

Lord Lyons to Mr. Seward.

WASHINGTON, December 27, 1861.

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 the 30th November last, relative to the removal of Mr. Mason, Mr. Slidell, Mr. McFarland, and Mr. Enstis from the British mail packet "Trent."

I will, without any loss of time, forward to her Majesty's government a copy of the important communication which you have made to me.

I will also without delay, do myself the honor to confer with you personally on the arrangements to be made for delivering the four gentlemen to me, in order that they may be again placed under the protection of the British flag.

I have the honor to be, with the highest consideration, sir, your most obedient humble servant,

LYONS.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, &c., &c., &c.

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December 27, 1861.

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