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NEW ORLEANS:
TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 31, 1863.

Sales at Auction To-Day,

By D. E. Morphy, at 10 o'clock, at No. 57 Front street, sale; at 11, at the corner of Notre Dame and Camp streets, sale of stock, &c.; at 11 o'clock, at No 53 Old Levee street, sale; at 12 o'clock, on the New Basin, Julia street, between St. Peter and Liberty streets, sales.

By E. T. Montgomery, at 11 o'clock, A. M., at No. 67 Camp street, Canal building, plated ware and oil paintings; at 12 o'clock, at No. 44 New Levee street, Tobacco sale; at 12 o'clock, at No. 86 Camp street, cotton, flour, tobacco, salt, brooms, whisky, brandy, &c.

Varieties Theatre.—The "King's Rival, or the Court and the Stage," a fine and vigorously written dramatic play, has had two successful representations at the Varieties—that is, Sunday night and last night. The plot of this play is taken from that most fruitful source of dramatic productions, the History of England, under Charles II. The interest of the piece, which is kept up throughout, turns upon the amours of the royal debauchee, who would have given away a throne and the sway of an empire for a few moments lost in the blandishments of pleasure at the feet of a Nell Gwynne, or any of the fascinating courtesans of his times. The dramatic coloring of the piece is very deeply drawn, and it is written in a clear, bold and easy style. It is a production which deserves a high rank in the modern drama. The requirements of the plot, however, seem to have forced the author to commit what to us appears an anachronism, and upon which the chief interest of the plot turns,—that is the conspiracy of the *Dukes of Buckingham* and *Richmond* against the throne and life of *Charles*. This is an episode among the numerous ones of that reign with which we are unfamiliar. But it is not one, however, upon which we would take exception with the author, as he has used it with an undiminished and intense interest throughout.

The *Nell Gwynne* of Mrs. Baker is among the most felicitous efforts of that lady, and deserves special mention in the chapter of her successes. Mrs. Gladstone, as *Frances Stuart*, portrayed with truthfulness the conflicting emotions of loyalty to her king, and exalted attachment for her lover. The *Duke of Richmond* in the hands of Mr. Baker was a finished and artistic characterization, and the pledge to the memory of Cromwell, which at best is calculated to court the plaudits of the puritanic roundhead, rendered as it was by Mr. Baker, secured the admiration and respect of the highest toned cavaliers.

To Mr. Eyer's rendition of *Colonel Wildman*, the fifth monarchy man, we cannot do full justice in the restricted space allotted us. The wild bursts of the maniac, the ravings of the Millerite of the seventeenth century, are too lofty to be understood and appreciated by the staring groundling. Mr. Bowers's characterization of *Sam Pepys* brought us back to those days when, with a pushing admiration, we were wont to burn through the pages of the charming old chronicler.

We could not help for a moment to abstract our attention from surrounding scenes, and look in our own mind's eye upon that old familiar spirit whose ready wit was the brightest ornament of those gatherings in which giants would struggle for the mastery.

Mr. Rudd's *King Charles* was a careful rendition, although not as complete as it should have been.

The "Corsican Brothers" is on the programme for to-night—the "Nine Points of the Law" concludes the performances.

The sales this day, (Tuesday,) the 31st inst, by E. T. Montgomery, should be noticed by parties wishing to obtain oats, flour, bacon, beef, groceries, and a large variety of other merchandise, as will be seen by reference to the advertising columns: At 11½ o'clock, at 44 New Levee street, 300 sacks choice oats and very choice imported sued oats; at 12 o'clock, at sale-room, 93 Camp street, there will be a large and important sale of 11 bales of cotton and a great variety of other merchandise, consisting of flour, bacon, beef, hams, tobacco, whisky, brandy, salt, oats, bran, lard, brooms, ties, &c., &c.; at 11 o'clock, at old auction mart, 87 Camp street, 100 bales Canton matting, and a large amount of furniture and sundry household goods.

Sale Continued.—The sale by the Sheriff of the balance of contents and fixtures of store No. 137 Canal street, will be continued to-day at 10½ o'clock, on the premises.

D. E. Morphy, auctioneer, calls the attention of buyers to his following sales for this day: At 10 o'clock, corn; at 11 o'clock, red beans; at 12 o'clock, 19 bales cotton. See his auction advertisements.

McCeren & Landry sell to-day, at half past ten o'clock, foot of Canal street, a lot of prime molasses.

Washington Items.

THE COMPETITION OF FOREIGN VESSELS FOR TRAFFIC IN AMERICAN WATERS.

The Washington correspondent of the N. Y. *Herald* says:

Parties in interest are making strenuous exertions to induce the Secretary of the Treasury to recede from his recent decision that foreign vessels may compete for the traffic between San Francisco and New York; but the decision was caused by careful consideration of the law, and will not be reversed. It is understood that under it a line of English steam propellers will soon be placed upon one of the transit routes.

CURIOUS DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING THE CAPTURE OF GEN. STOUGHTON.

We have already given full particulars of the capture of Gen. Stoughton and his party near Fairfax Court House; but the following, which we find in the Washington correspondence of the *Herald*, does not lack interest:

Miss Ford, whose name is connected with Gen Stoughton's capture at Fairfax, has been arrested. Upon the premises were found letters which indicated that she had been corresponding with rebels in Richmond. Some papers of an important character were not overlooked, and through them it is learned that another raid had been planned for Saturday night. Eleven of the so called guerrillas who took the General are under arrest. Only twenty-four participated in the raid, and no one of them lived under eight miles from Fairfax. Stoughton's misfortune has precipitated a determination to remove from the vicinity of our lines those residents not of assured loyalty.

The *Times* of the 18th publishes the following curious developments regarding the capture of Gen Stoughton:

Miss Ford, of Fairfax, was unquestionably the local spy and secret agent of Capt. Moseley in his late swoop upon that village. Col. Baker has fully developed the fact that Moseley, disguised, slept one night at the house of the Fords; that Miss Antonia went round with him and pointed out the houses which Gen. Stoughton, Col. Wyndham, and Colonel Johnson severally occupied as their quarters, and that she aided Moseley in planning and executing his raid. Her "commission" to play such "pranks" games who secured, was she was arrested, as we in as some as the rebel mail bags fell into the rebel money. The following is a copy of Antonia commission:

"To all whom it may concern, know ye, that reposing special confidence in the patriotism, fidelity and ability of Antonio C. Ford, I appoint E. B. Stuart, by virtue of the power invested in me as Brigadier-General in the Provisional Army of the Confederate States of America, do hereby appoint and commission her my honorary Aid-de-Camp, to rank as such from this date. She is to be obeyed, respected, and admired by all the lovers of a noble nature.

Given under my hand and seal, at the headquarters Cavalry Brigade, at Camp Beverley, the 7th day of October, A. D. 1861, and the first year of our independence.

J. E. B STUART,
[Impression of his signet ring
By the General, L. Tiernan Bryan,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

From the Shenandoah Valley.

A RECONAISSANCE FROM WINCHESTER AND STRASBURG.

The Washington correspondent of the *Times* writes as follows:

Washington, Monday, March 16.—Reports received here Saturday, apparently authentic, stated that Gens Joseph Hampton, and others, with 10,000 men, including a large proportion of cavalry and artillery, had come as far North as Strasburg on a movement toward Winchester. By advices received to-day, however, direct from the point, the story appears to be greatly unfounded—a heavy reconnoissance by Gen. Milroy having just returned, after a two days' rapid march, visiting Strasburg and vicinity without finding the enemy, or learning of their approach in any force. A few of Ashby's cavalry were found to be highter up the Valley toward Staunton, having retired upon our advance. This does not look like any contemplated attack by the enemy in that quarter upon our lines, and will postpone forces there, who are on the alert for them.

The Vicksburg Cut-off.—The *World* contains the following paragraph:

The Commander-in-Chief at Vicksburg has, it seems, come to an eminently sad. The canal has been dried out with water, but with earth and rubbish, by the washing of the river itself. The supplies stream, more potent than the vast army of Grant, is wholly unable to get over it. The canal has been the work of months. This may be unfortunate or of very little consequence for the reduction of Vicksburg; but it appears that Gen. Grant placed very high hopes upon this canal as a means of getting his army and supplies to and from the river.

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Office, 73 Chartres street.

NEW ORLEANS, TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 31, 1863. Vol. XVII—New Series. Vol. XXXVI—Whole No. 12,649.

Late from the Rio Grande.

The United States steamer Honduras arrived here on Sunday from the Rio Grande, having two hundred and sixty refugees from Texas. The *Era* learns the following from Lieutenant-Colonel Stance:

On the morning of the 15th a force of Confederates of about one hundred and fifty men crossed the Rio Grande into Mexico, at the mouth of the river, and captured Col. E. J. Davis, of the First Texas Cavalry, Captain W. W. Montgomery, of the same regiment, and three soldiers.

About one hundred and fifty were lying there, says the *Era*, (at the mouth of the Rio Grande) waiting an opportunity to get on board the Honduras; they being prevented by the rough weather.

The Mexican authorities demanded the return of the prisoners. Accordingly on the 18th Col. Davis and the three soldiers taken were returned to Matamoras. Captain Montgomery, however, was not returned.

After the return of the captured officers and soldiers, the refugees, forty-six in number) were put on board the steamer. The bark Arthur, after she had been brought around from Galveston, threw two shells into the Confederate camp on the night of the 25th, at which time the Honduras left for this city. The officers mentioned above, Col Davis, Lieut.-Col. Stanance, Captain Montgomery and the two lieutenants, were officers of the First Texas (Federal) Cavalry, recruited in this city for Gen. Hamilton's Brigade.

From Porto Rico,

PROJECTED STEAMSHIP LINE BETWEEN PORTO RICO AND NEW YORK.

Our Havana files had received Porto Rico advices to the 13th inst. The *Boletin Mercantil* of that place says:

We learn from a business house in Arroyo that measures are being taken to establish communication between this place and New York. A steamship line is to be started shortly, the vessels carrying at this place at Ponce, and at other points of the island, as well as at St. Thomas. The steamer which is to be put in this trade is already fitted out and ready to put to sea. It is a fine steamer of 400 tons, built expressly for this trade.

THE TROUBLES IN SAN DOMINGO.

In consequence of the late outbreak in San Domingo, the Spanish man of war Hernan Cortes had sailed for that place on the 3d, having on board a battalion of foot rifles. The steamer had on board $10,000 in specie.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

The Tinghone.—The French man-of-war, Tinghone, which arrived a few days since, leaves this morning at nine o'clock for Havana. She will make but a short stay in that port, to which it has been ordered by Rear Admiral Renaud, and will again return in this city.

Whilst referring to the Tinghone, it recalls a striking and painful accident which occurred on that vessel and the British steamer Styx, simultaneously, on Sunday. Each vessel lost by the strangest coincidence one of the crew, at the same time. A sailor on board the Tinghone lost his footing and fell overboard, whilst one of the tars of the English steamer, by some unaccountable accident, also fell into the river, and notwithstanding every effort was made to save them, both were drowned.

Run on the Wheelbarrows.—Yesterday, in the Provost Court, five men were fined $3 each for impeding their wheelbarrows on the banquette, in violation of the city ordinance No 107. Afterwards, August Tebbis, Joseph Miller, Michael Connolly, G Edgerstone, François Madore, and Montegut Madore were arrested in the Second District for a violation of the same ordinance. Wheelbarrow men will therefore take warning, and keep their vehicles in the street.

Disturbance of the Peace.—John Keating was arrested in that infamous street called Gallatin, in the Second District, for being so drunk as to disturb the peace of apostolic till see.

At the Lake, Wm Rabsbodt, Peter Serda and Theophile Lacoste, were also brought to the lockup for fighting and disturbing the peace of that suburban locality.

Another Robbery.—The store of Bacque & Roux, in the Second District, was burglariously entered yesterday morning, about 5 o'clock, and robbed of about $100 worth of goods. The thieves got off successfully with their booty, and no arrests have yet been made.

Collection for the Poor.—The collection which was taken at the Cathedral last Friday, during the progress of the administration of a mass for peace, yielded $109, which will be distributed among the poor.

Another Slander Suit.—In the Sixth District Court yesterday there was another slander suit instituted of the same character we had occasion to mention the other day. Augustin Fernandez sues the two Gonzalez's for $5,000 damages, for maliciously and slanderously calling petitioner, on previously, and since the 8th day of January, a thief, in Spanish, and in the presence of many who understood that language. Other slanders, detrimental to the reputation and feelings of the petitioner, all amounting to the sum named, were also alleged. Samuel Myers, Esq., the young, industrious and christian practitioner, brings this, as he did the other suit we mentioned.

United States Provisional Court—Judge Peabody—Monday.—In the case of Snodgrass vs. T. A. Adams, the Court rendered its decision in favor of the defendant, as follows:

This action is brought to rescind a sale of bagging, and recover back the money paid for it, on the ground that the bagging was subject to duties to the United States, and has been seized and taken from plaintiffs by officers of the revenue.

The facts are, that the bagging had been imported into this port, and was in the public warehouse of the Government, and while there was sold, and I think delivered to the petitioner, and the price was paid by him to the respondent. This importation and sale were made while the authorities of the so-called Confederate States were in possession of the government here, the duties of the bagging were paid to the officers of the customs then receiving dues at the Custom-house.

The evidence does not show to which Government the duties were paid, except that they were paid to Mr Hatch, then acting Collector. It shows further that Mr Hatch was originally appointed by the United States Government.

Under what Government he was acting or professing to act at the time does not appear, except that he was originally appointed by the United States.

It seems from the history of the times almost incredible that he should have been thus operating for the United States Government, but the evidence that he should have been so acting is very slight and inconclusive.

At any rate the duties were paid to the Government in power at the time they accrued, and to the person de facto performing the duties of Collector, and apparently authorized to receive them. They were paid moreover to the officer of the customs, under whose administration of the office they had been imported. There is no pretense, that any change had taken place in the status of the officer, or his relation to either Government after the importation, and before the payment.

Under this circumstance, I think it very doubtful if the payment to this officer would not be good as any rate, without regard to the question whether the Government was by the receiving officer represented. But the petitioner has not shown that the officer who received the duties was not an honized by and acting for the Government of the United States. The burden was on him to show that the duties were not properly paid, if he would in that manner impeach the title derived by him from the defendant. This, I think, he has not done. The mere fact that the Government claims to hold them for duties, does not sustain the action. He must show that the Government has a right to detain them, and for this purpose he must show that the bagging was originally liable to duty, and that the duties remain unpaid. On the evidence before me, it does not appear that the claim of the Government is well founded, and I think that it is not—and consequently that the plaintiff has not shown that the title derived by him from defendant has failed or is defective in this case.

On motion of Mr. Bright, the Court consented to the entry of a non suit in the case.

The case of Rogan vs Dennis, on motion of Mr. Rogan, was fixed for argument next Thursday.

The exception of Judge Morgan, *curator ad hoc* in the case of Pike vs Beatty, was fixed for hearing on Wednesday.

The rule in the case of Hartnett vs Avery was postponed till to-day.

The case of Adams vs Crandand Brothers was reasoned and concluded, when it was taken under advisement. The suit grows out of the agency of the defendants for collecting the rents of the absent plaintiff, and Confederate money seems to have been the main cause of the difficulty.

The case of Haeem & Brother vs. the Carrollton Railroad Company—a suit for indemnity for wood cut from the land of the plaintiffs lying between Carrollton and the lake, contiguous to the road—then came up for trial, promising to consume the attention for the remainder of the day's sitting.

Provost Court Postscript.—Michael Earhart and George Seitz were arraigned on the charge of stealing a cent from Mr C. S. Ellis about eight months ago. For want of the witnesses, the case was continued.

Five men were arrested for a violation of the city ordinance which forbids the propelling of wheelbarrows on the pavements. They were fined $3 each.

A contempt of Court case developed into one of considerable interest, sprinkled with tears and bordered with sighs. The defendant was quite a young man, of remarkably timid and bashful mien, (one of the sort of whom it is said that "butter would not melt in their mouths") and the prosecutrix looked older, bolder, stronger, and more matronly. The contempt of Court charge consisted in the failure of the young man to pay $10 per month (the agree of Judge Bell in July last) for the support of a child which the woman swore to him. It may be instructive what the "phenikes" of this young man have been. The child, according to information, is the fast mean out that he had recently been married, and that a remonstrating paper signed by the Mary Ann, the first love, on the 3d of this month, was torpedoed and thrown to the four winds. Here was the pretty battle of Italy for the young youth to be in, and married, too! There stood the wounded mother, appealing to the Court with tears to make the naughty fellow pay up for the mischief he had done; there the babe, in a muslin dress, looking confounded at the odd proceedings of the day; there the young man, with his father near to the dock-yard, ready to engage in the business of ship building, and there the Court, with the law in its hand. The Court mark that "it's a wise child who knows its own father." But there was no help for it. The Court must enforce the decree of Judge Bell, and could not open anew the question about paternity. The child was born, and sworn to, and must be supported according to the law and the decree.

☞ Our attention has been called to the circumstance that the following paragraph from our report of the Tisdale case in the Provost Court, has been published in the *Era* with an emphatic denial of its correctness by the Acting Mayor, Capt. Miller:

"Acting Mayor Miller being recalled, said that it had been under advisement to stop the concert referred to—the fact of Dr. Mercer's not sending him and his officers complimentary tickets being regarded as a purposed slight to Federal officers—but, on reflection, it was concluded not to interfere with it for charity's sake."

That portion of our report we stated at the time was handed to us by a friend; and we have no hesitation in admitting that, as we have no personal knowledge on the point, it is due to Capt. Miller that we publish the fact of his denial of the statements in the above paragraph. *(Reporter.)*

Second District Court—Judge Whitaker.—A decision was rendered yesterday in the matter of the succession of Paul Bonille. Bonille died in April, 1860. His property was inventoried at $2700, and the proceeds of the sale amounted to only $630 after all the law charges were paid, while the law charges were no less than $820. The opposition of the judgment creditor, D. B. McCarthy, was sustained, the law charges were considerably reduced, the account thus tendered to be homologated, and the funds distributed accordingly. With the diminished charges there was sufficient to pay all the debts, while under the old arrangement there was a deficiency of $520.

[FROM OUR EVENING EDITION OF YESTERDAY.]

The Steamer Creole.—This fast-sailing and favorite steamship, which had been temporarily withdrawn from the trade between New York and this city, we learn will leave New York on the 4th of April for this port. The Creole has been thoroughly refitted, and has ample accommodations for one hundred passengers. Captain Couch, the polite gentleman and able officer, is still in command of her.

One Days' Later News from the North.

A New York *World* of the 19th, received in the city, gives one days' later news than that brought over by the Roanoke.

CAVALRY ENGAGEMENT ON THE RAPPAHANNOCK.

The Falmouth correspondent of the *World* writes from that place on the 17th, giving the particulars of a cavalry engagement between Stuart's and Averill's forces, in which the former is reported to have been defeated. The fight is said to have lasted five hours. The forces were about two thousand on each side.

Major Breckinridge, a cousin of Gen. Breckinridge, is among the prisoners. About 80 prisoners had been brought in.

The engagement took place near Kelley's Ford, about twenty five miles above Falmouth.

IMPORTANT FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

A dispatch from Fortress Monroe, dated the 19th instant, gives the first particulars of the attack against Fort Huger, obtained from Richmond papers of the 17th. The following startling announcement is also made in the dispatch:

The city of Mexico has been captured by the French. This report is taken from Richmond papers of the 17th, but it is supposed to have reached Richmond by telegraph from Houston, Texas, by way of Fort Hudson; having come across the Rio Grande by some of the trains that are now continually passing to and from Mexico across the Rio Grande.

THE PEACE RESOLUTIONS IN THE NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE.

In the New Jersey Assembly, on the evening of the 17th, the peace resolutions so long under discussion in that body were finally passed by a vote of 38 to 13.

PROBABLE CAPTURE OF THE NEGRO INSURRECTIONARY EXPEDITION.

The *World* learns from its Port Royal correspondent, who writes under date of the 14th, that on Thursday night a steamer came in from Fernandina with reports indicating that the force of 1000 negroes which seconded the St Mary's river on the 9th of March had been probably captured.

The correspondent adds:

It will be remembered that this force carried with it several thousand muskets for the avowed purpose of supplying with arms all the slaves whom they could incite to insurrection. If the report referred to prove true, both the negroes and their commanders, Cols. Higginson and Montgomery, and all the white officers have probably been shot in accordance with the announcement made by Jeff. Davis in his proclamation relative to the beheadment of President Lincoln's emancipation proclamation.

One Day's Later News from Europe.

Our files of Havana papers furnish us with one day's later news from Europe. The English steamer Conway, which arrived at Havana on the 23d, from Southampton on the 3d, brings the following additional news from Europe:

THE POLISH INSURRECTION.

The following are the latest dispatches:

Cracow, March 1.—Forty thousand Russians are marching against Bug. Orders have been sent from St. Petersburg for the immediate suppression of the insurrection. At Malagozaz the Russians had four thousand troops and six pieces of artillery. They attacked the insurgents at Lassewiez in three columns. The Russians lost 400 men. The Prefect and other Russian employees at Mielchyn took refuge in the Austrian territory. Cossacks are asking protection against the Russian soldiers.

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS IN SPAIN.

Paris, March 1.—Serious doubts have arisen with regard to the effect of the late Ministerial crisis in Madrid, on the reception of Senor Isturiz, which was to have taken place to-day. At the moment of writing, we do not think that contrary measures have been adopted. Every thing leads us to believe that the Ambassador of Spain will present to-day to the Emperor, in a private audience, his credentials.

Paris, March 2.—The reception of the Spanish Embassador, which was to have taken place yesterday, has been postponed to Monday.

The Chamber of Deputies of Berlin adopted the motion for the absolute neutrality of Prussia, with regard to Polish affairs. The vote stood, 246 votes against 57.

Interesting from Washington.

We give below a summary of the most interesting items of Washington intelligence, contained in our recent files of Northern papers:

PROSPECTS OF AN EARLY STRATEGIC TRIUMPH ON THE MISSISSIPPI.

Under this heading the Washington correspondent of the New York *Herald* of the 13th makes the following disclosure:

The War and Navy Departments are satisfied that within a very few weeks, perhaps days, the communication of the rebels across the Mississippi river will be completely cut off, and they will thus be surrounded and reduced to a state of actual siege, without the necessity of a large expenditure of life and blood in attacking either Vicksburg or Port Hudson. Yankee ingenuity and enterprise are relied upon in this respect more than even the courage and muscle of the armies.

CONFEDERATE PRIVATEERS FOR THE PACIFIC.

The correspondent of the New York *Herald* communicates the following. In connection with this statement, it will be remembered that the schooner Chapman was seized at San Francisco by the United States officials on the 15th inst, as a Confederate privateer:

The Government is advised of rebel movements for privateers on the Pacific Ocean. The United States Consul, Mr. Allen Francis, at Victoria, Vancouver's Island, writes that an attempt had just been made, but failed, to purchase an English steamer for privateering purposes under a person named Manly, who had proceeded to San Francisco.

THE PURPOSE OF MR. CHASE'S VISIT TO NEW YORK.

The Washington correspondent of the *Herald* writes to that paper the following with regard to Mr. Chase's visit to New York:

It is believed that Mr. Chase visits New York to make a loan of fifty millions of dollars, which is required for the payment of adjudicated claims.

CONFEDERATE PRISONERS AT WASHINGTON.

The *Times*' correspondent writes from Washington as follows:

Two hundred and eighty rebel prisoners were conveyed from the Old Capitol Prison, to-day, to the steamer State of Maine, which will take them to City Point, under flag of truce, to be exchanged. They were enthusiastically saluted, both at the Old Capitol and at the wharf, by a large number of persons, including women. The rebels were evidently delighted with the salutations they received from their friends. They were escorted by a strong guard.

HORSE THIEVES IN THE ARMY.

Recent developments lead to the belief that an organized band of horse thieves exists in the army. Large number of animals are daily disappearing.

The Troubles in Europe.

The London correspondent of the New York *Herald* writes under date of the 28th, as follows:

The insurrection in Poland bids fair to eclipse in interest the American war. Parliament, after five hours' debate, seems about unanimous that a direct expression of opinion should go forth from the British Legislature as to the future position of Russia towards the Powers of Continental Europe. If France and England act in accord on the subject, I do not see how Russia can get along without going to war or giving independence to Poland. Perhaps Russia will not want to repeat the tragedy of the Crimea just now, and may therefore submit to the demands of the Polish people. Rebellion is right in all countries except in Great Britain, and there it is the greatest of crimes. Such is the Englishman's creed. No doubt, in the case of the Poles, they are deserving of sympathy and success.

THE AMERICAN QUESTION.

The same writer says:

There is a rapid reaction going on here throughout the three kingdoms on the subject of America. Secesh is losing ground hourly, and ground that can never be recovered if the Federals gain some battles. The "friends of the South" talked blood, recognition and villainous saltpetre as soon as Parliament opened. Parliament was to do everything for the "Confeds." But it proved great cry and little wool. Parliament has been in session about four weeks, and not one honorable member has dared to ask for the recognition of the South, or even asked the Government what they intend to do about the matter. Every one knows what they intend to do. They intend to "let 'em alone severely."

The French Press and Mr. Seward's Reply.

The Paris correspondent of the New York *Herald* writes as follows, under date of the 27th ultimo:

Not a word of comment upon this refusal to accept the last attempt at the Emperor's dictation appears in the official journal or has as yet been published in any of the other papers. These latter have been waiting for their cue. It may be a very different one from what it might have been some days since, when it was openly stated in high political circles that, in case of a negative reply to this last offer, the recognition of the Southern Confederacy would immediately follow, and the blockade be broken. Then there was not so much prospect as there seems now to be of Europe being involved in a general war upon the Polish question, the Emperor endeavoring to make up for the damage done to his popularity by the ill fated expedition to Mexico by aiding the Poles in the conquest of their independence, and at the same time endeavoring to add to French territory by the acquisition of the Rhenish provinces. All this seems by no means unlikely now; and, with this contingency in view, his Majesty's decision as to what course he will take in American affairs, will doubtless be considerably modified by it. We shall see in a day or two by the tone of the semi-official press.

What the Secessionists in Paris say about State Rights and Universal Suffrage.

The Paris correspondent of the *Herald* says under the above heading:

I have been struck in my conversations with secessionists in Paris by the unanimity with which they agree upon two important points, and I can but infer that the opinions which they express upon them are imbibed at the fount of authority, for the leaders and prominent men in the rebellion. I have never conversed with one upon the subject who does not scout the idea of State sovereignty as an abstract theory, and who does not say that in a few years after the adoption of the Constitution by the Southern Confederacy he believes that State lines will be obliterated and a strong consolidated government established. The State rights doctrine, they intimate, is only made use of now as a means to carry on the war, and when it is effected Southern States to the aid of the general cause, but all agree that a firm central power, in which the idea of any subsequent right of secession shall be essentially squelched out, is the ultimate aim and object of the leaders of the Southern movement.

The other idea, from which I have never heard a word of dissent among the Southerners in Paris—one, indeed, which they are particularly fond of urging—is, that the right of universal suffrage must be taken away. Only the people and none but "gentlemen" and men of property be permitted to exercise the electoral privilege. This is, indeed, one of the grounds upon which they appeal to England for sympathy—that the United States have given the negro race in which "the mob" shall no more rule. A considerable portion of Colonel Hinton Helper's book, recently published in England, on North and South, by the white republican of *Free Society's Missionary* and which has become a text book for the emancipists in Europe, is devoted to proving that free suffrage is the great bane of the country. I state these facts—facts which are beyond the power of denial—the people of the United States can draw from them their own conclusions.

The Peace Propositions of Mr. Conrad.

In our Southern advices a short time since reference was made to resolutions presented in the Confederate Congress by Mr Conrad, tending to a re establishment of peace. We now now find the text of the resolutions, which we present below:

From the Richmond Dispatch, March 11.

Confederate States Congress, March 11.

Mr Conrad offered the following preamble and resolutions:

Whereas, The present Administration of the United States, by its reckless disregard of all constitutional restraints, by its persistent efforts to subvert the institutions of these States, and the ferocious war which it is waging for that purpose, has created a feeling of distrust and apprehensions of our people, and fully justified their wisdom and foresight in arresting, by timely separation from the Union, the calamities which a longer continuance in it would have rendered inevitable; and whereas it is the intention of the people of the United States recently manifested their disapproval of the war, of the objects for which and the manner in which it is conducted, and their desire for its speedy termination, and whereas foreign powers, notably the Government of France, have expressed a similar desire. Now, therefore, the Congress of the Confederate States, deeply impressed with the conviction that it is their duty to leave no means untried to put an end to the calamities of war, which afflict the world and disastrous to the parties engaged, believing that its prolongation can only tend to embitter and perpetuate feelings of hostility between States, which however politically disunited, must ever be intimately connected by the ties of language and religion, and by the immutable laws of geographical amity and of mutual demand and supply, deem the present time, when there is a momentary pause in conflict, a suitable one to utter the words of peace. The Senate and House of Representatives of the Confederate States do therefore resolve that they will cordially co-operate with the Executive in any measures it may adopt, consistent with the honor, the dignity and independence of these States, tending to a speedy restoration of peace with all or with any of the States of the Federal Union. The resolution was referred, without debate, to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Conrad was Mr. Fillmore's Secretary of War and an old Whig.

Affairs at Key West—Capture of the Petrel—The Virginia and the Adela.

The Key West correspondent of the New York *Times*, writing under date of the 8th inst., communicates the following intelligence:

The English steamer Peterhoff, of London, has just come into the harbor, in charge of Acting Master E Lewis, having been captured by the U S steamer Vanderbilt, off the harbor of St. Thomas, W. I. She is a large screw steamer, under command of an English naval officer, with many passengers, among them an agent of Lloyds. Her cargo, as manifested, is blankets, shoes, clothe, clothing, &c., &c., and it is said that some of the goods on board are on board. The ship was regularly cleared at London for Matamoras, and is one of those cases which usually escape condemnation, unless caught in the act of entering some blockaded port. She is a very valuable vessel and cargo, and should she prove a prize, the proceeds will tell in the exchequer of the captors.

Two condemned English steamers leave here to-day for New York and a market. They are both loaded with prize goods, captured in other vessels sent on for sale. One is the Virginia, the other the Adela, whose case has been so long before the Court. The bark Mahlon Williamson and brig J M. Sawyer also leave here to day for New York, with cargoes of prize goods, which have proven a prize, the proceeds of which will be paid into the exchequer of the country. I state these facts—facts which are beyond the power of denial—the people of the United States can draw from them their own conclusions.

The French Press and Mr. Seward's Reply.

The Paris correspondent of the New York *Herald* writes as follows, under date of the 27th ultimo:

Not a word of comment upon this refusal to accept the last attempt at the Emperor's dictation appears in the official journal or has as yet been published in any of the other papers. These latter have been waiting for their cue. It may be a very different one from what it might have been some days since, when it was openly stated in high political circles that, in case of a negative reply to this last offer, the recognition of the Southern Confederacy would immediately follow, and the blockade be broken. Then there was not so much prospect as there seems now to be of Europe being involved in a general war upon the Polish question, the Emperor endeavoring to make up for the damage done to his popularity by the ill fated expedition to Mexico by aiding the Poles in the conquest of their independence, and at the same time endeavoring to add to French territory by the acquisition of the Rhenish provinces. All this seems by no means unlikely now; and, with this contingency in view, his Majesty's decision as to what course he will take in American affairs, will doubtless be considerably modified by it. We shall see in a day or two by the tone of the semi-official press.

What the Secessionists in Paris say about State Rights and Universal Suffrage.

The Paris correspondent of the *Herald* says under the above heading:

I have been struck in my conversations with secessionists in Paris by the unanimity with which they agree upon two important points, and I can but infer that the opinions which they express upon them are imbibed at the fount of authority, for the leaders and prominent men in the rebellion. I have never conversed with one upon the subject who does not scout the idea of State sovereignty as an abstract theory, and who does not say that in a few years after the adoption of the Constitution by the Southern Confederacy he believes that State lines will be obliterated and a strong consolidated government established. The State rights doctrine, they intimate, is only made use of now as a means to carry on the war, and when it is effected Southern States to the aid of the general cause, but all agree that a firm central power, in which the idea of any subsequent right of secession shall be essentially squelched out, is the ultimate aim and object of the leaders of the Southern movement.

The other idea, from which I have never heard a word of dissent among the Southerners in Paris—one, indeed, which they are particularly fond of urging—is, that the right of universal suffrage must be taken away. Only the people and none but "gentlemen" and men of property be permitted to exercise the electoral privilege. This is, indeed, one of the grounds upon which they appeal to England for sympathy—that the United States have given the negro race in which "the mob" shall no more rule. A considerable portion of Colonel Hinton Helper's book, recently published in England, on North and South, by the white republican of *Free Society's Missionary* and which has become a text book for the emancipists in Europe, is devoted to proving that free suffrage is the great bane of the country. I state these facts—facts which are beyond the power of denial—the people of the United States can draw from them their own conclusions.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Bidexcare Robbery and Arrest.—The residence of J. M. Lejeune, on the corner of St Ann and St Claude streets, in the Second District, was entered on Saturday night and robbed of some silver plate. The celebrated, if not notorious, Samuel Smith, is especially suspected of being the perpetrator of this robbery, as he is reported to have been seen in the house before the robbery. Smith is a desperate character, and should he prove a prize, the watchman being on the qui vive, arrested the illustrious Samuel as he was in the act of leaving the scene of his exploit with the spoils.

Gun Seizure.—A musket, belonging to a member of the Home Guard, was seized in the Second District yesterday, and the party was brought into public notice by being raised against Constable McMahon, of the Fifth Justice's Court, to prevent the making a seizure.

Provost Court—Judge Peabody—Monday Morning.—Appopolonia Brown, so sick and feeble that she fell while tottering to the bar, was arraigned on the charge of arson. A bale of hay was found on the outside of the kitchen of the premises occupied by her and others, at 131 Front Levee street, but there was no evidence contradicting her declaration that she was in bed when the fire occurred, and the case was dismissed.

John Welch was charged with having contraband goods in his house, at the Lake end of the Pontchartrain Railroad—a lot of stationery, coffee, &c., including a shot gun. He could only say that he had taken them to his house from the depot for another man, and knew nothing of what he intended to do with them. Some witnesses in the case being absent, it was continued.

Reliac Gregoire, a young man, was accused of larceny, appropriating to himself seven money and clothing, which he obtained from a lady on the false representation that he would take them to her son in Fort Pickens. It was three months ago, and the lady has just come across the offender. Continued to see the result, and he was sent to prison three months.

P Ugarte, a Spaniard, was up on the charge of peddling cigars without license. It was shown that when arrested he was only taking to an employer eight boxes of cigars which he had manufactured at his own house, but he was fined ten dollars for having no license of any kind.

COMMERCIAL.

OFFICE OF THE BEE,
MONDAY EVENING, March 30, 1863.

COTTON.—On Saturday, not previously reported, 20 bales Low Middling sold at 80c. To-day, 90 bales good Ordinary and Low Middling sold at 75c. @ 80.

SUGAR.—The sales to-day embrace 70 hhds. in several lots, at 8½c. for good Common, and 8¾c. for Fair, new crop, and 11¾c. for Fully Fair to Prime, old crop.

MOLASSES.—The demand is good, and prices have advanced; the sales embracing about 300 hhds, in various lots, at 32@34c. for new crop, 33@34c. for new Fermenting, and 41@42c. for Prime.

LARD.—A lot of 15 tierces choice old sold at 12½c. @ ——.

FLOUR.—The retail demand is supplied at $12 for Superfine, and $13 for Extra.

PORK.—A lot of 100 bbls. good even weight Mess sold at $16 @ bbl.

MISCELLANEOUS.—The following sales were made at auction to-day: 15 bbls. Mess Beef at $16, 100 half do. Prime at $7; 20 bbls Mess Pork at $16; 200 bxs Starch at 6@6½c.; 100 boxes ground Rye at 4½@5c.; 50 bxs Rice at $4 20@4 50; 75 kegs Butter at 29@30c.; 70 half chests Tea at $2 90@3, and 100 bbls. Superfine Flour at $10 80 @ bbl.

Cattle Market.

JEFFERSON CITY, March 31, 1863.

Arrived Saturday 63 Beeves, 22 Hogs and 40 Veals. Amount of stock sold was 74 Beeves, 17 Hogs and 40 Veals. Saturday's sale in detail: 3 Beeves, 1,200 lbs. each, at 5c. Hogs, 80 Sheep, 7 Veals and 3 Milch Cows. We quote:

Beeves, 1st quality, @ lb net	6@6c
Beeves, 2d quality, @ lb net	5@5c
Beeves, 3d quality, @ lb net	4@4c
Veal, 1st quality, @ head	25@25
Veal, 2d quality, @ head	20@20
Hogs, @ lb. gross	12@12c
Milch