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THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

The Northern journals received by the Trade Wind bring no accounts of the prorogation of the British Parliament, and of the manner in which the proceedings of the session are regarded. The anti-ministerial papers of course an all the Government, and do their best to condemn it; but it is a remarkable fact that the worst that is said of it, is that the session had been devoted to the doing of nothing. Some objections are taken to a bill which has been passed imposing on the rural police the duty of protecting the game-preserves of the landed proprietary from the trespasses and plunderings of poachers. But really there is but little, if any, reason in these objections. The game-laws, as they existed half a century ago were, indeed, detestable; and the manner in which they were carried out was infamous. Then, it was unlawful to shoot or chase a hare or a partridge, even on the high-road; while the privileged classes might ride down the cornfields of the peasant, without let or hindrance, in the hot-blooded chase of game. Then, sentenced lands were moved from the foot of the peasant who should seek to eke out an existence by an occasional capture of game. The consequence was that poaching became a business, sentenced lands being then no more spared than others; outlawry of the most serious character, between gamekeepers and poachers, and consequent homicides, and cruel punishments ensued. Now the protection of game is nearly, if not quite, confined to such as is preserved in enclosed lands; and provided there are not trespassers on the lands and the game are comparatively few. We want a stand-off for in it we can see no legitimate objection. A man who stocks a park with deer, a grove with pheasants, a warren with rabbits, and takes proper precautions to enclose them for his private purposes, has as much claim to be protected in his rights as a man who turns his house into a paddock for pasture. And we can see no reason why the poacher should be called on to guard his rights in this respect as well as in any other.

Mr. Cobden, making a hobby of his views on liberal economy, reform agitations, and some other questions, assailed Lord Palmerston for having violated all these. He confined himself, however, to one of the points, which, he intimated, as some may conclude, as an omission, comprised the others. This was the question of economy. He did not preface, however, that corruption or profusion had been the cause of the increased expenditure incurred by the administration; but arraigned the policy of the Government in providing fortifications and armaments for the protection of the country. What favor any such position could gain from others than the friends of the existing Government faintly represented by Mr. Disraeli, our readers cannot but understand.

In arraigning the conduct of the Government in relation to the Trent affair, Mr. Cobden was no more happy, and no more successful. And if he might somewhat of a point in his condemnation, of the Northern Chinese affair, it was completely blunted by the rough reception prepared for it, by his previous failures.

With regard to this continent, the most important proceedings were on the subject of interference in the struggle between the North and the South. The observations of Earl Russell, of Lord Palmerston and not less that of Lord Malmesbury, the language of the prorogation speech, and the tone of the press, leave no room whatever to come to any other conclusion than that the neutrality hitherto observed, will be maintained.

Of other matters, the only one worthy of a passing notice is the passage of the United Relief Aid bill, to provide for the distressed manufacturing districts. The principle of this measure was pointed out to be no novelty, but as old as the reign of Elizabeth. It is: that the Union may raise money to meet the emergency—not by at once imposing the burden on the people, but by borrowing the means, and pledging the taxes as security for a term of years until the debt shall be discharged. It was objected to by many members as unwise, but passed with not serious or formal opposition.

Parliament now stands prorogued till February next.

HAIR NETS TAKEN AT PAR.—As will be seen by reference elsewhere, Alfred Mussey & Co., of the Story Buildings, announce that they will take the bills of the Merchants' and Crescent City Banks at par, for clothing and furnishing goods, &c., at the very lowest prices. Premiums allowed for gold, silver and Treasury notes.

R. T. Montgomery will sell this day, at 11 o'clock, at No. 6 Old Levee street, a large and well assorted stock of fine old wines, brandies, cordials, &c., as per catalogues furnished at the time of sale. A rare opportunity is offered to our citizens, to replenish their stock of liquors with a fine article of the most desirable and genuine brands. This sale is worthy the attendance of the best judges, as the entire stock is to be positively closed, without limit.

Tinners are particularly requested to notice Hughes, McLean & Co.'s sale of a superior lot of English tin, advertised by them in another column, to take place this day, at 10½ o'clock.

SPECIE SHIPPED FROM NEW ORLEANS.—The New York Tribune, speaking of the arrival of the steamer Saxon at New York, on the 15th ultimo, says: The Saxon brings $2,000 in specie, consigned to Schroder & Co.

Catastrophe on the Potomac.

Collision Between the Steamers West Point and George Peabody—Loss of Life.

The New York Herald of the 15th of August published the following particulars of a terrible catastrophe which occurred on the Potomac on the 13th ult.:

Aquia Creek, Va., August 14th, 1862.—A collision occurred on Potomac river last night off Ragged Point, between the steamers Peabody and West Point, involving the loss of seventy-three lives. The West Point was loaded at this place from Newport News with convalescent troops of Gen. Burnside's army. She sent in ten minutes after the accident. The Peabody brought in the survivors and passengers to this point, and from Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Scott, of the Sixth New Hampshire, who was on board of the ill-fated vessel, and in charge of the troops, we have obtained the following account of the affair:

We left Newport's News on Tuesday, the 12th, with two hundred and twenty-five officers, four officers, three ladies and one child. At Fortress Monroe we took on seventeen men, making in all two hundred and twenty-nine souls.

On Wednesday evening, the 13th inst., about eight o'clock, off Ragged Point, on the Potomac, we were hailed by a schooner, and soon observed that a collision had taken place between our steamer and another, named the George Peabody, bound down the river. The West Point began to back very fast, and it was ascertained that she would sink in less than ten minutes. The Peabody, which had been partially disabled, could render no assistance, except with the small boats.

From other sources I learn that valuable assistance was rendered by Captains Biggs and Hall, and their assistant quartermasters, of Gen. Reynolds's army, who were passing in the steamer John Farren at the time, and by Acting Master Jedlyn, of the gunboat Reliance. An unknown tank also rendered valuable assistance, and by the combined efforts of all two hundred and three persons were rescued.

The West Point went down in five fathoms of water about one and a half miles from the Maryland shore, and nothing can be now seen of her but a portion of her smoke stack, masts and some wreckage up planks of her decks. All of her crew were saved except one fireman, named John Russell.

The brief period during which the West Point remained afloat after striking, and the counter-action which prevented, prevented the efforts to save all from being as successful as could be desired. Captain Doyle and Lieutenant Scott were the last to leave the vessel. Without attempting the blame to either party, I give you the statements on both sides.

The following is the statement of Wm. F. Kerrin, pilot of the Peabody. It is corroborated by Captain Travers, who was on deck at the time of the collision:

The steamship George Peabody left Aquia creek, August 13, for Fortress Monroe, at half past four o'clock, P. M. The steamer proceeded down the river, and when about off Ragged Point, and nearing east by south, made an unknown steamer, which was the West Point, on our port bow. I gave one blow of our steam whistle, which was answered in return by the steamer West Point. When the steamer neared I ported our wheel. The pilot, or whoever had charge of the steamer West Point, starboarded his wheel, and struck our ship's bows on the port side, forward of our upper wheel, in five minutes past eight o'clock, P. M.

The following is the statement of Captain Doyle, of the West Point:

J. E. G. Doyle, master of the steamer West Point, certifies that between eight and nine o'clock, P. M., of August 13, steaming from Ragged Point to get out channel, when five miles above Lower Machodoc, about west by south a-run the channel, heard a whistle blow once, two succeeded here, I blew two, and it only answered it, which signal means, "Keep to the right;" our lights all burning at the time. Our green light being the only one that could be seen from the other steamer, with which not a sea occurred. I saw the boat coming down on us; immediately stopped the engine and backed full speed, the other boat apparently going full speed. Her port guard and paddle box took our bow and stove in it, taking away about ten feet, leaving us in a sinking condition. I immediately ordered her to stay by, as we were in distress. He passed on, and I advised the pilot to beach the boat immediately, which order was complied with. My steamer headed for the Maryland shore, and sank in about four fathoms water. I did every thing to avoid the collision, and used my utmost exertions to save all I could.

The reporter then gives a partial list of the officers by this method. A number of the officers, however were saved, and were picked up by small boats and schooners in the vicinity.

The equipage of the two steamers have been put in charge of the Provost Marshal here, and on the recommendation of Quartermaster Biggs, an investigation is now being had as to the parties to which the blame is to be attributed.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

We find in the New York Herald of the 2d the report of the first day's proceedings of the Congress in Richmond:

Monday, August 18, 1862.—The Senate was called, pursuant to adjournment, in the chamber of the Senate of Virginia, and was opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Bailey, of the Episcopal Church.

Present.—The President of the Senate (Hon. A. H. Stephens) and Messrs. Yancey and Clay, of Alabama; Mesars. Maxwell and Baker, of Florida; Mr. Hill, of Georgia; Mr. Barnett, of Kentucky; Mr. Sommer, of Louisiana; Messrs. Brown and Phelan, of Mississippi; Mr. Clark, of Missouri; Messrs. Davis and Dortch, of North Carolina; Mr. Haynes, of Tennessee; Messrs. Wigfall and Oldham, of Texas; and Messrs. Hunter and Preston, of Virginia—17.

Absent.—Messrs. Johnson and Johnson, of Arkansas; Mr. Lewis, of Georgia; Mr. Simms, of Kentucky; Mr. Sparrow, of Louisiana; Mr. Peyton, of Missouri; Messrs. Henderson and Orr, of South Carolina; and Mr. Henry, of Tennessee—9.

The President announced the presence of a quorum.

Mr. Clay, of Alabama, offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate acquainted the House of Representatives that the Senate has met, pursuant to adjournment, and is ready to proceed to business.

A brief message from the Chair of the House presented a message from the House, stating the resolution of that body to proceed with the labors before it, and the message also informed the President that Congress had been duly assembled and was prepared to receive any communication he might make.

On motion, the Senate concurred in the resolution, and the President appointed on the joint committee Messrs. Clay, Sommer and Dortch.

Mr. Clay, of Alabama, moved to move he be allowed offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That the 63d rule of the Rules of the Senate shall be stricken out, and that the 45th rule be stricken out, and the following would insert: "All legislative sessions shall be held with open doors, except otherwise ordered by the secret nature of the business, the said rule to be taken by yeas and nays."

[The 63d and 45th rules relate especially to the manner of secret sessions.]

Mr. Hunter, of Virginia, the part of the Senate, to wait on the President, returning, the chairman, Mr. Clay, reported the message of the President (already published by us.)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House was called to order at 12 o'clock by the Speaker, Mr. Bocock, of Virginia.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Early, Bishop of the Methodist Church.

The roll was then called by the Clerk, when the following members answered to their names:

Hons. Adams, Batson, Bell, Boccock, Boteler, Bridgers, R. M. Brown, Chambliss, Chilton, Clarke, Coleman, Collier, Conrow, Curtis, Curry, Dargan, Duprey, Elliott, Farrow, Foote, Funsten, Gaither, Gantt, Gholson, Goodwin, Gray, Hardy, Harris, Hatchitt, Herbert, Hilton, Holcombe, Hale, Hodge, Johnson, Jones, Kenan, Keitt, Lander, Lyon, Lyon, et al., Machen, McDowell, Mallory, Marcus, Miller, Perkins, Reid, Russell, Saxton, Smith, of Ala., Smithwood, Swan, Triplett, Vest, Welch, Wright, of Ga., Wright, of Tenn.—61.

The Speaker announced that a quorum was present.

Mesars. Baldwin, of Va.; Barksdale, of Miss; Wilcox, of Tenn, and Dawkins, of Fla., were reported as prevented by indisposition from attending. Mr. Baldwin subsequently appeared in his seat, as did also Mr. Lyman, of Virginia.

Mr Collier, of Va. (successor to Gen. R. A. Pryor,) and Mr. Hodges, of Kentucky, took the oath of office to the Constitution of the Union, the members of the House standing during its administration.

A message was received from the Senate, stating that a quorum of that body was in attendance and had organized for business.

A similar message of courtesy was dispatched to the Senate.

Mr Curry, of Ala., moved that a committee of three be appointed by the House to wait upon the President, confidently with a similar committee from the Senate, to inform him of the organization of the two houses and their readiness to receive any communication or message he may to make. Agreed to.

Messrs. Curry, Preston, of Va., and Jones, of Tenn., were appointed the committee.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from Hon. A. G. Dickinson, of Virginia, stating he had forwarded to the Governor of Virginia a resignation of his seat in the House of Representatives.

Also, a communication from Gov. Letcher, announcing the fact of said resignation; and referring to Congress the adoption of some mode of filling the vacancy, in the Ninth district, being mainly within the enemy's lines.

On motion of Mr Russell, of Va., referred to the Committee on Elections.

The Speaker then called in alphabetical order for resolutions, memorials, &c.

Alabama, Arkansas and Florida made no response.

Mr. Gartrell, of Ga., offered a bill making Treasury notes a legal tender in payment of debts. He desired prompt action, and moved that the bill be made the special order for Tuesday of next week.

Mr. Curry, of Ala., said the business of the House had been greatly impeded at its last session by the non-observance of the rule of the Chair, which was, that the business of the House would avoid the evil now.

Mr. Gartrell modified his motion so as to refer the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Curry moved to lay the bill on the table.

Mr. Boteler called for the yeas and nays.

Mr. Foote, of Tenn., reports from the Secretaries of War and the Navy; also from the Postmaster-General; also the correspondence between General Lee and Halleck relative to the enemy's barbarities. The correspondence and the report of the Secretary of War were read. A thousand copies of the message and documents, accompanying the report of the Secretary of the Navy, were ordered to be printed. The exception was made upon a suggestion that there might be matters in the report not proper to be made public.

The Speaker presented a report from the Secretary of State, containing a list of the employés of the department, their salaries, nativities, &c. Ordered to be printed.

Mr. Foote, again recognized, offered a bill to provide for the relief of soldiers and seamen. Ordered to be printed.

Mr. Miles, of S. C., offered a bill to amend the Conscript act. (It extends the application of the law to all citizens under forty-five years of age.)

Also a bill to punish slaves taken in arms and the white men assisting to be their officers. (It provides that these slaves so taken shall be delivered up to the authorities of the State in which captured, to be disposed of by law, and that the white officer shall be hung or also delivered up to the State authorities.)

Both bills referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. Foulé, of Tenn., offered a bill for regulating purposes. Referred to Committee on Military Affairs. (It enacts that the enemy officers in towns are paroled soldiers as prisoners, and have also prescribed boundaries, private citizens for their rents. It provides that no officer who may have ordered such atrocities, to be put to death (if captured. An equal number of prisoners (officers to be preferred) taken from the enemy, to suffer the fate inflicted on our captured soldiers or citizens.)

Also a bill for the treatment of captives. (It provides that any officer or private captured by our army who shall have committed any offence recognized, fiendishly by the laws of the Confederacy or any State, shall be delivered up for trial.)

Also a bill to punish negroes in arms. (It provides that Federal armies incorporately composed of white and black, shall not be held entitled to the privileges of war, or to be taken prisoners. Of such as may be captured, the negroes shall be returned to their masters or publicly sold, and their commanders to be hung or shot, as may be most convenient.)

Mr. Oldham, reported that the committee of which he was chairman had waited on the President, who said that he would communicate a message to the House immediately.

Mr. Foote, remaining, also offered a bill to relieve for the future of citizens by the enemy. (It provides that of the prisoners held by us, a number equal to that of the citizens seized shall be held as hostages for their safety and subject to the treatment; any officers, civil or military, concerned in their seizure, shall be imprisoned during the war.)

All the bills of Mr. Foote were, on his motion, referred to the Military Committee.

Mr. Foote also presented an argumentative preamble and resolution in favor of open session of Congress, and providing that hereafter a motion to go into secret session shall require a majority vote, by yeas and nays.

Mr. Foote enforced his resolution at some length. On his motion it was then laid over.

The private secretary of the President was here announced, and delivered a message from the President, which was read. Accompanying the message were reports from the Secretaries of War and the Navy; also from the Postmaster-General; also the correspondence between General Lee and Halleck relative to the enemy's barbarities. The correspondence and the report of the Secretary of War were read. A thousand copies of the message and documents, except the report of the Secretary of the Navy, were ordered to be printed. The exception was made upon a suggestion that there might be matters in the report not proper to be made public.

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