

ABLE
SPONIBLE

TIGHT BINDING
RELIURE TROP RIGIDE

The Christian Watchman

G. W. DAY, Printer.

BY PURENESS, BY KNOWLEDGE—BY LOVE, UNREIGNED.—ST. PAUL.

REV. E. B. DEMILL, A. M., Editor

VOL. I.

SAINT JOHN, NEW-BRUNSWICK,

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20 1861.

NO. 47

Original Contributions

For the Christian Watchman. THE BLESSING OF SIMEON.

No. V.

HUMAN DEPRAVITY REVEALED BY MAN'S

Simeon foretold that the treatment which

Jesus should receive would reveal the true

disposition of man, and bring into light the

most secret intentions and motives of his

heart. It is of infinite importance that the

real character of man should be fully un-

veiled. Men are ignorant of their own dis-

position. Self-love, together with ignorance

of their obligation to God combine to make

them think themselves more brightly than they

ought to be. Hence, they are liable to errors

which are most injurious to themselves and

most dishonoring to God. They imagine that

their hearts are comparatively pure, their lives

comparatively virtuous, that their sins are but

few and deserve but trivial penalties. Hence,

they persevere in a career of sin, vainly dream-

ing of impunity, or else if they cannot forget

the divine sentence "the soul that sinneth it

shall die," they regard the Deity as harsh and

even unjust, and with hearts filled with en-

mity toward Him they plunge into sin with

reckless and unrepentant hearts. Besides,

not only the will but the glory of God re-

quires that the real disposition of man should

be fully unveiled. It is necessary that it

should appear that the sinner deserves the

impending doom, so that all may perceive

that God is just, and even the condemned

criminal himself be constrained to acquiesce

in the justice of his sentence.

Now, the true character of man had never

been made known until Jesus came. The

heavenly light which he exhibited and

depravity of heart. They sinned against the

light of nature, were evidently selfish and

impure. But to what extent were they

depraved? Their knowledge of duty, of the

destiny of the soul, was very imperfect.

What could tell that additional light on

these points would lead to a corresponding

improvement in conduct and character?

Were the heathen only partially de-

praved? Did their conduct result from but a

partial derangement of the faculties? To

these inquiries none could give a satisfactory

reply. The Jews also were sinners, they

violated the revealed law, they lived in know-

ledge; with their superior light, they exhib-

ited no moral superiority over the heathen.

Certainly knowledge of duty was greater, so

their disobedience gave clearer evidence

of depravity. But those Jews were not

fully acquainted with God, His love was

not revealed to them in all its fullness.

The way of pardon for sin committed

was imperfectly perceived. As we regard

the wickedness of the Jews, though amazed

at its extent, we cannot say that it proves a

total depravity of disposition. Might not

additional information respecting the charac-

ter of God, and the way of pardon have

resulted in an entire change of conduct?

Judaism could not answer this question;

neither the light of nature nor the revealed

law brought out into view the secret

character of the human heart. This was

For the Christian Watchman.

Christianity of God, proved from its History.

The fact that a system of religion has succeeded

in acquiring great and extensive power over

the minds of men, is no proof of its truth, yet

there may be circumstances connected with its

progress which shall leave no doubt in the

mind of a candid man—that it is of God. There

may be such a relation between a religion and

the state of the world, that the success of the

former can only be explained upon the suppo-

sition that it is not of man.

1. The progress of Christianity, in spite of

the exceeding wickedness of the world, proves

that it is not of man.

Upon the supposition that it is of earthly

origin, we cannot account for its successful

opposition to antagonistic influences, its tri-

umph over systems in harmony with the

depravity of man, and rendered attractive by

all that is venerable in antiquity, and bound

to their hearts by all the charms which art

and literature afford.

When the gospel was first preached its

success seemed absolutely impossible.

The world was steeped in corruption, and

in corruption steeped in religion. The holy

law no longer influenced the Jew, except to

increase his pride and bigotry. Roman

virtue had long been a subject upon which

poets ever dreamed. The corrupt Roman

disparaged the more virtuous and licentious

Greeks; both regarded the gods of the

pagans as deities in their own eyes, and

these deities in their turn favored whatever

was vile in their hearts. His religion

strengthened his passions, and took from

him all his dignifying delusions. It trans-

formed him into a being, followed licentious-

ness by the example of the gods, and pre-

sented it to the imagination with all the

glorious charms of ideal beauty, and with

all the melody of immortal song.

Against this universal corruption of men—

thus sanctified by religion, Christianity ap-

peared. Its author was the son of a carpenter.

It offered no bribe to the passions. It

fulfilled not the long cherished hopes of the

Jew. To the Greek it could point out no

god, and no goddess, and no goddess, and

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Christian Watchman.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., NOV. 20, 1861.

The Admission of Church Members.

Every society has some conditions of membership, and of course has a right to insist on conformity with these conditions by those who seek admission to its privileges.

The qualifications for church membership are very obvious. When we consider the object for which the church was organized—the duties which its members are under obligation to perform to each other, to the world and to God—the privileges to which they have access, it will appear that faith is a necessary preliminary to the discharge of these duties, or the enjoyment of these privileges.

1. He must exhibit a certain degree of acquaintance with truth—not a clear and systematic comprehension of those doctrines which Paul regarded as meet for the mature Christian—but a knowledge of the more fundamental truths on which faith is based, i. e. that man is depraved; that the heart is morally diseased, that sin deserves and unless forgiven, will ensure a fearful retribution, that Christ has died for sinners, that he is able and willing to save all who come unto him, and that he claims from his people implicit and heartfelt obedience. There is reason to believe, that much emotion which passes for conviction or conversion, is not based on an intelligent recognition of the great facts of the gospel, but is rather the effect of sympathy, or is simply flight in view of impending woe.

2. The candidate should be expected to give an intelligible account of the change which he has experienced. If a believer has felt his great guilt and helplessness, he has turned to Christ for forgiveness and for strength, he has trusted in His power and willingness to save, and in consequence has experienced peace of conscience, grateful love to his Saviour, and a spirit of obedience to His commandments.

We are not to expect a clear and beautiful narrative, or an account of a marvellous or instantaneous conversion. All that we are to look for from a candidate is such a narrative of his experience, as will give believers evidence that he has felt the burden of sin, has put his trust in Christ, and is willing to obey his commandments. A genuine conversion will be characterized by profound humility, no self-confidence, but child-like reliance on the Son of God. Those who tell a brilliant experience, and amaze us by their boldness and confidence, not infrequently pass in their career and turn back again into the world, while the humble and almost trembling convert, whose religious experience has perhaps been meagre, and scattered over long intervals of time, conscious of his own weakness, and tremblingly alive to the necessity of trusting in Christ at all times, will grow in the divine life and be a steady and useful laborer in the church.

Besides the exhibition of the possession of a certain degree of religious knowledge and a narrative of those spiritual changes which are implied in believing, there must also be exhibited in the life evidences of faith. The conduct of the candidate must harmonize with his profession. He must surrender his old sinful habits and begin a course of obedience to all Christ's holy commandments.

insisted on. We do not believe that candidates should be put on a long probation at the same time the church ought not to receive them until satisfied that they are truly believers. It must be borne in mind that credible evidences of conversion alone will warrant the church in opening its doors to applicants.

It is not judicious to receive candidates for membership in the ordinary devotional meetings of the church. They can tell their experience at such meetings if they choose, but when their case is before the church perfect liberty ought to be allowed to make inquiries respecting their views, experience, and life of the candidates. This is only to be done in a meeting of the church.

Sometimes we have applicants for membership from sister churches. These candidates present letters of dismission from the churches to which they belonged. But these letters are only to be regarded as evidences of faith and piety. If there be reason to believe that an applicant, who brings a letter of dismission from a converted man, the church ought to reject him.

3. We need not dwell on the importance of exercising caution in the reception of members. As they are entitled to all the rights and privileges of the church, they if unconverted are not only of no benefit, but their connection with the church is a reproach, and they may even come to have power sufficient to destroy all its energy. In which case it ceases to become a church of Christ.

The Insult to England.

In our issue of the 6th inst. we mentioned that Messrs. Mason and Slidell, Ministers accredited from the Confederate States to the Courts of London and Paris, had arrived in Cuba from Charleston and were to have left for Europe in the British Mail Steamer of that date.

It now transpires that they embarked at Havana on the 6th, with their families and suite, in the British West Indian steamer "Trent" that on the 8th when off Bermuda, this steamer was compelled to lay to by a shot from an American frigate, the San Jacinto—that she was then boarded by a Lieutenant with a party of Marines, her cabins searched, and the Southern Ministers made prisoners in spite of the entreaties and remonstrances of the captain.

It is a right acknowledged by all civilized countries that the flag of a nation protects all who seek refuge under it, and particularly is it the right of England. It is her glory and boast that where her flag waves no slave can breathe. It is the refuge of the enslaved and oppressed of all lands, and the protection she affords even to the vilest criminal is never withdrawn unless in due course of law. Yet this American commander dares to seize two men, not guilty of any crime, not even regarded by England as his countrymen, in the neighborhood of a British Colony and in a British Vessel!

It is so much mistaken if when the "Trent" arrives in England the news of this high handed act do not excite such amazement and indignation throughout Europe as no American news ever before created. It will arrive too, at a time when no feeling of friendship for the Northern States or interest in the preservation of peace will cause Englishmen to stifle their wrath. The abusive and insulting language of the Northern press since the beginning of the war has destroyed much of the friendship formerly entertained for the Americans. Then the Northerners have been so unsuccessful in their battles that they are despised, and the war they carry on—a war for the subjugation of a people who wish a separate Government, conducted in the most barbarous manner, injuring the trade of almost every European country and threatening to destroy manufactures upon which five millions of Englishmen depend for bread—such a war has seemed to call for the interference of foreign powers. Already memorials have been presented to the French Emperor praying him to "end the war," and English statesmen have looked upon the acknowledgment of the Southern Confederacy as a just and equitable act.

To take such a moment for the performance of such an outrage upon England is very unfortunate for the North. The telegram speaks of great rejoicings in Washington! Much better reason will the Southerners have for rejoicing. The union of Mason and Slidell is accomplished—and effected with no expenditure of time, labor or money. A great European power has been compelled to take sides in the dispute, and the triumph of the North is indefinitely postponed. A war is at all times a sad thing. A war with the United States will be peculiarly so, but never has England entered upon any war with so little reluctance as she will should President Lincoln refuse the satisfaction such an insult demands.

American Hostility towards England.

It is an old saying that "those whom the gods wish to destroy they first deprive of sense." It may be an exemplification of this adage that the Americans are now acting, and talking in an exceedingly silly manner. Though in almost every engagement they have been beaten by the Confederates, they still boast of the speedy suppression of the revolution; though the Southerners have in every way proved their unanimity and the strength of their determination to achieve independence. Northerners look upon the capture of Beaufort as the death blow to Southern hopes, though they have scarcely begun to show themselves able to cope with a people inferior to themselves in population and wealth; they dare to talk of a war with the most powerful nation on earth. They have grown in insolence and bravado with each disaster. They have heaped the vilest abuse upon England, made a bitter enemy of their best friend, and plunged themselves in all probability into that war they have so coolly contemplated.

We copy from the Herald two articles which will serve as excellent specimens of that kind of writing which has been said still will be productive to so many evils to the North. Both would be very amusing were they not really expressions of American sentiment.

"Ever since the civil war broke out in the United States the English government, English press, and English people, including Quarterly Reviews, monthly magazines, weekly and daily journals, with some few insignificant

THE CHRISTIAN WATCHMAN.

General Intelligence.

DOMESTIC.

THE CENSUS.—The returns are coming in very slowly, and some months will probably elapse before all are published. No doubt a very respectable increase will be shown.

The Census gives the following as the population of the County of Gloucester. We subjoin the returns of 1851. The increase in that County is 3,378, or nearly 29 per cent. At this rate the population of the Province will be about 250,000

1851.	1861.
Bathurst, 2,943.	3,770.
Berkeley, 2,048.	2,583.
Carleton, 1,795.	2,610.
New Brandon, 1,114.	1,803.
Inkerman, 2,377.	1,838.
Sampson, 1,427.	1,628.
Shippegan, 1,170.	1,582.
	11,704.

Increase, 3,378.
The News gives the following as the population of Albert County:—

Parishes.	Population.
Quesbury, 955.	
Coversdale, 1,233.	
Elgin, 1,331.	
Harvey, 1,567.	
Hillsborough, 2,940.	
Hopewell, 1,968.	
Total, 9,444.	
Population in 1851, 6,313.	

Increase, 3,131.
Being an advance of over 49 per cent.

The Reporter publishes the following returns for York County:—

City of Fredericton, 5,634.
Quesbury, 1,719.
Douglas, 3,805.
Dumfries, 696.
Kingsclear, 1,770.
Manners Sutton, 1,120.
New Brunswick, 406.
Prince William, 1,183.
St. Mary's, 2,428.
Southampton, 998.
Stanley, 1,273.
Carletonby (supposed), 1,500.
Total, 22,482.
In 1851, 17,628.

Increase in Ten Years, 4,854.
nearly 28 per cent.

BLANCHARD HOUSE.—A new hotel bearing the above name has been opened at Woodstock. It is a fine four-story brick house, 60 by 40 feet with parlors, chambers, &c., sufficient to accommodate 100 guests.

NEW BRUNSWICK SCHOONER CONDEMNED.—Providence, Nov. 12.—The British schooner "Adels," which brought a cargo of naval stores out of Wilmington, N. C., and into Newport in distress of weather, was condemned to-day, together with her cargo, by Judge Pitman.

EGGS.—We understand that upwards of 240 barrels of Eggs brought over the Railroad from P. E. Island, will be shipped in the steamer New Brunswick this morning for Boston.—News.

NEW BUILDINGS.—A pleasing contrast in Architecture is seen in the building that is being erected directly opposite the shanty Police Office—the new "British North American Bank." The front is of New Brunswick Free stone, with brick sides; and the whole edifice will be completed in the course of next summer. A suite of rooms is provided for the use of the Manager, Mr. Christian. Arrangements have been made for heating the whole building by the Steam Heating Apparatus of Messrs. Chubbuck & Son of Roxbury, Mass. The boiler is located in the basement, and the pipes are connected with "Radiators" which will be placed in the several halls and rooms. This steam invention was suggested last year to the Alms House Commissioners for the saving of fuel, money and labor, while a vast increase in comfort is insured. The steam apparatus is used in all the large Hotels in the States and can also be used in private houses as well. The contrivance is so simple that an ordinary servant or a youngster can be taught to regulate it. It is a curious thing to know more about it might call and examine it in operation in the Bank building. The result where all the valuables are to be deposited, is excavated out of the solid rock, and cannot therefore be removed or harmed by burglars, of which fact the fraternity can groan themselves accordingly.

Mr. McDonald's brick building on King Street when finished will be an ornament to that portion of the street. There will be stores in the lower part, and it is said the remainder of the building will be occupied as a hotel.—News.

NOVA SCOTIA.—The following is the religious classification of the Province according to the last census. The total population of the Province is 330,857. Of these 86,281 are Roman Catholics; 69,456 belong to the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces; 56,336 are Baptists; 47,744 Episcopalians; 34,055 Methodists; 19,083 Church of Scotland; 6,704 Free Baptists; 4,382 Lutherans; 2,183 Congregationalists; 901 "Christians" and Reformed Presbyterians; 846 Universalists; 236 Reformed Presbyterians; 168 Quakers; 143 Evangelical Union; 112 Bible Christians; 46 Sandemanians; 32 Campbellites; 27 Mormons; 13 Swedenborgians and 3 Deists. Other Creeds 822; no creed given 2,314.

An application has been made by the Council for the prisoners in the Gardner stable case to have them tried by a Jury de medietate Lingue, i. e. by a mixed jury—half of their own countrymen. The question was elaborately argued to-day by Hon. J. W. Johnston and J. W. Ritchie, Esq., for the prisoners, and the Hon. Attorney General for the Crown. The point is an interesting and novel one in this country, and no doubt will be carefully considered. The argument had not concluded when we went to press.—Reporter.

We are glad to understand that Dr. Gesner has lately come from New York, and visited the gold regions in this Province, on behalf of a company of wealthy gentlemen in New York. So satisfied was he with his researches, that he has taken up a number of claims for the company. Dr. Gesner is well known to the scientific world for several useful works on the geology and resources of the lower Provinces.—Reporter.

A letter from W. Gossip, Jr., Civil Engineer, dated Sherbrooke, Guyborough Co., 28th Oct., contains, we believe, the latest intelligence from this last discovered gold region. The diggings

General Intelligence.

DOMESTIC.

are situated about a mile and a half from the west bank of the St. Mary's River, opposite the town of Sherbrooke. About forty applications for three-quarter-acre claims have already been made. Eight veins of gold bearing quartz have been discovered. One man is known to have taken out \$40 worth of gold with a hammer in one afternoon—one nugget worth \$10, and two \$5 each. On one claim the washings averaged 50cts. to the pan of dirt. Accounts from Wier Harbour Diggins (but fifteen miles distant) continue encouraging. The quartz at Sherbrooke is said to be highly impregnated with metallic minerals, consisting of bi-sulphates of iron and copper arsenical pyrites, and doubtless some silver. The region in the neighborhood of the diggings has been burned over and the ground is mostly open, rocky, barren, and somewhat swampy.—Journal.

A young woman named Pooley, living at Bear River, was unfortunately burned to death on Monday last, by her clothes catching fire. After suffering about twenty five hours, after the fire was extinguished, she breathed her last. During the severe day of to-day, the abolition of the break water, building at this place, was again carried away from its moorings; but was not injured.—[B.]

NEWFOUNDLAND.—We learn from St. John's, N. F., that parties have again commenced cutting the telegraph wires; about 25 miles from St. John's the wires had been cut twice.

There was more rioting at Harbour Grace last week. One policeman was killed, and others were badly wounded. A steam-frigate has been sent there, and a detachment of troops was to follow. The election takes place at Harbour Grace on the 20th inst.

DECLINE OF BAPTIST CHURCHES IN CANADA.—A correspondent of the N. Y. Chronicle writes:—"The Associations in this part of the State have all held their anniversaries. But few of the churches report additions by baptisms. Revival influences have descended upon but few churches. It is probable we shall suffer a loss in our membership in nearly all the churches. Many of the churches are feeling the depressing influence of the times upon their financial interests. Their contributions for the different benevolent objects will come far short of the demands of the various societies for their current expenses. We have no doubt that all these trials will be for the ultimate good of the churches. The chief of their membership will be blown away, while the wheat will remain in its purity."

UNITED STATES.

CAPTURE OF BEAUFORT.—The Herald's Correspondent on board the Beaulieu gives the following account of the recent operations at Fort Royal, S. C.

His concluding remarks are rather significant at the present time.

UNITED STATES VESSEL OF WAR BREVILLE. HILTON HEAD, Thursday, Nov. 7, 1861.

GRAPHIC ACCOUNT OF THE ENGAGEMENT AT FORT ROYAL HEADS.

At about eleven o'clock this morning commenced an engagement with the enemy peculiarly well constructed entrenched positions on St. Philip and Hilton Head Islands, South Carolina coast, (entirely to Savannah eleven miles from here), and defended by upwards of twenty nine hundred troops, artillery included. The battle lasted for about four hours. Besides tenets, some small arms, &c., we took the whole of their guns, unspiked, five of which are of the superior rifle cannon, three mortars, which after did not effect their escape to the rear. The remainder in all, on both islands, are of immense calibre, none being so low as a thirty-six pounder. We captured no more than seven or eight prisoners, who, for reasons best known to themselves, did not effect their escape with the rest as they might readily have done. Our loss in killed and wounded on board the fleet probably amounts to about twenty or thirty in all, whilst that of the enemy cannot be properly arrived at, but is supposed to be not far from two hundred and fifty.

The death-dealing missiles came so thick and fast that to the sacredness of our cause can we alone attribute the miraculosity of our not having to report the gaining of a too dearly bought victory.

Strange to relate that on board of us we had only two killed, viz: Patrick McGuigan and Alexander Chambers, and four others wounded. Beaulieu is a good deal damaged, and as the honor of bearing the glorious intelligence to the Empire City will be confided to her, she is likely to be an object of much interest when she shall have reached there. Three shots went right through her, one more took her after side and cut a splinter, another went through her bulwarks close to the deck and bounded into the sea, whilst others carried away various pieces of gear the galley a nuke stook, &c.

About nine o'clock A. M. with the exception of now and then an odd signal from the fleet all was seemingly hushed in breathless repose.

The fleet and troops ships in the inlet, numbering in all about 100 vessels, presented a grand contrast in the rural scenery on shore. We were not, however, left long to enjoy these peaceful pictures, for in a minute or two more (ten minutes to eleven, A. M.) a signal from the flag-ship summoned us to participate in another engagement which was more awfully grand. Our commander (Dupont), with his fine ship, the Wabash, was the first to lead the assault, then followed the Beaulieu, Capt. Steedman, second in command. Amongst the war vessels engaged, were the following, viz:—Flagship Washington, frigates Susquehanna, sloop-of-war Bienville and Vandalla, gunboats Mohican, Pawnee, Seminole, Unadilla, Seneca, Pembina, Augusta, Pocahontas and Penguin (the latter took no part in the action); torz gunboats B. H. Forbes, Curlew and Isaac Smith, with others whose names I have not ascertained. These all formed and came into action in the manner previously arranged by the Commodore. Now came the sight which not many live to see in a lifetime. The Wabash has fired her first gun. The fight has commenced; one second more and we too are engaged, and the fight is almost general. Here we are up to the very centre of their batteries. Shot, shell, fire and smoke are now all that can be either seen or heard. We gradually pass, the remainder come up and attack in succession and then round again to renew the engagement. It was in this manner that we kept it for the four hours, and each time we neared the centre of their batteries our lads could be heard remarking what a peculiar dialike they—the rebels—have for the Beaulieu. Be this as it may, every one allows that we were longer under and received more of their fire than any other ship there. In the last course going down we lay for upwards of twenty minutes, and that, too, in the very teeth of their guns, which they hid time to spare for us from the interval which elapsed between the Wabash and Susquehanna having passed until we had time to come up.

We had no other vessel conveniently near to divert from us a portion of their fire, and didn't we get it? Thick and fast did the missiles from

their batteries envelope us. Balls taking the rigging and going through us, shells and shot. Numbers could be seen with immense velocity skimming the surface of the water, until by degrees distance would hide them from the sight. This was their last grand effort. After we passed delivering a broadside, they asked no more, but retreated precipitately, which they could not have done while under the fire of our guns. The Wabash and Susquehanna rounded again to renew the attack, but after firing a gun or two found they could elicit no reply.

The Commodore, seeing this, immediately despatched a boat with officers and men under a flag of truce, but could not, as they anticipated, find any one there to receive them. Now for the grand moment of excitement on board the fleet. The glorious, the stately, the unconquered and unconquerable flag of freedom in a free country, the "Stars and Stripes," now gracefully unfurl their broad folds to the breeze, from what was but a moment ago the "breeze" of the enemy, and which in an hour or two hence will be occupied by 15,000 Union troops, under command of General Sherman. The hearts that but an instant before were nerved to steel now pray for forgiveness to the stretchers who have brought them to their noble country. The iron hand which was ready to plunge with the most deadly effect into the breast of the enemy now clasps that of some staunch old friend, and as they stand there motionless as statues, their hearts are torn to speak—gazing at the flag rising ceremoniously on shore, with eyes which not long ago shot flames as if lightning in the same direction, but which are now moist with tears of joy, a person could not help exclaiming "What sight! what sight! what sight! our countrymen, and gallant men too, as they this day proved them to be, that we thus felt excited to defeat; but on their own heads, not on the consequences of their rash and ill judged acts." Yes, it was in that hour of that first cold old hypocrite England had humbled, how different at such a moment would have been the sensation in every breast.

Another Correspondent writing on the 10th gives the following particulars of the landing of the troops, &c:—

The victory gained by the naval force on the 7th has been followed by the successful landing of the 15,000 troops of the expeditionary corps. 2000 of General Wright's brigade landed immediately after the evacuation of Fort Walker, and 1,000 more men of the same brigade and General Stevens' command landed the day following. Three regiments of General Vial's brigade—viz: The Third New Hampshire, Eighth Maine and Forty-third New York—landed yesterday afternoon, and immediately proceeded to a camping ground two miles west of Fort Walker, in advance of the other brigades. The Fort-seventh and Forty eighth New York regiments are now disembarking on the beach, and are congratulating themselves on the fact that in landing our troops not one casualty occurred. Our soldiers are in high spirits, and anxious to meet the cavalry of South Carolina in the field.

The United States engineers with this command are now repairing damages to Fort Walker, and will have it in perfect order in a few days.

Hilton Head, on which our troops are, is eleven miles long and seven miles wide. It is famous for its growth of long staple, or sea island cotton. It is said by the contrabands, who are constantly seeking refuge with us, that this year's crop has only been partially gathered; that what is in the barns on the spot that it will be impossible to gather. A line of intrenchments will be thrown across the island, with bastions at proper supporting distance, so as to make a fire from each. To arm this we have upwards of one hundred pieces of heavy artillery, all of them of the most approved patterns, some of them rifled. The work will be commenced at once.

Last night, by permission of Commodore Dupont, the officers of the fleet celebrated their victory by a grand pyrotechnic display. The heavens were illuminated with rockets, and in the rigging of the ships were seen fancy fireworks, made for the occasion. The bands of the naval vessels played patriotic anthems, and the affair passed off with great eclat.

INSULTS TO ENGLAND.—The following despatches have created intense excitement. The first was at once pronounced a "casus," but the confirmation of its truth by additional telegrams has filled all hearts with indignation at this wanton insult offered to our flag, and forebodings of a war with the United States.

The first despatch is from New York, Nov. 18th. It says:—

A Fortress Monroe despatch says:—"Slidell and Mason were taken from a British Steamer on 8th inst. off Bermuda. A Federal Lieut. and 35 armed men went aboard from the United States Frigate "San Jacinto," and effected their arrest. The Rebel Commissioners made but feeble resistance. The Captain of the English Steamer raved and swore, and called the United States officers pirates Yankee, &c. &c. Mrs. Slidell and four children went on to Europe. The vessel was subsequently made. Official despatches are withheld for the present."

Another:—"Mason and Slidell's arrest causes great rejoicing. The San Jacinto was expected at New York."

They were taken prisoners from the British Mail Steamer Trent, by a first Lieutenant and 34 armed men from the "San Jacinto." The Ladies of these gentlemen were allowed to proceed.

New York, 19th.—A despatch to the Tribune from Washington says it is not improbable that the Steamer Trent may have been overhauled by two American war vessels before the former reaches her destination.

A despatch to the Times says there is an increasing confidence in the entire correctness of Commodore Wilkes' act.

I am informed that Secretary Chase expressed regret that he did not seize the Trent.

Board of Aldermen of New York tendered hospitality of the City to Com. Wilkes, inviting him to receive congratulations of citizens in the Governor's room, City Hall.

A National Salute was fired in New York on Wednesday in honor of the capture of Fort Royal.

WASHINGTON, 19th.—The report that the President intends to call for 200,000 more Volunteers is unfounded.

Rebels are rapidly dispersing from several Counties in Virginia.

Brig. General Walker has resigned his Commission in the Rebel Army.

Secretary of War, Benjamin, in accepting his resignation, administered a rebuke for Walker's insulting language to Jeff. Davis.

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ENGLAND.

Arrival. The steamer "Adels" arrived at Halifax on the 21st Nov. The City of New York has intercepted the Steamer Trent for intervention in the war.

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