True d'Aitness.

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, JAN. 3, 1862

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

THERE has been a kind of full in European polities for some few weeks, and public attention has been so generally concentrated upon the American question, and the great issues therein involved, that, for the moment, the great drama working itself out in Italy has lost much of its attraction. Indeed the debates, long winded, declamatory, and unprofitable, of the bogus Italian Parliament, are not of a nature to arrest the attention of strangers, and to such wordy warfare has the battle betwirt Italian revolutionists and their adversaries, of late been confined. It is, however, highly satisfactory to learn from such good authority as the Times' correspondent, that the Italian Parliament is a kind of beargarden, whose minates are intent upon tearing ope another to pieces. South rises up against North; Neapolituus against Piedmontese; and then bearts embittered by old national jealousies, honorable members devote themselves to unscripulous blackguarding; so that in despair of the regeneration of Italy by such men, the revolutionary correspondent of the Times, confeeses homself " sick at heart," with " debates which would be as dull as a theological controversy - were it not for what men here call ' incidents," but which in England would go by the name of "scenes," and approach indeed, very nearly to what might be described as ' fraeas.' "

The chief cause of these contentions is to be found in the meradicable hostility of the Neapolitaus to the Piedmontese, and the aversion of he former to the agricultion of their once independent country to the dominions of the robber King of Sardinia. The attitude of the Kingdom of Naples towards the North of Italy is as that of Ireland towards England during the nineteenth century; and in the words of the Timer' correspondent by us above quoted :-

" The Neapolitans and Sicilians are now the only elements of disorder and dissolution in the Chamber even those of the Northern deputies who shine forth in these deplorable debates as promoters of disorder have been returned as representatives of Southern • • • The Neapolitan band is to the Carignano Palace what the Irish Brigade was to St. Stephen's."

This arowal is most important; for it is equivalent to an admission of the truth of the statements put forth by the Conservative and Catholic press, respecting the universal hatred which the people of Naples and Sicily entertain towards Victor Emmanuel. The Kingdom of Naples is a conquered Province; and the Neapolitans, even though they may not be warmly attached to Francis 2d, entertain an intense and universal detestation of Piedmontese rule, and aunexation to the kingdom of Sardina. It must be remembered, too, that the Neapolitan members, whom the Times' correspondent likens to the " Irish Brigade," are the representatives. not of the avowed adherents of the King of Naples, but of that party which is the least hostile to the revolution, and to the armed intervention of Sardines.

The tone of the French press upon the Trent outrage is unanimous. It universally condemns the action of Capt. Wilkes, and represents the public opinion of France upon the matter in dispute, as identical with that of England. It is also binted that General Scott by the advice of Louis Napoleon, burried home in order to use his influence with his government to induce it to retire from an untenable position.

In England the war spirit continues unabated. and no efforts are being spared to place the defences of Canada on a proper footing. An army of 12,000 men, small indeed in point of numhers, but perfect in organisation and equipment is on its way to our shores; and the Times assures us that, if circumstances require it, that army shall be raised before midsummer to forty thousand.

Though the Trent affair has been amicably settled, it would ill-become the people of Canada to desist from their defensive preparations .-To show oneself ready for war is the hest guarantee for the preservation of peace; therefore should the organisation of our militia and volunteers proceed with as much activity as ever. We know not where or when another casus belli may emerge, and we should be prepared for every possible contingency.

THE AMERICAN IMPROOLIO The war which but a few days ago seemed imminent; ineaverted, but postponed. The Washington Cabinet has "cheerfully" acceeded to the demands of the British Government; and by promptly releasing its prisoners, unlawfully seized from on board the Trent, has made umende honorable for the wrong-doing of an over-zealous officer.

In this there is certainly nothing humiliating to the great nation whose honor is in the charge of President Lincoln; nor is it either prudent or generous on the part of some of our contemporaries to taunt the Northerners with want of pluck. The American press in many instances, and the populace of several large acities, did indeed commit themselves by the foolish ovations which they accorded to Captain Wilkes; but the Executive behaved with prudent reserve, and was thus enabled to give up the prisoners, upon demand, without loss of dignity or dereliction of principle. Indeed, as Mr. Seward puts it, the surrender of Messrs. Slidell and Mason could not be refused by the Americans, without practical repudiation of the very principles of maritime law, as applied to neutrals, for which the United States have always contended; and but for one unfortunate puragraph in Mr. Seward's reply to Lord Lyons, we should feel that the Washington Cabinet had, whilst fully maintaining its moral elevation, gracefully yielded the bodies of the prisoners, in order to assert against England a time-honored principle. Unfortunately, one passage in Mr. Seward's correspondence deprives the act of his Government of all its grace, and of all its diguity.

The official correspondence we publish below, marking in Italics the one objectionable passage

The first is a letter from Secretary Seward to Minister Adams, dated Nov. 30, in which he compliments the latter for wisely speaking and acting at the Lord Mayor's Dinner; and also states that he told Lord Palmerston a simple fact when informing him that the life of the insurrection was sustained by the bopes of its recognition by England and France, and if those hopes ceased the insurrection would perish in ninety days.

He refers in the same note to the fact of the arrest of Siidell and Mason, as a new and unforeseen circumstance, which is to be met by the two goveruments, if possible, in a kindly spirit.

Lord Lyons had said nothing on the subject, and no explanations were furnished the Minister Adams, it being deemed prudent that the ground taken by the British Government should be first made known here, and a discussion be had here; but Mr. Seward deemed it proper to state that Capt. Wilkes acted without instructions, and the subject, therefore, is free from embarrassments, if the act had been specially directed. He trusts the British Government will consider the subject in a friendly temper, and it may expect the best disposition on our part.

Next comes Earl Russell's letter :-

Foreign Office, Nov. 30th. My Lord-Intelligence of a very grave nature has reached Her Majesty's Government—this intelligence was conveyed officially to the knowledge of the Admiralty by Commander Williams, agent for mails on board of contract etenmer Trent. It appears from the letter of Commander Williams, dated Royal Mail Contract Packet Trent, at sea November 9th, that the Trent left Havanna on the 7th instant with her Majesty's mails for England, having on board numerous passengers. Commander Williams states that shortly after noon on the 8th a steamer having the appearance of a man of war, but not showing colors was observed ahead. On nearing her at P. M. she munication which you have made to me. I will fired a round shot from her pivot gun across the also, without delay, do myself the honor to confer Trent, and showed American colors; while the Trent was approaching her slowly the American vessel discharged a shell across the bows of the Trent exploding half a cable's length ahead of her

The Trent then stopped, and an officer, with a large armed guard of marines, boarded her. The officer demanded a list of the passengers, and compliance with this demand being refused the officer said he had orders to arrest Messrs. Mason, Slidell, McFarlane and Rustis, and that he had sure information of their being passengers in the Trent.

While some parley was going on upon this mat ter, Mr. Slidell stepped forward and told the American officer that the four persons he had named were then standing before him.

The commander of the Trent, and Commander Williams protested against the act of taking by force out of the Irent these four passengers, then under the protection of the British flag; but the San Jucinto was at that time only two hundred yards from the Trent, her abin's company at quarters, her ports open, and tompions out. Resistance, was, therefore, out of the question, and the four gentlemen before named were forcibly taken out of the ship.

A further demand was made that the commander of the Trent should proceed on board the San Jucinto but he said he would not go unless forcibly compelled likewise, and this demand was not insisted

It thus appears that certain individuals have been fereibly taken from on board a British vessel, the ship of a gentral power, while such vessel was pursuing a lawful and innocent voyage, an act of violence which was no affront to the British flag, and a

violation of international law. Her Majesty's Government having in mind the friendly relations which have long subsisted between Great Britain and the United States, are willing to believe that the U.S. nava! officer who committed this aggression was not acting in compliance with any authority from his Government; or that if he conceived himself to be so authorized he greatly misuaderstood the instructions which he had received; for the Government of the United States must be fully aware that the British Government could not allow such an affront to national honor to pass without full reparation, and Her Majesty's Government are unwilling to believe that it could be the deliberate intention of the Government of the United States unnecessarily to force into discussion between the two Governments a question of so grave a character, and with regard to which the whole British nation would be sure to entertain such unanimity of

Her Majesty's Government therefore trust that, when the matter shall have been brought under the consideration of the Government of the United States, that Government will of its own accord offer to the British Government such redress as alone could satisfy the British nation, namely-The liberation of the four gentlemen, and their delivery to your lordship, in order that they may again be placed under British protection, and a suitable apology for the aggression which has been committed. Should these terms not be offered by Mr. Seward,

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

After discussing the whole subject at great length in all its bearings, Mr. Seward says: "lirust I bave shown to the satisfaction of the Britvitable, has been thank God! we do not say ish Government, by a very simple and natural state-ment of facts and analysis of law applicable to them, that this government has neither meditated nor prac-tized nor approved any deliberate wrong in the transaction to which they have called its attention and on the contrary that what has happened has been simply an inadvertency, consisting in a departure by the naval officer, free from any wrongful motive, from a rule uncertainly established and probably by the several parties concerned, either imper-

fectly understood or entirely unknown. For this error the British Government has a night to expect the same reparation that we, as an independent State, should expect from Great Britain or from any other friendly nation in a similar case.

I have not been unaware that in examining this question I have fallen into an argument for what seems to be the British side of it against my own country, but I am relieved from all embarrassment on

that subject. I had hardly fallen into that line of argument when I discovered that I was really defending and maintaining, not an exclusively British interest, but an old honored and cherished American cause, not upon British authorities, but upon principles that constitute a large portion of the distinctive policy, by which the United States have developed the resources of a continent, and thus becoming a considerable maritime power, have won the respect and canfidence of many nations.

These principles were laid down for us by James Madison in 1804, when Secretary of State under Jefferson, in instructions to James Monroe, then Minister to England.

Mr. Seward says, after quoting those instructions

"If I decide this case in favor of my own Government, I must disallow its most cherished principles -adhering to that policy I must surrender the case itself. It will be seen, therefore that this Government could not deny the justice of the claim pre-

We are asked to do the British nation just what we have always insisted all nations ought to do to

In coming to my conclusion, I have not forgotter that if in safety this Union required the detention of the captured persons, it would be the right and duty of this Government to detain them; but the effectual check and waning proportions of the existing insurrec-tion, as well as the comparative unimportance of the captured persons themselves, when dipassionately weigh

ed, happily forbid me from resorting to that defence Nor am I unaware that American citizens are not in any case to be unnecessarily surrendered for any purpose into the keeping of a foreign State. Only the captured persons, however, and others who are interested in them, could justly raise a question on that ground. It would tell little for our own claims to the character of a just and magnanimous people if we should so far consent to be guided by the law of retaliation as to lift up burfed injuries against national consistency and national conscience.

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

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

I renew my assurance of my very high consideration.

(Signed,) W. H. SEWARD.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27th. The Hon. W. H. SEWARD, &c.

Sir, - I have this morning received the note which you did me the honor to address to me yesterday, in answer to Earl Russell's despatch of November 30th, relative to the removal of Messrs. Mason and Slidell, and McFarlane and Rustis, from the British mail packet Trent.

I will without loss of time, forward to Her Majesty's Government a copy of the important comwith you personally on the arrangement to be made for delivering the four gentlemen to me, in order that they may be again placed under the protect ion of the British flag.

I have the honor to be, &c,, LYONS. (Sigued,)

But for the extraordinary passage in the above correspondence, by us italicised, we should say that the Washington Cabinet had extricated itself from the difficulty with honor and dignity. What, however, are we to think of the political morality of a people whose rulers, representatives and statesmen proclaim to the world that they would violate a principle which they admit to be just, if the interests of the community, in their opinion, required them to do so; and who consent to do that which they recognise it to be their duty to do, solely because by so doing they put themselves to no inconvenience. It is as if a person called upon to pay his debts were to admit that every bonest man should pay his debts-provided they were of small amount and of "comparative unimportance." Mr. Seward admits that Great Britain, in demanding the release of Messrs. Slidell and Mason, demands only that the Americans should do to others iust what they have always insisted all nations ought to do to them;" and in the very next paragraph of his letter he tells us quite coolly that he would, of course, violate this golden rule if anything were to be gained by so doing; and that he submits himself to it in the present instance, only because it is not worth his while to do otherwise, - and because of " the comparative unimportance of the captured persons themselves." A more undignified dishonorable avoival we never met with; we know of no case in which a man has so unqualifiedly and gratuitously written himself down as an unscrunglous, unprincipled knave. Almost do we believe that some error has crept into the text of the official correspondence; and that the language of the American Secretary of State has been grossly perverted from its original meaning.

If, however, we are mistaken in this, we do hope that there is yet enough of regard for honesty and common sense amongst the people of indignation against the offending Minister us price, except dishonor," should, we say, be the latter and Great Britain? We trow not.

shall burt him from office, and put it for the future out of his power to disgrace and stultify the American community. If, on the contrary our neighbors allow the sentiments expressed by Mr. Seward to pass uncondemned, we shall be forced to conclude they are the sentiments of the people; and that in consequence the moral standard of the latter is as low as that of the hypocrite of sanctimonious cheat; who ostentatiously renognising, in theory, the obligation of doing to others as he would that others should do unto him, practically and without compunction, ignores and violates that fundamental law, and golden rule, whenever its observance would cause inconvenience, or entail danger of loss.

Leaving it, in the meantime, to the Americans themselves to vindicate their honor, honesty, and intelligence, so monstrously impugued by their own Secretary of State, we thank God that, for the present, the scourge of war basbeen averted. Such a contest as that with which we were lately threatened, is one by no means to be despised, nor are our Republican neighbors, adversaries for whom it would be wise or just to entertain feelings of contempt. They are not-because of their peculiar political and social institutions-rery easily amenable to strict military discipline; and the hard handed Wisconsin lumberer, described by the Times special correspondent, as sitting with his loaded rifle at full cock, on the stump of a tree, smoking his pipe and reading his newspaper, happy in the sublime consciousness of thus fulfilling his highest duties as a citizen and as a sentinelmay be a very good type of the Yankee manat-arms. Yet no country possesses better raw material for making soldiers of, than do the Northern States, in their bardy, intelligent, and rough looking citizens. No better sailors ever trod a ship's deck than are to be found amongst the sea-faring population of the Atlantic States; and of their pluck, and love of fighting, we had a specimen at the affair in the Perbo. Foolish scribblers may sneer about the heroes of Bull's Run: but we have yet to learn that raw levies, under similar circumstances, whether from amongst our best Canadian Militia, or the sturdy yeomanry of England, would behave themselves one whit better than did the runaway Northerners; and we have every reason to believe that the uncouth cub on the Potomac is being licked into very respectable, and indeed formidable shape, by the superintending genius of General McClellan .-If forced to fight such men, our volunteers and militia would no doubt do their duty, and give a good account of themselves; but-we honestly confess it - we would much rather be at peace than at war with the Yankees.

If invective were as formidable a weapon as the sword, or if the foul tongue could supply the place of the stout heart, then were we unhappy Canadians no better than "gone coons." We might as well yield at discretion, and surrender ourselves to the tender mercies of our blustering and somewhat scurrilous antagonists. As far as talk, the tallest of its kind, goes, we may already took upon ourselves as knocked into an eternal smash, or in the language of the poet " as most catawampously chawed up." Billingsgate fish hags have earned for themselves a world-wide. even if unenviable, notoriety for preeminence in the art of scolding; but for downright hearty abuse, commend us to a section of the Yankee press, and its " war contributors."

This mode of warfare does not ut all surprise us in the columns of what may be termed the " grog shop" press, for its patrons like both their liquor and their editorials strong. But it both surprises and pains us when we meet with it in the pages of the religious journals, and more especially in the pages of self-styled Catholic papers. The cast off mantle of the renowned Jefferson Brick may, without inconsistency, or provoking comment, be picked up by the "penny a-line;" of the New York Herald; but it sits most ungracefully upon the shoulders of the Catholic journalist, whose duty at all times, and especially at this season, is to take up and repear the angelic strain, " in terra pax hominibus bonce voluntatis, -on earth peace to men of men, he, at all events, had no right to make such

How any man of common seuse can wish for war betwix: Great Britain and the United States, passes our comprehension; how any Cathelic journalist can so far forget the responsibility of his position, and the requirements of his religion, as to pander to popular prejudices. as to seek to fan into a blaze the embers of strife, and thus to render a rupture almost inevitable, is still more incomprehensible. War even when most successful, is one of the great est of scourges with which a people can be visited; and there is nothing in the eyes of a truly Christian man, and of the brave soldier more painful than the spectacle of a great victory-unless it be a great defeat. Dong nobis pacem; " give peace in our time, for there is none other who fighteth for us, but only Thou our God," is the prayer which the Catholic Church places in the mouths of her children; and this prayer should be in their hearts as well the Northern States, to raise such a storm of as on their lips. "Peace, peace at almost any immediate outbreak of hostilities betwirt the

object of every good man, and of the Catholic journalist above all the state of the same of the same

And that it is so with a large number of our Catholic contemporaries of the neighbouring States, we are ready to believe; for with some few exceptions there is nowhere to be found a higher, parer-toned, and more admirably conducted press than that which is to be found amongst our co-religionists of the Northern States. As American citizens their sympathies are naturally, and very properly, with the Government beneath whose laws they live; but they do not, for that reason, devote their columns to wholesale tirades against the "British Lion" or to fulsome and fustian laudations of the " Star Spangled Banner." Such mawk. ish platitudes, such braggart twaddling, such Billingsgate scolding, and unchristian appeals to the worst passions of the rabble, they, for the most part, leave to their secular contemporaries of the grog-shop press, amongst whom they are not out of place.

We say " for the most part;" we wish that, with due regard for truth, we could say that all : our Catholic contemporaries pursued this dignihed and patriotic course. It is not in our power to do so; and with shame as Catholics, we confess that amongst those contemporaries are to be found some of the most flagrant offenders against truth, decency, good taste, and Christian charity; some, whose ambition seems to be to emulate the vileness of the N. Y. Herald; who make a trade of their religion; who profess Popers with an eye to business and their subscription lists; and who by their indiscriminate abuse of everything British, weaken the arguments of their more moderate contemporaries, and cast ridicule upon the well-founded complaints of Irish Catholies against British misrule. There is nothing so damaging to the best of causes as to lavish indiscriminate abuse upon its opponents; and of this most damaging policy we pretend that the "blood and thunder" contributor to the Boston Pilot has been guilty, in the following choice morceau:-

"Britain is the detested of nations. The powers of the earth would attend her funeral in exultation. May we all live to see that procession! What a length it would have ! - And what a tumult of deep curses, maledictions and execution would rise splitting the air at it! France would be present with joy; Spain would attend it with the same sentiment; Russia would hasteo down to it from the North with all its might; Austria would attempt to have the first place in the retinue; distant India would have a triamphant mock funeral on the banks of the Ganges; America would be no kindlier than other nations; the Scotch would be in the line in memory of Robert Bruce; and the ancient Kingdom of Ireland would buil the interment as the resurrection of its independence. The bustard Confederacy of the South steelf, would, perhaps, be there to spe its betters. For England there is no generous regard throughout the world .--She deserves none. She knows that. She will not provoke a war that would endanger her existencewhich is to be ismented. In the meantime, all honor to Captain Wilkes!"

Leaving altogether out of sight the extreme silliness and bad taste of the above, and treating with all the respect which they deserve, the vaticinations of the seer who predicts that the Scotch would exult in the humiliation and destruction of Britain "in memory of Robert Bruce" - risum teneatis amici? - we would take the liberty of reminding the prophet that, whatever the faults of Britain, or her sins against the Church, it does not become a citizen of Massachusetts to take up his parable against her. England has, both in her domestic and in her foreign policy, been guilty of many national sur; of much which all Catholics must condenue, and which British Catholics must both deplore and condemn. But the worst acts of England have their parallel in the United States; the penel legislation against Catholics of the former was exceeded to diabolical malignity by the penal legislation of the New England Puritons; and up. til lately, the foreign policy of the Boush Empire has been always lemmently Conservative, and anti-Jacobin, and therefore, a noticy of which all Catholics should cordially approve. It is only of late years, and since, and because of, the prenonderance of the democratic element in the egislature, that in this respect the foreign policy of England has nodergone a melanchory change; and the very barred which her former Conservative policy has earned for her from the demagogues and revolutionists of Europe, is her hest claim to the respect and gratuade of the Catholie world. Wherein she has sinned most, she has sinned in pursuing the same course of policy as that which the United States have always consistently followed since their first existence as an independent pation.

And if a citizen of the United States should presume to taunt Great Britain with its treatment of Ireland-we would tell him that, of all reproach. We would remind him that if the fathers of the model Republic had not been kept in check by Great Britain, Catholic Canada would have been as unjustly and cruelly dealt with, as was Catholic Ireland during the last century; and that one of the main gravances urged against England by the authors of American independence, and in justification of the revolt of the Colonies, was the favor and engouragement shewn to Popery by the English Govern-

ment.

And before again presuming to consure the British Government, even for its many and indefensible acts of injustive towards Ireland, or for its harshness and tyranny, we would invite the Boston Pilot to a calm and unprejudiced consideration of the following question-Would the free and enlightened Government to which he is subject, have allowed to pass upnoticed, words and resolutions on the part of any portion of its citizens, as strongly expressive of sympathy with the Confederate States, as those which were uttered and adopted at a large meeting lately held in Dublin, with The O'Donoghue in the Chair, expressive of sympathy with the Northern States, and in anticipation of an

eta is denoted by eta . In [A, B] , with A is the A