus to be vacated, to bring the whole available force to defend the fort.

The almost semi-circular range of rebel batteries, extending from Fort McRae and Fort Barrancas to the Pensacola navy yard, has, it is said, led to this strategic order, as imperatively demanded. In the entire line there are not one hundred and fifty guns of long range, while the number of pieces available at Fort Pickens and its surroundings are only sixty, and the troops to defend them are only seventeen hundred, while the rebel force opposite amounts to eleven thousand.

'Russell to the London Times.

The following is an extract from Russell's latest received letter, dated Washington, October 25. Russell says well:

THE UNITY AND STRENGTH OF THE SOUTH.

If, as I am assured by the Baltimore papers, the great bulk of the people of Maryland, perfidiously of the landed gentry, are strong Unionists, and it needed martial law, martial law, Gen. Dix, Federal Hill, Fort McHenry, forted field camps, and some 25,000 men to keep down the miserable minority of secessionists—if their violence is so great that in order to keep them from walking Maryland out of the Union, it is absolutely necessary to break up the Legislature by armed force, and commit the members of it to prison without a chance of appealing to a jury—that, I ask, must be done with the States in the South, where it must be admitted, the Union sentiment is so sound asleep, it is to all appearance stone dead? The Northern papers are beginning to find out the whole South is in earnest in the matter—nay, more, they are actually holding up their unanimity, their sacrifices, their resolution, as examples to be imitated by the Unionists.

In proportion as the time when England was to be suffering the extreme pangs of want from the extinction of cotton drawn nigh without any exhibition of sympathy or symptoms, the North renews its invective against our neutrality, and the South reiterates its assurance that France and Great Britain must recognize the Confederacy. Tobacco is the prop of the French throne, as cotton is the base of the English monarchy. But cotton had a good deal to say to the desertion of the Bonaparte dynasty also. Hide largely used not only in the factories of Rouen and the valley of the Seine, and at Mulhouse, but it is essential to the manufacture of numerous fabrics mixed with silk, made by the dangerous people who live in that terrible city of Lyons.

Mr. Belmont, whose visit to the Charleston Convention it said to have been attended with such direful results, has had a severe lesson in the society of the tobacco at Richmond, and may now feel that his quondam friends are very sincere enemies. But beyond personal question there is a real conviction that France must have tobacco and cotton from America or perish; and, I am assured, if the Northern men succeed in landing at any port on the South, the planters, as a proof of their determination, and as a punishment for non-recognition, will lay their cotton crops on every bank of their soil threatened by an enemy. I, who have seen the fierce beatings of that fervid Southern heart, can well believe in a cotton Moscow—nobody have I seen. They all believe in dollars; they are satisfied the planters will yield to so many cents per pound for cotton. Stand by and let us see.

In spite of the animosity which exists, the efforts of the regular officers to abolish the savage practice of sentry-stalking have met with success, and the war is now conducted in a more civilized manner. It is, however, lamentable to witness the depredations committed by the troops in Virginia, and I shall have occasion in a few days to describe what I have seen over there lately as illustrative of the excesses of the contest between the North and the South. The debatable land between the opposite lines has indeed a land of grief and mourning—of dreadful suspense—days of fear and nights of torture.

The New York Herald on Mr. Russell, the London Times' Correspondent.

Bennett, of the New York *Herald*, is growing more and more complimentary in his love for Mr. Russell, the correspondent of the London Times. The following is his last "notice" of him:

The letters of LL. D., of Bull Run notoriety, are becoming more and more feeble and devoid of interest. We can hardly imagine any English newspaper correspondent being paid for writing any thing more utterly trashy and original; for the effusions of this would-be God of Battles read to us very much like diluted extracts from the New York journals, with a flavor of secession thrown in to aid a desired result, and give a fictitious appearance of freshness to the whole. We should not, indeed, have gleaned any correspondence