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PROSPECTUS OF THE Scientific American.

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SEVENTEENTH YEAR.

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MUNN & CO., PUBLISHERS.

No. 37 Park-row, New York.

Recollections of a London Detective.

THE CLOSEST SHAVE OF MY LIFE.

The prison at D— is, every way considered, under a better organized and surer system of administration than any similar institution I have known. I have seen many, and looked at some of the details of their method of management and discipline, and often seen much to approve; but the prison at D— surpasses all the rest. Visitors, of whom, very properly, but few are admitted, are amazed at the regularity, the order, and, most singular of all, the air of security and exceeding quiet that prevails.

As we wandered through the chambers in the free part of the prison, we came to one from the window of which a man was looking so anxiously that he did not hear us enter. When he turned round his eyes were glistening with tears. The warden says he did nothing but stand at that window at all times when he was unemployed. He was a sailor, we learned, whose offense was that he had beaten almost to death a comrade for speaking slightly about his wife. He was in for three years, six months of which had passed, and he was of the best men about the prison. They had found out that he was accomplished—that there was no better barber anywhere; so he was elevated to his position, to the extent of a dignified position and the responsibility of razor.

He has shaved not many a time better than I could do myself. Would you like a prison shave, gentlemen? said the warden.

I thought there was something quite taking in the idea, and acknowledged to be touched favorably by the proposition. "Johnson, you will shave this gentleman," said the warden.

I threw off my coat, and seated myself comfortably in the big chair. Johnson made grave preparations.

I always hated a razor. It is a villainous necessity. I wondered if any body thinks I delight in the idea, and acknowledged to be touched favorably by the proposition.

"Johnson, you will shave this gentleman," said the warden.

"We will leave you for five minutes, Mr. —," said the warden.

"Is that time enough, Johnson?"

"Quite time enough, sir," answered Johnson.

The prisoner and I were left alone. My companions went away in another direction from that we had been pursuing, and the warden swung the door wide open as he passed through, leaving it unclosed. From my position I saw them walk along the top wall, until they came to a corner, where they spoke a little with the officer in charge. Then they returned, and the door closed.

Upon each corner of the prison wall a guard is always stationed, well armed, to watch that no attempts at escape are made. The moment this one disappeared, I felt a sort of faint shiver of the razor against my lip. Immediately after my barber ceased operations, walked leisurely to the door and looked out, and returning, paused an instant at the window where we had found him when we entered. Then he came back to me and resumed his work. I felt vaguely alarmed.

"Do you hear me, sir?" he asked.

"Yes, said I."

"It's a tickling thing this shaving, isn't it?" said he. "But my hand is always steady. I can do what I please with a razor—just what I please. Be good enough to keep still just now, very still. I'm close on to a large vein, you see, right in your neck. Keep very still, and don't stir. I know what would happen, and so do you. If you stirred or spoke a word."

Good Heaven! These were hideous words, but the glare of the man's eyes, as he came around in front of me, was appalling. I could not have uttered a syllable if I had died otherwise.

"Now," said he, "listen, but don't move," and he pressed the flat blade against my throat, as if by way of warning. "I don't like this. I can't stand it. I'm going!" And so help me God, if you lift a finger to stop me, or make any noise, both of us will have to die. I would a little rather not hurt you; but—remember!"

He sprang away, and caught up my coat which lay near, still keeping the razor in his hand. The moment its frightful contact was removed, my inertness vanished. I leaped up, seized the chair which I had been sitting and shouted lustily. He turned upon me like a tiger.

"Ah, you will have it, then!" he cried, and rushed toward me.

Persons who have thus been in positions of great danger, will not be astonished to hear that I forgot, after my first cry, to call out at all. I thought only of defending myself.

This state of things did not last a quarter of a minute. He would have beaten me down soon enough, had I not, in sheer desperation, made use of a trick which I had once before seen successfully employed. I moved my eyes suddenly from him, and stared wildly into the space behind him, pointing at the same time and in the same direction, with my arm. By a lucky chance I pointed to the window.

I think that movement saved my life. He stopped, irresolute, glanced at the window, flung his hands above his head, gasped as if he were choking, and dashing the razor against the stone wall, fell trembling upon his knees. As I stepped swiftly across the floor, he called out to me:

"Don't go, don't go!" he said. "Stand there, at the door, if you choose, but wait a minute. It's all over now; and perhaps, if you hear me, you won't wonder that I was driven mad."

I hardly knew how to react, but as I involuntarily checked my steps, he continued: "Look out at the window, sir, and you'll see, just over the road, a woman with a child in her arms, standing in a doorway. That's my wife and baby—my poor wife and baby. She doesn't know I'm here—thank God for that. I came here under a wrong name, and she supposes I'm far away at sea. I can see it would break her heart to know the truth. Well, sir, that's my home. I've seen it, and I've seen her, every day now, these three months. I used to make my crazy, but I hear it better now. But this chance—a great chance—was too much for me. And to think that I came near losing all hope of ever seeing her again!"

Could I doubt those struggling sobe and tears? There was truth in every tone. I looked through standing on a threshold opposite, with a little child. She tossed it up laughingly once or twice, and disappeared.

"You won't trust me, I know," said the prisoner, "but I want to beg you not to let the warden know of this. Nothing but three years' solitary now, and who can live through that? No, no, you'll let this go, won't you? You may believe me—you may indeed."

I felt shuddering along the passage announced the return of my companions. The prisoner endeavored to calm himself, and I put on an air of unconcern, which I think was very successful under the circumstances.

"Not shaved yet!" said the warden, astonished. "He had but knew how close a shave I had been through!"

"I have broken my razor," said Johnson, looking appealingly at me. "Sir, sir! I must have another."

"Very well," said the warden. "Will you wait?" he asked me.

"I don't mind," said I. "Another time will do for me."

So I wiped my face, we went on our way. Of course I was bound to tell the warden what had happened; but even in that great excitement which naturally followed so narrow an escape, I think I set forward all that I could in the poor fellow's favour.

The warden received the story with perfect composure, and assured me that he would act in such a manner as he thought the occasion needed. He condemned his own heedlessness in opening so evident an opportunity for guilt, with much more earnestness than I spoke of the event itself.

I could not resist visiting the wife of Johnson. I discovered that his story was true, and learned his real name. She was happy in her ignorance of his real condition. I sought to ascertain whether she was able to sustain herself until he should rejoin her, and then she told me that Mr.—, the warden of the prison, had also come to her, shown interest in her behalf, for which she could not well account, and assured her of his aid and protection in any need that might come. She was most grateful, but wondered why he had done so.

A few months ago the following newspaper paragraph appeared. It was much copied, and, I suppose, will be readily remembered:

"It is the custom at the prison in D— to permit prisoners whose terms are within a few weeks of expiration, to work outside the walls under the supervision of an officer. This privilege is, in most cases, gladly accepted. A few weeks ago, however, it was declined by a man who, as his time of freedom drew near, appeared more restless under his confinement than any others. On inquiry it was found that this prisoner had a wife and child living directly within view of the walls, and that for nearly three years he had seen her daily, she being all the while ignorant of his imprisonment, and supposing that her husband, who is a sailor, was at sea, on a long voyage. He was unwilling that, at the last moment the fact should be revealed to her; and, at his own request, he continued within the walls until his liberation, which took place last week. Excepting on one occasion, his conduct while in prison had been without blemish."

SAND, SOAP AND GLASS.

The difference between chemistry and mechanics can be very clearly explained by the changes produced on sand. Thus, if we take a piece of quartz and reduce it to powder it becomes sand. This is simply a mechanical change, the sand retaining of the same nature as it was prior to its being reduced to dust. Silica is the chemical name for quartz, and it is one of the most refractory substances known. It is perfectly insoluble in water, and neither sulphuric, hydrochloric nor nitric acid will dissolve it. It is also so infusible that it cannot be melted by any heat obtained by the blowpipe; and yet this substance, so hard, so infusible, can readily be converted into soap and made to melt like wax through the subtle agencies of chemistry. By taking home-sand and mixing with it a portion of caustic soda—carbonate of soda and lime—and submitting these substances to a very high heat in melting pots placed in a furnace, it fuses and becomes glass. In its molten state it is blown into bottles and vessels of every variety of form, and is also converted into sheets for window panes, and molded like clay for many other purposes.

Glass contains just a sufficient quantity of alkali to render it fusible, but not soluble, as neither water nor the three acids named dissolve it; indeed, glass is the substance commonly used for containing those very corrosive and for this purpose it is of incalculable value to the arts. The change produced by the soda on silica is a chemical one. The molting of glass, when fused so as to change its form is a mechanical principle; the action of the soda upon the silica in conjunction with the high heat in the furnace, whereby the silica is made fusible is a chemical one, and the compound thus formed, which we call glass, is a silicate of soda.

A still more wonderful change than this is effected if an excess of caustic alkali is combined with the silica, as it then forms what is called "soluble glass," a substance which will dissolve by being boiled in water. Soluble glass (silicate of soda) is best formed by boiling finely subdivided sand in a very caustic lye under steam pressure, so as to subject the silica to the highest possible temperature, as this tends to form more concentrated solution of the silica. This is also a chemical change. The hard silica, formerly so insoluble, unites with the excess of alkali and really becomes a soap which is now used in Prussia and some other places for washing purposes. The silica takes the place of tallow, oil and grease, which are used for making common soap, and uniting with the alkali it becomes soluble in water, and may be used for washing as an inferior saponaceous compound. Such are some of the mysteries of chemistry.

Silica is one of the most common and useful substances in nature. It is the constituent of many rocks and composes most of the pebbles in gravel beds. Rock crystal is pure transparent quartz, and its name is derived from *krystallos* a Greek word signifying ice. Silica is the base of a great number of precious stones, such as the carnelian and amethyst, which are bright red; also the opal. As we are entirely dependent upon silica for our present advancement in some of the arts. It forms the lenses of the telescopes by which such advances have been made in astronomy, and from it the lenses are made for our most improved system of light-house illumination.

Spectacles, those aids to the aged, are also formed of it, also our windows and looking glasses; in short, silica is applied to numberless purposes in all the philosophical, useful and elegant arts. The "little grains of sand" have become mighty agents in the hands of cultivated men. It is said, however, that the ancients were acquainted with the art of making malleable glass—an art which, if ever existed, can be re-discovered—S. American.

The *Pictorial Standard* acknowledges the receipt of a letter describing the search for Capt. Kidd's money, supposed to be buried at Oak Island, Chester. The principal points referred to by the writer are, that two millions of money is supposed to be buried there at a depth of 100 feet; that at various times within the last 80 years, some seven or eight pits have been sunk; that substance which could only be placed there by human agency, such as sawed plank, oak staves, &c., were found at various depths; that the water always breaks in upon them when they come near the treasure; that they have discovered a drain from the shore, which leads into the pit; that they bored

FROM THE STATES.

NEW YORK, Nov. 27th.

Report says that a scouting party from Gen. Porter's division has been driven back by a rebel force, near Vienna, with considerable loss.

Port Pickens, at the recent engagement was breached, but the ships of war were obliged to haul off. The rebels claim that an advance party under Gen. Sherman's command had been forced to retire in the vicinity of Beaufort, with much loss.

Arrangements are being made to ship salt to Mexican ports, and thence take it overland through Texas. The rebels are suffering severely for want of this article.

Despatch from Washington says that McClellan is strongly urged to give battle to the enemy on the Potomac.

Great mortality among the cavalry—dents reach as high as four and five per day.

The *New Brunswick*, of the 28th, says: "A friend, who had just returned to New York from Washington and Baltimore, writes under date of the 20th, inst., from which we give extracts."

"I thought I would take a trip to Alexandria for which purpose, along with a friend, I strolled as far as the long bridge, from whence the steamer leaves every hour; but alas! I had calculated without my host. We were stopped for want of passports. What a delightful free country! We have never took better care afterwards, of which I shall again inform you."

Now for the Great Victory at Beaufort. Beaufort has not been taken. The first bulletins gave glowing accounts of the success of the Great Expedition. Immense placards, with enormous headings, announced the wonderful success. At last there came a bulletin rather more minute in size, as follows:

"Federal force attacked by the rebels; Gen. Lee making active preparations to defend Beaufort; Gen. Sherman not advancing on Beaufort; Federals ordered not to advance on Charleston."

The truth is, the paper that will give the most wonderful news is the most popular. The American people will swallow anything and everything.

Now for a few facts. The expedition cost the country over \$500,000, besides the Military. After sailing, four vessels put back badly disabled. The Ocean Express, 1000 tons, laden with guns, ammunition, and Government stores, is a total wreck. The Winfield Scott with 450 troops on board, foundered. Two other transports have not been heard from, besides some smaller craft. Two Gun boats are on shore in Beaufort river. The Confederates have captured 500 prisoners from the wrecks of the Federal ships.

And what are the facts of all these magnificent victories which the Northerners say are the most brilliant and for which, Commodore Dupont will be made an Admiral? Two mud forts each side of Fort Royal, harbored called Walker and Beaufort, have been taken. Fort Walker is on Hilton Island, which is a sand bank, twelve miles from Beaufort; and if they succeed in effecting a landing in the mainland they will have to travel that distance through swamps and quagmires, where it is hardly possible for individuals to pick their way, let alone—horses, artillery and munitions of war.

Fort Beaufort is on the opposite side, on an island; it is impossible to reach Beaufort from this Fort without going up Beaufort river; in attempting which, two gun boats have run ashore. The river is only eight feet deep, and spilt words some distance below the Town. The Federals up to this time have not landed a single soldier upon the mainland. The magnificent capture of this expedition have been the capture of two mud forts! The base of future operations in South Carolina are two islands, sand banks! Hatters' trichett has been discovered! The officers of the French ship-of-war *Procyon* speak in the highest terms of their treatment by the Southerners, and are so dissatisfied with that of the Federals, that they have refused to go to a hotel in New York and have accepted the invitation of the Captain of the R. M. Steamer *Doris*.

Halloo, there, how do you sell wood? By the cord. "How long has it been cut?" Four feet. "How dumb! I mean how long has it been since you cut it?" No longer than it is now.

The best doctor for a sick woman? A new dress.

How long has it been cut? Four feet. How dumb! I mean how long has it been since you cut it? No longer than it is now.

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European Intelligence.

THREE DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

CAPE RACE, Nov. 29.
The steamer City of Baltimore from Liverpool 20th, Queenstown 21st, intercepted at 5.30 on Friday evening.
No tidings of the North Briton though a week over due. Thirty guineas per cent, insurance demanded.

The supposed privateer in the Mediterranean proves to be a lawful New York Merchantman, and at Constantinople.
Dr. Russell in his last letter to the Times asserts that the President and Cabinet were not indisposed to a peaceful arbitration and were probably considering proposition of accepting or asking for intervention of Great European Potentates.

Reported that several Steamers were insured in London for the run from London to New Orleans and back at 20 guineas.

FRANCE.
Reported that considerable reduction will be made on military estimates and in the number of troops. It is stated by Paris "Constitutionnel" that Persigny had submitted to Napoleon a project for disarmament.

French portion of Mexican Expedition comprises 15 vessels, 330 guns, 5,000 sailors and 3,000 troops.

French Senate had been convened for 3rd December. The belief in the necessity for the French loan continues, the financial wants of Government being urgent.

Bourse from Rentes advanced to 70.
The Emperor Napoleon will visit Queen Victoria during the great Exhibition next year.

ITALY.
It is asserted that a project of Italian Confederacy is by no means abandoned. Modification of Italian Ministry rumored, but nothing accomplished.

AUSTRIA.
Austria has quietly got together quite a powerful Squadron of evolution in the Adriatic numbering 50 vessels in all.

SPAIN.
The Madrid "Espana" says a project was discussed for forming in America a Confederacy of all Republics of Spanish origin with Spain at the head of it.

The address of the "Cortes," in response to the Queen's speech had been read. It approves of all points of the speech.

POLAND.
The Administration of the Archbishop of Warsaw had been arrested by an order from St. Petersburg.

CALCUTTA AND CHINA.
The mails reached Alexandria due in London on the 27th.

LATEST FROM QUEENSTOWN.
The "Nashville" arrived at Southampton on the 21st. On the 19th she boarded the American ship "Harvey Birch" from Havre for New York in ballast and took off Capt. Nelson and crew, allowing them to take a few effects, and then set fire to the ship and laid along side until she burned to the water's edge.

The "Nashville" landed the Captain and crew of the "Harvey Birch" at Southampton, and remained there herself with Confederate flag flying. Capt. Nelson says that Commander Peagrim of the "Nashville" states he has no commission from the Southern Government as war steamer, but declares he is not a privateer.

No Southern Commissioners arrived by the "Nashville." The whole crew of the "Harvey Birch," except the Captain, were placed in irons until the arrival at Southampton. Efforts were made to induce the Captain and crew to take oath to Confederate Government.

Reported that a large steamer left London full of munitions of war for the Confederate States.

MARKETS.
Cotton firm; prices unchanged. Breadstuffs quiet and steady. Provisions quiet. Consols 94½ a 64½.

HALLFAX, Nov. 27.
The Troop ship "Himalaya" arrived at Halifax last Wednesday.

She brings a report that the steamer Trent had reached England, and that a steam frigate with despatches to the United States, had been despatched.

The "Himalaya" brought detachments for regiments serving in these Colonies; one of which, belonging to the sappers and miners, arrived on Thursday evening by the steamer Emperor, from Windsor, and proceeded by steamer to Fredericton, en route, for Quebec.

FROM THE STATES.

New York, Nov. 29th.
Confederate reports say, that Pensacola has been evacuated and the Navy Yard entirely destroyed by the fire of Fort Pickens.

Five Federal vessels were riddled by shot. Despatches from Commodore Dupont say, that the approaches to Savannah are completely cut off.

Great excitement prevails at the South relative to the battle at Pensacola.

General Bragg declared that he would not surrender.

No breach has been made in Fort Pickens. All the Navy Yard out buildings are burnt, and Pensacola evacuated by order of General Bragg.

THE LATE ARREST ON THE HIGH SEAS.
The American papers contain full details of the arrest of Messrs. Mason and Slidell, but are at a loss to justify it. The New York Herald says that it gives the British Govern-

ment a colorable opening for a quarrel, if it wants one.
The Quebec Morning Chronicle, after reviewing the arguments of the American press, says:

Lord Lyons will have nothing to say to it until he hears from Downing street, because Mason and Slidell, not being British subjects, will not apply to him. The jurists who advise the Crown in England, are men who will not be carried away by passion or national prejudice. Unlike United States officials they will do what they think is right. If they say Captain Wilkes' proceedings were unwarrantable, we may be sure that the Lincoln Cabinet will be asked for reparation. What that will be it is difficult to say. Perhaps a demand will be made that Mason and Slidell be set free and an apology made to us for the offence.

DR. TUMBLEY SENIOR SURGEON ON McCLELLAN'S STAFF.—The Buffalo has the following paragraph:

"From an officer in the Potomac army, whom we met the other day, we derive the astounding information that the notorious Dr. Tumbley, who cut so memorable a figure in our city a few years ago, actually holds the position of Senior Surgeon on the staff of Gen. McClellan. Our informant asserts that he cannot be mistaken in the fact, that he has seen the 'Doctor' several times parading in the staff retinue of the General-in-Chief, and that he has held conversation with him. He describes him as the most magnificent personage on the staff, we do not know how to disbelieve his statement, incredible as it appears. If it is the fact that Tumbley has so imposed upon Gen. McClellan and others as to obtain this position, his antecedents and true character ought to be brought to the knowledge of those who have any stake in such a ridiculous—News."

There does not appear to be the slightest truth in the statement so generally circulated by the American press, that Mr. Crawford, H. B. M. Consul General in Cuba, had paid a visit in uniform to Messrs. Mason and Slidell, when they arrived in the Island, and presented them to the Captain General. The New York Tribune quotes letters from high official authority, declaring that there never was a paragraph more utterly untrue than that in which the announcement was made. —Courier.

The Foreign Enlistment Act.

We call the attention of Her Majesty's Attorney General to the fact, that the St. Croix "Herald," of the 22d instant, a paper patronized by the Government of New Brunswick, and through which it makes known to the people its official announcements, publishes two recruiting advertisements, calling for persons to enlist in the service of Federal States. One of these advertisements is from E. E. Mayo, Recruiting Officer at Calais, calling for persons to enlist in the mounted artillery of the Hamilton battery, offering very liberal terms; the other is from Rendal Whedden, also a Recruiting officer at Calais, who seeks recruits for the 15th Regiment of Maine, under Col. John McCluskey.

We regret that a paper published in New Brunswick, and professing to be a British journal, one too, patronized by and to some extent upheld by the Government of the Province, should have been guilty of such shameful conduct. But although the St. Croix "Herald" has been thus guilty, and so severely disregarded public sentiment in this Province, yet it fortunately happens that the offence it has committed, renders it liable to the heavy penalties of the Foreign Enlistment Act, which can be enforced by any Court in any of Her Majesty's possessions, all over the world.

We therefore hand the St. Croix "Herald" over to Her Majesty's Attorney General for this Province, and he is not the man we take him for to be, if he allows this offence, openly and publicly committed, to be passed over in silence, when for a much less matter, the Hon. Joseph Howe was hunted out of the United States, and the United States Government, and finally, Mr. Crampin, Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, was expelled in the most insulting manner. —Col. Empire.

Newfoundland.

Latest advices state that the election for Harbor Grace took place on the 20th. Messrs. Hayward, Moore and Pendergraft were the candidates. At the time of the departure of the steamer "Mermaid" it was thought that success would be in favor of the latter. The two former are Ministerialists, and Mr. Pendergraft is a supporter of the Opposition. In order to prevent rioting among the people during the election H. M. S. "Hydra" was dispatched from St. John's on the 12th with 100 men under the command of Captain Gwinn; she also conveyed thither two field pieces and abundant supply of ammunition. Pierce M. Barron of St. John has issued his card for the vacancy caused in the representation of Placentia and St. Mary's by the death of Mr. Flood.

The Daily News says that the brig "Salmah," Capt. James Crowe, left New York on the 22nd ult., and on Saturday night about 11 o'clock arrived off the harbor, about 12 o'clock the wind died away quite calm, and the tide carried the vessel close to the rocks on the eastern side of Cape Spear, the vessel was then anchored, but the wind sprang up from north-east, and her chains parting she went on shore on the point of Cape Spear. The boat was then lowered but was stove alongside. The lighthouse

keeper and his crew then threw a line on board, and a hawser, was made fast, but two men a boy were washed off it whilst trying to reach the shore. The captain and remainder of crew were saved by jumping on the rocks, and then hauled up the cliff by ropes. The vessel went to pieces almost immediately. The vessel was uninsured.

Communication.

For the Standard.
MR. EDITOR.—Your correspondent "A Constant Reader," in your issue of the 13th ult. gives the following facts and figures as the cost of the "Sime" property.

Amount of purchase £201. Interest to date £40. Rent to the Madras Corporation £33. Rent lost to the Town from the C. C. Bank to date £20. Expended in repairs, say £40—amounting in the whole, up to this time to the sum of £334.

To me there is an ambiguity in this statement, which I hope to see made comprehensible by your correspondent; it is this "Rent lost to the Town from the C. C. Bank to date £20," should your correspondent condescend to enlighten the community on that point I doubt not he would confer a favor on them as well as on your humble servant, A RATE PAYER.

St. Andrews, Dec. 2, 1861.

The Standard.

ST. ANDREWS, DEC. 4, 1861.

One of the leading topics which is engaging the attention of the public, is the recent outrage upon the British flag, by Capt. Wilkes of the Federal Navy. Not one paper in the Provinces has attempted even to excuse the act, although some of them have defended the North in their attempt to coerce the South into submission. Even some of Federal Journals are upon reflection, looking at the conduct of Wilkes as indiscreet, still he has been fêted and feted by the citizens of Boston, in fact "honored." The New York "Albion" demonstrates clearly that the flagrant act was a violation of the Postal treaty, quoting the 20th article, agreed upon between Lord Palmerston and Mr. Bancroft U. S. Minister to Great Britain. The article is as follows:

In case of war between the two nations, the mail packets of the two offices shall continue their navigation without impediment or molestation, until six weeks after a notification shall have been made on the part of either of the two Governments, and delivered to the other, that service is to be discontinued; in which case they shall be permitted to return freely, and under special protection, to their respective ports.

The Col. Presbyterian has a lengthy and very able article upon the same subject, evincing great research and considerable legal acumen. It is no time to mince matters, and the Press has spoken out boldly on the subject. The Northern papers contain a large amount of brag and boast and threaten, and justify the arrest, but there is no analogy between the cases cited from international law and the dastardly act committed by Capt. Wilkes. Had a British Frigate been within sight, would he have dared to have taken the Southern Envoy on board, or the "Trent"—we throw not. The Toronto Leader alluding to the act has some pertinent remarks from which we take the following extracts:

The arrest of Messrs. Mason and Slidell, under the circumstances recited in the telegraphic dispatches, is in many respects the most important incident of the war.

The action of the American commodore, constitutes the most offensive outrage which Brother Jonathan has dared to perpetrate upon the British flag. If Messrs. Mason and Slidell may be seized on board of a British steamer, and carried off prisoners, they might with equal propriety have been seized during their stay in Bermuda.

The proceeding is rendered worse by the tone which the Americans have uniformly maintained in relation to the right of search. They have held that the flag of a country is an inviolable shelter to the person who sails beneath it, and they went to war with Britain rather than submit to the right which our government claimed of taking British sailors from American ships. They perilled everything rather than acknowledge foreign authority in American vessels; and, tacitly, their position has been acquiesced in. Now, however, they ventured to do what they treated as a cause of war when done by another power. They have asserted their right to search British vessels, and to take from them parties whose whole offence is political in character. Clearly, if such an act be tolerated in this instance, it may be multiplied indefinitely, and the proud boast of England, that her flag guards all beneath it, will be heard no more.

If an American man-of-war may coerce a British vessel in the channel of the Bahamas, American officers may stop and search the Canadian, the Canadian steamers, or any other British steamer when and where they please. If they may outrage the British flag at sea, they may defy it on land, and they may drag from Canada the refugees who are here seeking shelter from Federal despotism. The pretension cannot, will not, be tolerated.

The arrest of Mason and Slidell strikes at the root of British authority, and affirms a right on the part of the Northern States

to which the meanest nation in Christendom could not honorably submit.

It appears from the Report of the Secretary of the Federal Navy that the capture of Mason and Slidell is justified by the Cabinet. It says that "prompt and decisive action of Wilkes merited and received emphatic approval of that department, and if too generous forbearance was established by him in capturing the Trent it may in view of the special circumstances and of its patriotic motives be excused, but must by no means be permitted to constitute a precedent hereafter for treatment of any case of similar infraction of neutral obligations by foreign vessels engaged in commerce or carrying trade."

The President's Message will take the same ground.

Important news is hourly expected by the English mail now due. We will not be surprised if there should be startling intelligence besides the Government news during this month. December is fraught with other changes in addition to that of the weather which is very uncertain at the close of the year.

A report is current, and generally believed, that the British Ambassador at Washington, will be directed to demand his passports. We give the rumor as circulated.

The Steamship "James Adger," formerly a packet between New York and Charleston, but now a Federal frigate, was reported as having detained and searched a number of vessels sailing from England, and the frigate "Phaeton" had been despatched to look after her.

A correspondent of the Scottish American, published in New York, concludes an article thus on the arrest of Messrs. Mason and Slidell:

"Captain Wilkes has acted contrary to American custom, and has violated the principles for which Americans have always contended, in peace and war, that 'flag covers the cargo on the high seas.' The best thing which the Government at Washington can do is to disavow the act and make restitution. In doing so it will only be an enunciation in deed of the principles of the maritime law contended for by the former statesmen of America. If this is not done we fear the consequences. I assert without fear of successful contradiction, that the daily papers of this city, in the quotations which they have made to sustain the course of the San Jacinto, have not made a single quotation justly applicable to this case; they all refer to vessels trading, sailing or holding communication with belligerent ports, and do not refer to a peaceful mail steamer like the Trent trading between two neutral ports. Messrs. Mason and Slidell were simple passengers and ought to have been as safe as if W. H. Seward and Simeon Cameron had been aboard. Carry out the logic of the daily papers to its legitimate issue, and the Persia, the Arabia, the Niagara and every British mail steamer running between Halifax, N. S. and Liverpool, carrying American consuls to Europe, are legally subject to be condemned, if boarded by such a vessel as the Sumter, or any Confederate war frigate, because she is a vessel belonging to one of the belligerent parties now recognized by Great Britain, France and all other neutral powers."

Blackwood's Magazine.

We have received from the publishers, L. Scott & Co. the November number of that standard publication "Blackwood's Monthly Magazine." The table of contents presents the following:

Chronicles of Caylingford—The Doctor's Family.

How the World Treats Discoverers, Captain Clutterbuck's Champagne—A West Indian Reminiscence.

Mr. Buckle's Scientific Errors, Sir Creswell Creswell.

The Stage of Weimar.

The Inland Sea of Japan.

The Cramping System; M. Ernest Renan.

The Recantation.

The Search.

The Late Earl of Eglington.

MARRIAGE NOTICES.—As we do not charge for publishing "the bands which bind two willing hearts," we trust such notices will be furnished us either by the clergyman or the "happy pair." This is intended to apply to marriages which have recently taken place, as well as those in prospect.

We are well aware of the "hard times" and feel them. A large amount is due us in small sums, and we appeal to our Subscribers, many of whom are in arrears from one to four years; we require these amounts must have, if no more, a part of each—Small sums are more easily paid, than large amounts.

DEATH OF AN OLD LOYALIST.—Mrs. Susanna Brown born in the State of Rhode Island, in 1772, died at Campo Bello Nov. 26th, 1861, aged 88 years and 9 months. She came to this country with the Loyalists in

1783, with her father Thomas Burden, an officer in the English army, and settled on the River St. John in York County—married Brown, father of the present Col. Brown of Campo Bello, and has left 6 children 48 grand children and 67 great grand children.

Arrived.

On the 28th Nov., by the Rev. John Ross Mr. Edwin Saunders to, Margaret, second daughter of Mr. Donald Clark, all of this Town.

Deaths.

This morning, after a short illness, Mrs. Julia Power, aged 75 years, a native of Youngs, Co. Cork, Ireland, and for many years a resident in this Town.

At Tunbridge Wells, (Eng.) on the 9th Nov., in his 86th year, General Sir Howard Douglas, Bart., G. C. B. He entered the army in early life, served in Portugal and Spain in 1808 and 1809, formed part of the expedition to Walcheren, in the following year, returned to the Peninsula in 1811, and served there until the close of the campaign of 1812. He was Governor of New Brunswick from 1823 to 1829, was Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands from 1835 to 1840, represented Liverpool from 1842 to 1847, and was the author of many scientific treatises, especially on fortification and gunnery—a subject which occupied his attention until the very close of his long and active life.

SEALED TENDERS.

Will be received at this TUESDAY, The December, next, at noon, Conveyance of her Majesty's MAIL.

MAIL CONTINUED.

Will be received at this TUESDAY, The December, next, at noon, Conveyance of her Majesty's MAIL.

RAISINS, RAISINS.

There will be sold at the Subscriber's store on Saturday, 8th inst. at 11 o'clock, a.m.

30 Halves and Raisins.

10 Qr. Boxes Raisins.

3 Bbls. Refined Vinegar.

Dec. 3, 1861.

PATENT STEAM BREWERY.

St. Andrews, N. B.

THE Subscribers have now on hand a quantity of ALE of a very superior quality.

BARLEY taken immediately in any quantities.

CAMPBELL & JULIAN, Dec. 3, 1861—nm.

NEW BRUNSWICK AND CANADA RAILWAY, and Land Company, (limited).

WINTER ARRANGEMENT.

On and after Monday, 11th Nov. 1861, and until further notice, a Mixed Passenger and Freight Train will leave St. Andrews for Canterbury every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 9.30 A.M. arriving at Canterbury at 1.30 P.M.

RETURNING.—Will leave Canterbury for St. Andrews every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, at 9.30 A.M. arriving at St. Andrews at 1.55 P.M.

AN EXPRESS TRAIN.

Will leave St. Andrews for Canterbury every Friday (after the arrival of the steamer New Brunswick from Boston) and returning will leave Canterbury for St. Andrews every Monday, at 9.30 A.M. arriving in time to take the boat same day for Boston.

Through Tickets.

From Canterbury every Monday, via St. Andrews, and Eastport to Boston, \$4.00. From Boston every Thursday via Eastport to St. Andrews, and Canterbury, \$4.00.

Conveyances run in connection with all the above Trains, from Canterbury to Woodstock and Houlton. Express Parcels or Freight will be carefully attended to, and promptly forwarded by this route.

JOHN JONES, General Manager, Company's Office, St. Andrews, Nov. 1, 1861. nm

MARSHALL HOUSE.

(ON THE EUROPEAN PLAN.)

No. 10 Marshall Street, between Hanover and Union Sts.

J. & G. WADSWORTH, PROPRIETORS.

Single Rooms 37 1-2 Cents.

NOTICE.

Shereby given, that APPLICATION will be made at the ensuing session of the Legislature for an Act to Incorporate "the Magnus Lumber Driving Company."

November 13, 1861.

DR. PARKER.

Has removed to the Cottage in Queen street, adjoining the Agency of the Commercial Bank, and nearly opposite to the Sheriff's.

St. Andrews, Nov. 19, 1861.

EMPLOYMENT 240 MONTHS AGENTS WANTED!!

WE want an active Agent in every County in the United States and Canada to sell the Franklin Sewing Machine. To limited number of Travelling Agents we will pay a salary of \$40 per Month and all Expenses.

Typical agents a commission of 30 per cent on sales. Every machine is warranted to give universal satisfaction, and kept in repair six months. Recent improvements render this machine the cheapest and most durable in the market. For full particulars and a paper in reference, address, with stamp, for return letter, HARRIS BROTHERS, 101 N. 3rd St. PHILADELPHIA, PA. Box 180 Boston, Mass.

LETTERS.

REMAINING in the Post Office, Nov. 1, 1861.

Avery Wm. James Flor
Brooks A. F. McKelroy J
Brooks Miss H. McCreedy
Brickson Jessie Maen Joh
Crowley John Peacock N
Cagwell Dudley Porter Jan
Coles John P. jr. Richardson
Corney Mrs. D. Smith Jol
Corney James J. Smith L
Douglas Philip Smith L
Doran Michael Sands G
Devlin Wm. Valentine
Hurly Thomas Williams
Hinds John

For the Railroad.
Carroll Peter McGillivray
Commins Patrick McKenon
Flaherty Thomas Pearce E
Hawkins Wm. Sullivan
Hennessy Patrick Viney G
Kerny Wm. Whyman
McDermont Patrick

Persons calling for any will please say "advised."

G. F. CAMPBELL.

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