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JAMES POOLE,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
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THE NORTH AMERICAN'S MAIL.
The London papers notice the death of Mr. J. B. Godley, assistant Under-Secretary of War, which took place on Sunday the 17th ult., at his residence at Grosvenor-place, Portman-square. The deceased was, no doubt, a brother of Mr. Godley, private secretary of Lord Monck.

Warlike preparations are being made in Italy. A letter from Naples of the 15th, in the *Italia*, says:—"The utmost activity prevails in the dockyards of Naples and Castellamare. An order has arrived from the Government directing the vessels to be repaired and re-armed. They are required to be ready for the spring, and M. Tholosano has given directions that the workmen should be employed even on the Sunday."

The Paris correspondent of the *Independent* says that an extraordinary meeting of the council was held on Sunday the 17th ult., and that the requirements of Mr. Fould met with the strongest opposition from several of the members. "Naturally," says the writer, "the opposition first proceeded from M. Walewski, who considered that his functions would be almost annulled if the demands of M. Fould were complied with. M. de Persigny backed up his colleague M. Walewski with great warmth, and M. Rouher gave his entire support to his two colleagues. Though he was an advocate of the *Union*, he thus found himself divided into two camps. The discussion became extremely warm, not to say stormy, and the Emperor, who was once the arbiter and the witness of the scene, is said to have manifested his impatience by hastily quitting the council room without giving any opinion."

REFLECTIONS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A WAR WITH THE UNITED STATES.

From the *London Times*, Nov. 21.
We do not think our Government can be justly charged, even by an enthusiastic Canadian, with regard to the Civil War in America. We support a considerable fleet in the Western waters of the Atlantic; we have reinforced to some extent the troops in our American Colonies; we have sent an expedition to Mexico, which, though dispatched with a different object, might be useful in case its services were abruptly required elsewhere; and, should it be necessary, we have other ships and other troops with which to re-inforce our present armaments. For a Power whose objects are entirely pacific, we have not been backward in the display of our resources. If any one has been inclined to think that we have done too much, a consideration of Mr. Seward's recent circular on the fortification of the Lakes and the coasts will probably convince him of the mistake. We have long ago had the authority of the American Secretary of State for saying that he has his eyes upon Canada, and our belief is not at all weakened by his endeavor to persuade us that Canada has her eyes upon him. The same reason that made Mr. Seward threaten us with an attack now makes him pretend to apprehend one; and that reason is of no other than the wish to store up, for use if required, a plausible ground of quarrel.

We imagine that the reasoning on which this desire to quarrel is founded must be something of this kind:—Should the North find herself able to conquer the South she will be left with a large army on her hands, difficult to keep up, and very possibly dangerous to disband; and in such a case how can she be content to have the title of conqueror, and the North for the checks and mortifications of a protracted civil war by a sudden and brilliant attack upon the possessions of Great Britain, as a punishment for the innumerable offences of which she has been accused during the course of the struggle? If, on the other hand, the North should see that there is but little chance of conquering the South, a quarrel with England might be exceedingly agreeable as a consolation to wounded pride, and upon our interference, and not upon the inadequacy of the resources of the Republic, might be thrown the blame of failure in the attempt to conquer the Union by force of arms. We do not doubt that our fortifications deserve a similar satisfaction from the interference of France on behalf of the American Colonies, and preferred to attribute their defeat to the arms of their old and gallant adversary, rather than to the prowess of their own revolted colonies.

We now turn to our North American Colonies to express the hope that the same belief in the necessity of adequate preparation will not be withheld from them. The security of a too happy union and the absorbing occupations created by a vast material prosperity, have caused but too sleep the martial energies of our North American Colonies. That formidable Militia, so gloriously distinguished in so many bloody and successful encounters, has been till lately allowed to fall almost into abeyance. While the United States have been perpetually playing at soldiers, the English colonies have been content to look on at exhibitions of citizen soldiery which they did not admire, and had not the slightest wish to emulate. Canada is not, like the United States, a country of generals and colonels. Besides, our own policy of keeping a considerable number of regular troops in Canada has tended much to discourage the martial spirit of the people and to render them averse from doing that for themselves which the mother-country is willing to do for them. We believe that this apathy no longer exists. It did not require the recent unfortunate occurrences to con-

vince the Canadians that they were better off as a dependency of the British Crown than as members of the American Union. In Canada, we believe, there does not exist the slightest wish to secede. Governed by Ministers responsible to themselves, being at liberty to spend their own money and make their own laws, the Canadians enjoy all the advantages of a Republic without the dangers and discord of a Federation, and all the advantages of being members of a great Empire without being called upon to contribute to Imperial burdens. If these things are worth having they are worth protesting. The Colonial Empire of the Queen of England is not held together by the same ties as the American Federation. We have endeavored to make it, and we believe we have succeeded in making it, a union of mutual good-will and regard, not of force. The troops that we maintain in the American Colonies are there, not to prevent the colonists from rising against the Mother Country, of which we are the closest and warmest friends, but to assist in protecting them against the attacks of a foreign Power. We learnt from the American contest of the last century that good will was the only tenure by which colonies were worth preserving. Strange that those who taught us this case, should be so humiliating and disrespectful when we ask them to do for themselves those duties which they have the merit of being the first to inculcate.

The North American Colonies must feel that upon themselves lies the burden of their own defense, and we cannot doubt that they will respond to the necessities of the time in a manner worthy of the former well-earned reputation. There is no doubt that the establishment of Volunteers in England has already reaped great advantages, and that her diplomatic position in the face of Europe has been strengthened. Credit has been confirmed and commerce invigorated by the confidence with which this domestic force has inspired us, and every man who has shouldered a rifle in the Volunteer movement has a right to consider himself as not the least among the benefactors of his country. Precisely the same effect as regards her position and prospects would the training to arms of the youth and manhood of Canada produce. The race that tells her of her own weakness, her rich clearings is destined someday to play an important part in the future history of the American Continent. The severe climate with which they contend breathes their energies and develops their strength. Their long winter does not enervate them; their long winter gives them those habits of robust and athletic exercise in which the born and bred American is often so sadly deficient. Let it be known that a hundred thousand of the Militia of Canada, well drilled well armed, and well accoutred are ready for her defense, and no other defense would be required. It does not need much foresight to perceive that, unless the North can terminate the contest by a sudden and decisive blow, the probability of which is growing less and less every day, the state of affairs is likely to become considerably complicated. The war fell upon the United States so suddenly, and its consequences have not yet had time to develop themselves. The contest still retains the form originally impressed upon it, that of a great deal between North and South; but, once given time for the full effect of the process of disintegration, and it is pretty sure to be found that there are numerous other elements of bickering and division besides those which exist between the present belligerents. The United States must be very different from all other countries, if it is equal to the interest of all its parts, if in its vast territory there are no sectional jealousies, no provincial aspirations for independence, no concealed but violent repugnances. Let the conflict continue a year longer, and we may not unreasonably expect to see three or four rival Confederacies and a complicated state of political relations which we can at present form no idea of. This uncertain future requires that our Colonies should put themselves in a position in which they may be able to maintain themselves steady and impassive amid whatever change and violence may be passing around them.

MASON AND SLIDELL'S STATEMENT.

Among the important documents transmitted to Congress by Secretary Welles is the protest of Capt. Wilkes by Messrs Mason and Slidell against their arrest on board the British steamer Trent, at sea, November 8. The following is the protest and the reply of Capt. Wilkes:

U. S. STEAMER SAN JACINTO,
at Sea, Nov. 9.

Captain Wilkes, U. S. N. commanding San Jacinto:

Sir:—We desire to communicate to you, by this memorandum, the facts attending our arrest yesterday, on board the British mail steamer Trent, by your order, and our transfer to this ship.

We, the undersigned, embarked at Havana on the 7th inst., as passengers on board the Trent, Capt. Moir, bound to the Island of St. Thomas, the Trent being one of the regular mail passenger line of the British Royal Mail Steamship Company, running from Vera Cruz via Havana to St. Thomas, and thence to Southampton, England. We paid our passage money for the whole route from Havana to Southampton to the British consul at Havana, who acts as the agent or representative of the said steamship company, Mr. Slidell being accompanied by his family, consisting of his wife, four children and a servant, and Mr. Eustis by his wife and servants.

The Trent left the port of Havana about eight o'clock, A. M., on the morning of the 7th inst., and was used for a voyage interruptedly until intercepted by the United States steamer San Jacinto, under your command, on the day following (the 8th inst.), in the manner now to be related.

When the San Jacinto was first observed, several miles distant, the Trent was pursuing the usual course of her voyage along the coast of Cuba, in the night of the 7th inst., and was about twenty miles from Havana, and in sight of the light-house of Paragon Grande, the San Jacinto lying stationary, or nearly so, about the middle of the channel, and where it was some fifteen miles wide, as since shown on the chart, the nationality of the ship being then unknown. When the Trent approached near enough for her flag to be distinguished, it was hoisted at the peak and at the main, and so remained for a time. No flag was shown by the San Jacinto.

When the Trent had approached within a mile of the San Jacinto, still pursuing the usual course of her voyage, a shot was fired from the latter ship across the course of the Trent, and the Trent was ordered to stop.

At the same time displayed at the peak. The British flag was again immediately hoisted as before, by the Trent, and so remained. When the Trent had approached, still closer, within from two to three hundred yards of the San Jacinto, a second shot was fired from your ship, across the course of the Trent, and the Trent was ordered to stop.

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USEFUL INFORMATION.

SULPHUR IN ASTHMA.—Dr. Duclos, chemist and druggist, writing on this subject says:—"From all the facts observed and trials made, I formed this conclusion, that sulphur is a wonderfully powerful preventive of asthma. All the cases in which I administered it have been modified, a certain number is entirely cured. The way I administer it is this:—I prescribe the sulphur lozenges in the daily dose of fifty centigrams to one gramme, according to the age of the patient, to be taken once a day, in the morning before breakfast or at breakfast. This dose is continued for five or six months, twenty days each month; then for one year, eighteen months or two years, ten days only a month. It is impossible to imagine a simpler or more practical treatment. The remedy is well supported by the stomach, as a general thing; it produces neither vomiting, diarrhoea, nor constipation. It soon affects the bowels, and in very rare cases where it produces purgation, a combination of a small quantity of opium with it soon controls its bad effects. The sulphur lozenges do not mix with water in consequence of its lightness, and on that account water should be added gradually, drop by drop; or, if it is necessary to take with a little coffee or a spoonful of stout."

TO PREVENT ROT IN DWELLING HOUSES.

—In a residence of the London Builder we find the following rules given to prevent the ravages of dry rot in dwellings: Make two or more openings in the external walls and put gratings in them to keep out vermin from below the basement floor. Insert a tile pipe into the fire wall with one end open to the space below the floor, and carry the side up the centre of the fire wall as close as possible to the fireplace and out at the chimney-head. The air in the pipe will be rarified, being in close contact with the fire flue thus causing a continuous upward flow, sweeping the space below the floor of all foul air, which in my opinion, is the chief cause of dry rot. The whole of the apartments in the house may be ventilated by means of this pipe, inserting a tube into it at the level of the ceiling with a valve in it to prevent down draught. I have adopted this system for the last ten years, because I know of no better.

HOW TO CUT GLASS WITH A PIECE OF IRON.

—Draw with a pencil on paper any pattern which you wish the glass to conform to. In reality, especially the one recently made, it is far more complicated than would be imagined from this brief sketch; but the photographs produced by it are marvellously perfect. Every separate source of sound has an individuality of its own. The sounds of different musical instruments, for instance an easily distinguished from one another, and from the human sound. The latter, moreover, gives different traces according to its character—the sweet soft voice of a female, especially when singing, being characterized by the beauty of harmony in the curves impressed on the paper; in those produced by a harp or voice of a man, the curves are larger and more rugged looking; whilst in a shriek or a shout, or in the harsh, discordant sounds of instruments, the waves are irregular, unequal, and broken up into secondary vibrations of all degrees of amplitude.

PICKLED FISH.—Salmon or trout are best.

—Dress the fish, cut it in pieces suitable for bringing to the table—large as one hand, about. Parboil them in water enough to cover them, well salted, and when fairly struck through and before they are boiled enough to be fit for the table, take them out carefully, so that they will preserve their shape, and lay them separately on platters or plates to cool. They must not be touched, or any oil or fat be put on them. In this state the larger bones may easily be slipped out; the fines will pull out, bringing with them the bones to which they are attached. It is well to do this, if it can be done, without the fish falling to pieces. Take now one-third of the water in which the fish was boiled, and twice as much good vinegar, cloves, and mace, and, in such proportion that the flavor of neither will predominate, and that the whole will not be so spicy that it might as well be cod or snappers as salmon or trout—in other words spiced to taste; bring it to a boil, and let it cool; when cold, put the pieces of fish in a stone pot, pour the pickle over them, and lay the plate upon them to keep them under the pickle. In a few days this will be found a delicious relish—fit for the Vice-Regent of the Ladies Mount Vernon Association.

A HEALTHFUL PLEASURE.—Good crusts for plain pies are made by wetting up the crust with rich milk turned sour, and sweetened with saleratus. Still better crusts are made of sour cream sweetened with saleratus. My mother used to boil in salted water, and mixed with the same quantity of four and wet with our milk sweetened with saleratus, make a good crust. Good light bread rolled thin makes a good crust for pasty, or pan-pie, and also for the upper crust of fruit pies, to be made without bottom crusts.

MEN'S PIES.—Of corned beef, boiled very tender and chopped fine, two pounds; for good ground beef, pickled and chopped; to these add six pounds of currents, nicely cleaned and perfectly dry; three pounds of chopped apples, the juice of two sour oranges and the peel of one, boiled tender and chopped fine; a pint of white wine, a nutmeg, a quarter of an ounce of each of cloves, mace and allspice, in finest powder, press the whole into a deep pan when well mixed, and keep it covered in a dry cool place. Lay out corned and stewed raisins ready, and put some of them and a little hot water in each of the pies when made.

A SIMPLE SALT DRESSING.—One pound of butter, half a pound of sugar, salt, a teaspoonful of mustard, a quarter of an ounce of pepper; moisten with water until a stiff paste; use were required they may be rolled in small balls, and used in savory pies, hash or steaks.

REPAIRING BELTS.—To polish enameled leather, take half a pint of the best cream, a quarter of a pint of linseed oil, make them each lukewarm and then mix them well together. Having previously cleaned the leather, rub it over with a sponge dipped in the mixture, and it will be as good as new. Rub it with a clean dry cloth until a brilliant polish is produced.

CHRISTMAS Puddings.—To use pound of sweet chopped meat, add one pound of flour, one pound of raisins, one pound of currants, one ounce of bread crumbs, two table-spoons of sugar, a brace of mace, half a nutmeg, a tea-spoonful of ginger, half a tea-spoonful of allspice, six eggs well beaten, and a little milk as will make it of proper consistency; mix it well; the quantity is for a large dish, and will serve with hard sauce.

Women never truly command till they have given their promise to obey.

—A fly in a man's house is decidedly the best place of all kinds of nuisances.

MR. SLIDELL AND MR. EUSTIS, TOGETHER WITH MR. EUSTIS AND MR. SLIDELL, AGAINST WHOM FORCE IN LIKE MANNER HAD BEEN USED, WERE TAKEN TO THE SAN JACINTO AS SOON AS THEY ENTERED THE BOAT.

Then they reached your ship, you received them near the gangway, announcing your name as Captain Wilkes, commander of the ship, and conducted them to your cabin, which was placed at their disposal. When the undersigned came aboard they found the men at their quarters and the guns bearing on the Trent. After some time occupied in bringing on board our baggage and effects, the San Jacinto proceeded to the Northward, through the Southern Channel, the Trent having been detained from three to four hours.

The foregoing is believed to be a correct narrative in substance of the facts and circumstances attending our arrest and transfer from the British mail steamer to the ship under your command, and which we doubt not will be corroborated by the lieutenant present, as well by the crew of the San Jacinto.

It is stated that the undersigned were not have been witnessed by each one of the undersigned, individually, but they were by one or more of them. As, for the most part, they did not pass under your notice, we have deemed it proper to present them, in form before you, expressing the wish, if possible, to be pointed out, with a respectful request that you will transmit a copy of the paper to the government of the United States together with your report of the transaction: to facilitate which a copy is herewith enclosed.

We have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servants,

(Signed) JOHN SLIDELL, J. M. MASON, GEORGE EUSTIS, J. E. MACFARLAND.

EIGHT CHILDREN AT A BIRTH.—We read in the correspondence of the New York Tribune, from Johnson, Trumbull County, Ohio:—"On the 2nd of August Mrs. Timothy Bradley gave birth to eight children—three boys and five girls. They are all living and are healthy but quite small. Mr. B's family is increasing fast. He was married six years ago to Eunice Mowery, who weighed 273 pounds on the day of their marriage. She has given birth to two pairs of twins, and now has twelve children in six years. It seems strange, but nevertheless is true, Mrs. B. was a twin of three, her father and mother both being twins, and her grandmother the mother of five pairs of twins. Mrs. B. has named her boys after noted and distinguished men—One after the Hon. J. C. Calhoun, who gave her a splendid gold medal; one after the Rev. Hon. Eliza Chapman, who gave her the deed of fifty acres of land; and the other after James Johnson, Esq., who has given her a cow. Mr. Bradley says it is profitable to have twins, as the neighbors have clothed the others ever since they were born. Mr. B. is a poor, industrious laborer, but says he will not part with any of his children while he is able to work."

WARLIKE PREPARATIONS IN CANADA.

We think that almost the whole of the stories relative to military arrangements upon anything like a scale such as would be rendered necessary by anticipations of war, are wholly false. One of the largest of them, premature. What we believe in substance to be correct is this:—That General Williams, either in consequence of specific orders, or in accordance with the views he entertains of the duties of his position, has been engaged in preparing a report on the whole subject of the defenses of Canada, as well as the means of obtaining material to troops, and the means of obtaining material within the Province. We imagine, however, that none of the works, which he considers would be necessary in case of war, will be begun until orders arrive from England. In the meantime, the military arrangements made here are, so far as we can ascertain, but the usual routine of the forces in the Province. —*Montreal Herald.*

ST. ANDREW'S DAY IN MONTREAL.

—A SCENE.

St. Andrew's day was celebrated on Monday with the customary honors. A grand procession of the "heather sons," in the morning and a Concert in the evening, under the auspices of St. Andrew's Scottish and Thistle Societies. The entire audience joined in the chorus of "Scotts who hae Wallace bled!" and "God save the Queen." Our large city hall presented a fine appearance when that glorious old anthem was being sung, and every man, woman, and child standing up, they shouted "God save the Queen!" The following little incident occurred:—"Hats were called by the chairman when the Anthem was to be sung; but one ignorant surely fellow wouldn't 'do his bonnet,' 'knock it off him!' cried a hundred voices: 'No. nooner said than done; but he got hold of it again, and held it on with both hands, while a dozen rushed at him, and nearly tore it off and hat off. He appeared to be a very respectable gentleman, but he certainly had very little manners. 'When you go to Room, do as the Romans do,' and when it is the custom in Canada to take off hats when 'God save the Queen' is played, it should be done, or be done for you. A number of Americans present were rather astonished at this sudden outburst of loyalty from men who a minute before were the proverbial Scottish tartanry, and seemed anything but the man who would make a gentleman take his hat off."

Are there no women in Kingston or Upper Canada fitted to the office of deputy master to the Provincial Penitentiary? It would appear not, in the opinion of the inspectors of the institution; for they advertise in Montreal for such a person, but so where else that we have seen.

GREAT EXHIBITION ON BOARD.—Yesterday a few tons of sugar, and a pound of butter, were passed over the Grand Trunk Railway, on their way to Portland, to be shipped to England. This is the first instalment of a large collection of products of the Canadian forest which Prof. Lawson is bringing together from different parts of the Province. —*News.*

During the week ending last Saturday the Recorder of Montreal tried 106 prisoners and imposed fines amounting to \$255.75; up to that day also, \$2,200 had been paid on payment of assessments were presented.

Women never truly command till they have given their promise to obey.

—A fly in a man's house is decidedly the best place of all kinds of nuisances.

CORN OYSTERS.—Half-a-dozen heads of corn, three eggs, a table-spoonful and a half of flour; beat the yolks very thick; cut the corn of the cob; season it with pepper and salt; mix it with the yolks and add the flour. With the whites to a stiff froth; stir them in with the corn and yolks; put a dozer spoonful at a time in a pan of hot butter, and fry to a light brown on both sides.

SUND RECORDING ITSELF.—One of the marvels of the age is a mechanical contrivance by a French servant, M. L. Scott for the fixation of sound upon a prepared tablet in the same way as photography fixes luminous images. The inventor has been quite successful, and has named the new art Phonography. The invention is thus described by the *London Review*:

"The problem which first required solution was the artificial construction of an ear, by means of tubes and diaphragms, so as to initiate, as nearly as possible, the human ear, in its power of collecting sounds of every degree of intensity, and transmitting them to delicate membrane placed at the extremity. After numerous essays an apparatus was constructed which possessed the above qualifications; the membrane was seen to vibrate visibly, and in a different manner with each sound or note; and if a pen or stylus were fastened to this membrane its point would trace the wonderfully beautiful and complicated curves and circles appertaining to the elements of sound. The next difficulty consisted in finding a sensitive surface upon which this style could mark the impression of the membrane, for the vibration of the aerial pen was so delicate that, if any appreciable force were required to effect the transcription, the resistance would at once stop all movement. This difficulty was at last overcome by employing a strip of thin paper upon which was deposited a film of lampblack obtained from the smoke of burning bodies. This sensitive surface is carried along by clock-work agency, in front of the vibrating style, so that the successive movements of the latter shall not impinge one on the other, when the result is a series of lines written on the paper composed of the most complicated systems of curves, and forming a natural autography of the producing sounds."

Of course it will be understood that the above is intended more as a brief outline of the principal of Mr. Scott's instrument than an exact description of its individual details. In reality, especially the one recently made, it is far more complicated than would be imagined from this brief sketch; but the photographs produced by it are marvellously perfect. Every separate source of sound has an individuality of its own. The sounds of different musical instruments, for instance an easily distinguished from one another, and from the human sound. The latter, moreover, gives different traces according to its character—the sweet soft voice of a female, especially when singing, being characterized by the beauty of harmony in the curves impressed on the paper; in those produced by a harp or voice of a man, the curves are larger and more rugged looking; whilst in a shriek or a shout, or in the harsh, discordant sounds of instruments, the waves are irregular, unequal, and broken up into secondary vibrations of all degrees of amplitude.

An oration delivered with varying rapidity, and with the pitch of the voice greatly modulated in different parts has a very striking appearance in his phonograph. Rapidly spoken parts have the curves crowded together, whilst in others they are widely separated. The loud tones of the voice are shown by the written word rising to perhaps half an inch or more in height, while the low tones are not more than the eighth of an inch; the modulations of the voice are shown very beautifully by the varying light of what may be called the letters of sound.

Thus, then, the problem of the graphic fixation of sounds may be considered as accomplished; but now a new difficulty arises—that of translating these over-arching curves back again into ordinary language. If each word or syllable, or even compound sound, of which our spoken language is built up were invariably represented by the same system of curves, the work of transcription would be comparatively easy. This, however, is far from being the case. Not only does the impression vary with the tone of the voice, the rapidity of loudness of utterance, but it has been found that the same words uttered by any person are written down by the instrument very differently from the way they are when spoken by another.

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