





## The Oxford Democrat

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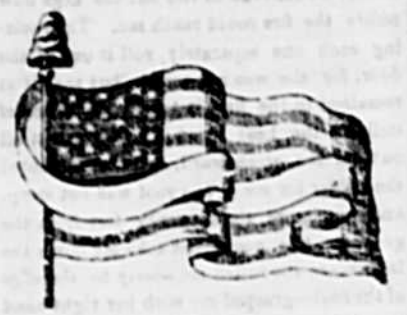
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## The Old and the New Year.

Eighteen hundred and sixty-one has departed—gone, gone, to be remembered in the long catalogue of departed years, and locked up in the records of the past. It has been an eventful year, especially to the American people. We have commenced an entire new page of history; one we had fondly hoped never would have been written. So far as our people are concerned, we hardly can bring ourselves to realize what a short year has brought forth. For the last forty years we have listened to the hoarse uttering thunder of disunion coming from a Southern atmosphere. We have heard threats of the destruction of this government; yet, so profoundly have we been impressed with the glory and grandeur of our free institutions, that we were not prepared for the outbursting of the storm. We could not work ourselves into the belief that the suicidal arm of treason would lay its murderous hand upon the best government the world ever saw.

Within the brief space of a single year the mark has fallen off, the delusion has vanished like a midnight dream, and the reality is upon us. One third of the old United States are in open, hostile, rebellion against the government. They have declared war against the constitutional authorities, and are in the field, "armed to the teeth," against free institutions.

On our part, what has a short year brought forth? The angel of peace no longer, with docile wings, hovers over our political horizon; but war—the fiery demon of war—blackens our sky. We have had no choice in the matter; war has been forced upon us; the sanctity of our homes has been violated; our cities have been sacked and burned; our railroads and other means of communication have been destroyed; the government has been defied and insulted; and its very existence put in jeopardy by the lawless hands of treason.

During the past year the line of proslavery dynasties has been broken in upon; the traitors have been expelled from the white house, and the government in its administration restored to the principles which originally inaugurated it. Treason has been driven from the seat of the government back to its native South, where, as we have already said, it has ripened into open rebellion. One year ago, every Southern State now fighting against the government, was in the full and undisturbed enjoyment of every blessing that our excellent institutions could bestow; not a single constitutional right had been denied them, and universal peace and prosperity everywhere prevailed their borders; and now none of those leaders in this wicked war can point to a single substantial reason as a justification for their treasonable conduct.

Now the scene is changed; their cities are in ashes, and the incendiary torch was applied by their own hands; their works of internal improvement destroyed; their fields desolated and plowed up by the sword and the cannon ball; their beautiful forests laid waste; starvation, with the grim messenger of death, stands at their doors; pestilence stalks abroad in the streets by night and by day; while universal horror and the very terrors of hell overshadow the whole land. What a change in a single year! Amid the sullen gloom of the South there has been, since the inauguration of the rebellion, not a single ray of sunlight. Not so in the North. The past year has brought with it a rich reward to the hand of the husbandman. Our fields have produced most plentifully; we know nothing of want, and the hand of industry has reaped a rich reward.

—If we turn our reflections from the old year to the new, what can we say? Who but God can tell what is in the dim vista of the future? When will Southern infatuation, madness, and fanaticism cease? No human eye can see the end; but so far as we are permitted to look into coming events, we are sure that one alternative—we must fight, or we must be destroyed. Rebellion can only be subdued by force. The sword can only end this contest against the rights of man. The new year will undoubtedly consummate what the old year has begun—the substantial overthrow of the vile system of African slavery upon this continent. What an eventful year! Eighteen hundred and sixty-two expects every loyal citizen to do his duty—his whole duty to his country and God. No man can sleep upon his post the coming year without a gross dereliction of duty. We are passing through a terrible, fiery ordeal. The coming year is big with events. Who can look forward to the future with indifference? Who can read with prophetic eye the page that records the history of 1862? Let us all hope and pray for the best, and never forget that our main confidence should be in God, the Sovereign

Ruler of men and nations. If we forsake Him, He will forsake us; but if we trust in Him, His own right arm will yet bring us out of all our perils, and make us that happy nation "whose God is the Lord."

## England and the United States.—Surrender of Mason and Slidell.

The Administration has settled the controversy about the Trent, by a surrender of Mason, Slidell, and their two Secretaries, to the British flag. We do not propose to discuss the wisdom and folly of this adjustment of the matter. We shall wait and see what the arguments are, and learn the exact state of the case before doing it. Until then we desire only to notice a point or two.

This settlement, as we see it stated in the public press, is an abandonment of the position heretofore held by the English government. Great Britain has always claimed and exercised the right of search to the full extent as involved in the affair of the Trent. The claim made upon us for the surrender of Mason and Slidell, is an abandonment of the doctrine, and we understand Mr. Seward, in his despatches, demands that England shall hereafter stand by their new position. Our government has always resisted the right of search, as claimed by England, and made war upon that government on that account, in 1812; and we suppose Mr. Seward will now claim that the American policy has obtained, and England has at last acknowledged it. The Secretary of State, in order to show our consistency, declares that the act of Capt. Wilkes was unauthorized by our government. Yet it looks as if strictly true in the abstract, yet it looks a little inconsistent with the letter of the Secretary of the Navy, complimenting Capt. Wilkes, and directly approving the seizure of the rebels. If the Cabinet did not approve of the act, they were the only loyal men in the whole country but what did. And the press was unanimous as the people in the matter. If this act was right the day it took place, it is just as right now. What can the people think of a newspaper, either in Maine or out of it, which repudiated the capture of the rebel accomplices, and then subsequently declared our government could never give them up without disgrace, and then the moment the telegraph disclosed the fact that they are to be given up, declares it all right? Yet just such papers are found in this State; but we don't wish to be put in such a category. We said the seizure of Mason and Slidell was right, after it was done, and we say so now; and we believe that it is the honest opinion of nine tenths of the people loyal to the government. We say more, had not Capt. Wilkes seized the rebel commissioners, our own government would have censured him.

The policy adopted may be all for the best. They undoubtedly think that in diplomatic phrase they have out-generaled Earl Russell and Lord Lyons; but time must demonstrate whether England will stand to any policy longer than she thinks it her interest to do it. If she is really in sympathy with the Southern Confederacy, as we fear she is, this Trent affair is only an entering wedge to other demands, intended to embarrass and humiliate us, and then these will have to be met and settled, just as this has been, under a menace of war. Another thing, we shall see how the rebel commissioners are received and treated in England. That will tell the story in language more significant than words.

There are one or two things gratifying about this affair, after all, even if we assent to the giving up of the rebel commissioners. It proves we have one man in commission possessed of undoubted pluck, and one that is ready, like Old Hickory, to take the responsibility. The government may disavow the act, yet Capt. Wilkes is a hero. The people will take care of his fame, and the popular enthusiasm manifested wherever he has appeared, since he captured Mason and Slidell, is only evidence of the popular feeling everywhere.

Another thing is somewhat consoling to the wounded feelings of the masses just at this time. These two old grey-headed sinners did not get all the way to Europe, undisturbed by the day they are treasuring up their traitorous feet; but they had to come down under its folds, as prisoners of war, and take up their abode for a while in Fort Warren. This is better than nothing. As the boy said, we have got the "travel out of them," and perhaps have learned them, during their sojourn among the Yankees something of good manners. In war times it is always best to keep cool and take things philosophically. What we can't "cure we must endure." If we don't like everything the administration does, it is no use to blow it up. As Mr. Ritchie used to say, thirty years ago, "nous verrons."

**Abolitionism.** We continue to hear the mad-dog cry of "Abolitionism" and "abolitionism," not only from those who formerly took apparent pride in these slang phrases, but from certain "conservative" personages, as they style themselves, who think the government is upon their shoulders, and that when they die all wisdom will depart from this lower world. If these "conservative" demagogues think the world will stand still at their command, let them try the experiment; or, if they are imbecile enough to believe the masses will pay the least heed to their antediluvian prognostications, let them continue their labors of love in this dire time.

Old fogeyism must stand out of the way, or the gigantic arm of human civilization will crush out what little remains of life in its withered, deformed frame. Abolitionism is being made every day, and abolitionism is overthrowing every other aim in all the loyal States. Men are being made abolitionists against their will. Slavery becomes more and more the object of their hate. Its deformities and villainies appear more and more apparent every hour. It is the monstrous wrong that lies at the bottom of all our domestic troubles, and the American people are getting their eyes open to its many atrocities. Slavery is the direct cause of the rebellion, and aims at the total destruction of the government. Men cannot look this question fairly and candidly in the face without becoming abolitionists. And we venture to say that a great majority of the people in the loyal States

are in favor of strangling the monster, just as soon as the necessary ceremonies attending its execution can be properly attended to. This would be their verdict upon a fair vote upon the question.

## Strength of the Republic.

This nation is now passing through a terrible crisis. The strength of a republican form of government is being put to the test. We have rebellion in a fearful form warring against the existence of the government. This rebellion has driven us to raise an army of more than a half a million of men, and we have war upon a gigantic scale. We have, since the commencement of this war, had more defeats than victories. How long it will last, God only knows. To add to our perplexities and difficulties, England steps in with a menace, and threatens war or disgrace to our flag. How many more alternatives will spring up, upon foreign soil, remains to be seen. Our government is environed with troubles on every side. This is the day of our national peril. The energies, patriotism, and wisdom of our people are all put to the test. The model government of the world is quivering in the storm that rages about us. Free institutions, and the capacity of man for self-government, are being tried and proved. Traitors are rejoicing; pirates are gloating over fancied or real spoils; political gamblers are scenting plunder; corruption stalks abroad at noon day. Can we endure the trial, and stand the fiery ordeal through which we are passing? We answer—Yes.

The trial is great, but twenty millions of freemen will never suffer the only hope of oppressed millions of the world to go down in the dark night that hangs over us in gloom. Already more than a half million of patriots are in the field, and if stern necessity compels the sacrifice, as many more will respond to their country's call. Rebellion at home must and will be conquered; and if, in the Providence of God, we shall be forced into a war with England—then we will conquer in the end, and force an honorable peace from that haughty and insolent government. And when the contest shall be ended, and the sun of peace again shines upon a united country—then shall we rise again, more strong, more vigorous than ever, with our free institutions grounded upon a more firm and enduring basis than ever.

**Bethel Items.** The series of meetings instituted by Mr. Hammond, the Evangelist, has awakened a degree of religious interest not witnessed in this community for many years. In spite of the inclemency of the weather, the meetings have been fully attended every night during the past week, and with increasing attention.

Capt. Edwards, of Company I, 5th Regiment, on the day of his departure home on a short furlough, received an elegant hunting watch from his company. The following letter, accompanying the presentation, expresses, in a most interesting manner, the feelings of our soldiers on the Potomac:

Capt. C. S. Edwards, commanding Co. I, 5th Regiment Maine V. M. — In behalf of the members of your company, I desire to present to you a token of our appreciation of your merits, which we have formed in the perilous scenes through which we have passed together. The friendship which your company bears for you is not of an ordinary cast. Born as it was in the mode of a sanguinary war, we trust it shall continue long after the war has passed away, and you shall have returned to the bosom of your family.

As such a token, we have selected this watch, hoping that it may be as faithful to its trust, as you have been to yours; and as it beats by your bedside in years to come, may every beat remind you of every member of your family.

As you are about to leave us for a while to visit our native Pine Tree State, carry to our loved ones there a heartfelt greeting, and tell them that all of us are not here, but that what remains are still battling with strong and true hearts for the right; and if any shall ask you if your boys still love and respect their Captain, show them this watch and they will need no further answer. God go with and protect you, and restore you well again to us.

**CAMP ANECDOTE.** An anecdote was related to us the other day by an eye-witness at Washington. A peddler of vegetables and poultry made his appearance near one of the camps, when a soldier succeeded in pilfering a lot of eggs from his wagon, and proceeded to boil and eat them, all in sight of the peddler, and finding three eggs of a bad odor, he brought them forward and soundly berated the countryman for selling him bad eggs, and made him give him three more.

**Pigs.** Don't let us hear any more bragging about pigs. Hon. Moses Mason, of this village, killed a pig, last week, 8 mos. and 23 days old, which weighed 330 lbs. Ira C. Kimball, Esq., killed another of the same litter which weighed 391 pounds.

**For The Oxford Democrat.**

**Mr. Editor.**—The ladies of Hartford have prepared a box of articles intended for our sick and wounded soldiers. It contains the following:

Thirty pairs socks, 3 blankets, 4 pairs drawers, 10 shirts, 30 sheets, 19 towels, 28 pairs pillow cases, 32 pillows, 11 quilts, 8 cushions, 10 do. quilts, 5 matts of apples, 3 packages of lint, 1 pair mittens, 19 rolls bandages.

Much praise is due to the Ladies' Sewing circle of South Hartford for the promptness and liberality with which they responded to the call.

F. J. R. T.

**OXFORD QUARTERLY MEETING.** The time of holding the Oxford Meeting has been postponed. It will be held with the church in Paris, on the 14th of the present month. This we learn from the Advocates.

**New Year's.** Being obliged to read the proof, last week, in great haste, we did not observe that the compositor made us state that the Legislature assembled on "Monday—New Year's." Our readers of course readily corrected the error, in reading the paragraph.

A letter from Port Royal, written early in November reached us Tuesday. It bears six French postmarks.

## Legislative Nominations.

By special dispatch from Augusta, to the Bath Sentinel, we learn that the Republican and other members of the Legislature, who were so disposed, met in Caucus, Tuesday evening, and made the following nominations for officers of the Legislature:

## SENATE.

John H. Goodnow, Alfred, President.  
James M. Lincoln, Bath, Secretary.  
Thos. P. Cleaves, Brownfield, Asst. Sec'y.  
Increase Blake, Farmington, Messenger.  
Jabez Mariner, Westbrook, Asst. Messenger.

## HOUSE.

James G. Blaine, Augusta, Speaker.  
Charles A. Miller, Rockland, Clerk.  
Horace Lincoln, Pittsford, Asst. Clerk.  
E. P. Parthen, Biddeford, Messenger.  
A. L. Norton, Dixmont, Asst. Messenger.  
A. C. Chadbourne, Dixmont, Ditto.

Elphale Case has become the editor of the Portland Advertiser. He announces in hackneyed terms that all "conservative" Union men must unite to put down the schemes of "Northern ultras" as well as "Southern rebels." This sounds very much like the resolution of Mr. Randall, in the Democratic County Convention, last summer, by the passage of which he was enabled to swallow the Dana platform. Are we to infer that from and after date, the Republican party will have no distinctive organ in Portland?

Government has commenced the practice of returning to the writers all letters sent to the Dead Letter Office. By this means, on payment of three cents postage, we have recovered a dunning letter, written to a quack medicine dealer last August.

The Augusta correspondent of the Boston Journal, in speaking of the meeting of the Legislature, predicts that the Hon. John H. Goodnow of Alfred, will be re-elected President of the Senate; and Hon. Jas. G. Blaine Speaker of the House. The same correspondent adds that the forthcoming report of the Adjutant General will be an unusually interesting publication. It will be devoted principally to a concise history of the formation, movements, and present condition of every regiment which make up Maine's quota of troops, inclusive of the batteries and cavalry corps. As an interesting feature the appendix will contain a table of the names of every officer and private, with his respective rank, time of enlistment, town to which he belongs, whether married or single, age and vocation. The report will be of intrinsic value, not only as a means of reference, but from the fact that it may serve in benefiting our soldiers hereafter in getting their profiles.

The Treasurer's report will show that the appropriation of one million for arms, supplies, equipments, transportation, etc., has been exceeded by a large amount.

The usual holiday vacations have prevented much business in Congress. On meeting on Thursday, it is stated the plan for reorganizing the Supreme Court will be acted upon.

Ex-Gov. Dana, accompanied by his son, and Stewart Charles, son of Asa Charles, Esq., of Fryeburg, sailed from Portland, for Montevideo, on Tuesday, in the ship George W. Bourne.

While Capt. Stuart, of Calais, Me., was absent last week, a man called for the purpose of enlisting, and Mr. Stuart, thinking it a pity to lose so good a recruit, hunted up the documents and enlisted him himself for her husband's company. The Governor ought to send her a commission.

**San News.** We are pained to learn that the wife of J. W. Hines, Esq., of this village, who has been spending some time in Boston, was suddenly and violently stricken with insanity, a few days ago, and is now a patient in the City Hospital, at South Boston. [Arrowroot Herald.]

We notice that Capt. E. W. Wedgwood, of the Maine 9th, was a passenger in the last steamer from Port Royal. Col. Strickland, late of the Maine 8th, was a passenger in the same vessel.

We are informed that Hon. Charles W. Walton has been confined to his residence, in Washington, for several days, from illness. This explains the absence of his name in the year and days, noticed last week, in our columns.

The new Board of County Commissioners will meet for organization, and the transaction of other business, on Tuesday next.

**Tax Collector's Fleet.** Some of the accounts supplied show the western expedition to be one of great magnitude. It is to consist of 12 iron plated gunboats, 175 foot long, 50 foot beam, to draw 5 feet, with machinery beneath the water line. These will carry each 65 pound columbards, and 5 rifled cannon. The sides are built at such an angle that the shot, in most cases, will glance off. Twenty-eight tug and steamers, and thirty-eight mortar boats are also contracted for. The mortar boats can also be made into bridge, and a train of gutta-percha pontoon boats will be attached. 500,000 bushels of coal have been contracted for; the officers' pay amounts to \$60,000 per month; \$40,000 worth of clothing has been ordered; and 800 tons of powder have been sent to Cairo, and other war materials beyond computation.

It is currently reported that the Universalist Society in this village has secured the services of Rev. Harvey Hersey, for the year ensuing. Mr. Hersey is a graduate of Tufts College, and has, for some time past, been preaching to the second Universalist Society in Portland.

Such a tempest of wind and driving snow as visited us last week, is rarely felt. It started first the light snow, then wore off the hardened crust of old snow remaining on the ground, and then dug up the gravel. Some of the drifts are enormous. We rode over these fully ten feet deep. The worst feature is that miles of the road are laid bare, making traveling in many parts of the country very difficult.

Another blow, Wednesday night, did not improve matters.

## Among the Artists.

Sometimes since I had the pleasure of sending to you a list of pictures—mostly subjects sketched in Oxford County, and painted in Oil, by F. S. Frost, that were sold at the "Artist's Sale," by Messrs. Draper, Morse & Co. Since then, many of the Boston artists have passed the summer on the banks of the Androscoggin and its tributaries, and now it is a very frequent occurrence to see in our exhibitions of paintings, "views on or near" the old river.

For more than a year past there has been almost constantly one or more pictures at our picture stores, that were sketched in Bethel Newry. About a year ago I was attracted by a large picture in the window of Sargent's Rooms, (from the fine things in his store he must belong to the good old post.) It was a picture of a river, and I was a painting by a first class artist, and we gave the picture a most critical examination. As works of the artist were as familiar to us as those of any artist, and we knew at once that he had done his subject justice. After a week or two we went to see the painting again, and it seemed to have grown wonderfully, and concluded that Newry had taken an extra fit of pride, and was "looking up." After a short vacation, we, one day, took a friend in to see it, and behold!—pride had met with a fall, and Newry was as small as she could be. Here was something that required explanation, and we had recourse to Mr. Rogers. The one in miniature was about the twentieth one that the artist had painted, to fill orders. We ourselves have seen many a "down-caster" looking at it, and speak of its fidelity.

One day, happening in a bookstore, in this city, we accidentally got to chatting with a gentleman present about books. After a few minutes talk we retired into a quiet corner of the store and renewed our conversation, and it led from books to pictures. The afternoon passed away, and we still continued in the store. When we parted, he gave a cordial invitation to visit him, and "he had a few pictures which he would like to show me." After he had left, I looked at the card, and it was our "Sunday River" artist—W. H. Titcomb. Here was a piece of good fortune, and I availed myself of it. One pleasant day I took a ride to Cambridgeport, and visited his studio. He lives in as pretty a place as any would wish, and his studio is a perfect Art Gallery. Pictures on the walls, pictures on the floor, pictures under the tables, and pictures in the closets. Here was our old friend "Newry" again, and—better than that ever. Mr. Titcomb informed us that this was the twenty-seventh one that he had painted—and proved to be one of his most popular pictures. Black Mountain and Sunday River White Cap are sketched admirably, and the hills that intervene are painted with "Stereoscopic" effect, and seem to stand right out on the canvas, and the warmth of coloring, and the shadows of the trees and rocks upon the water, cannot be surpassed. It is certainly one of the best pictures this popular artist has painted.

He had some views of the Grand Monadnock that were painted with great care, and a "down east" "Winter Scene" made us look involuntarily for our overcoat and mittens. He has quite a number of pictures that are unfinished.

Next summer, he thinks of taking a trip through Oxford County, sketching all points on his route worthy of note; and as he does not depend upon the railway for his means of progress, we may look next fall for a full portfolio of sketches. He is very anxious to take a sketch of *Snow's Falls*, at Paris, and, if practicable, will also make a sketch of it as it was in its primitive state—something that will give additional value to the painting.

Mr. Titcomb is not a "one idea" man. He has one of the finest private libraries extant, and we found him to be both an excellent Microscopist and Geologist—and, in fact, just back of his knee, one of his hands found quite a collection of Butterflies, Beetles, &c., and guess he dabbles in Entomology. We have visited his studio quite a number of times, and have ever found him as pleasant and agreeable as we could wish, and ever ready to show his pictures and cabinets to all who may wish to see them. His residence is at Centre St., Cambridgeport, and he has a studio at Room 21, Mercantile Building, Summer St., Boston; and if any of your readers would like to visit him, I doubt not but they will meet with a cordial reception. Truly Yours,

G. L. D. R.

It is stated that all the regiments on the upper Potomac, are building huts and stables for winter quarters.

The commander of the Iroquois, which has hunted the pirate Sumner, with so little success, is to be superseded. Captain John De Camp, left last week to take command. Our gunboats pushed to within 14 miles of Charleston, lately with gunboats. At Rockwell, a battery was discovered, protected by 400 men. These were soon shelled out and the sailors landed and picked up a liberal amount of booty. A sword worth \$100 was brought off as a trophy.

The rebels have released 240 prisoners in return for those recently sent over the lines. Accounts from New Orleans to the 26th instant state that the people are badly frightened because of the landing of Butler's forces at Mississippi City. There were 2000 troops at Grand Junction on their way to New Orleans; also 5000 had left Columbus for Bowling Green.

Another incendiary fire occurred at Charleston on the 7th inst. It was checked by the firemen.

The ordnance department of the confederacy offer 40 cents per pound for salt-petre.

The rebel papers speculate on the raising of the blockade, in thirty days, by England. These hopes are based on the Mason and Slidell difficulties.

In North Carolina negro laborers are hired for \$50 per year, by the railroad companies.

The Alabama Legislature has passed a law prohibiting an advance on several articles of prime household necessity beyond 60 per cent, above the rate charged last April.

## Mr Seward's Dispatch.

Below we give the telegraphic abstract of the dispatch of Secretary Seward to Lord Lyons, in relation to the Trent affair. The whole document is too long for our columns, this week.

Mr. Seward replies to Lord Lyons, by whom he was furnished a copy of Earl Russell's letter, stating that the dispatch has been submitted to the President. Mr. Seward states that the British government rightly conjectured what it is now my duty to state; that Capt. Wilkes acted upon his own suggestions of duty, without any direction or instructions, or even knowledge of it on the part of this government. No directions had been given him, or any other naval officer, to arrest the four persons, or any of them, on the Trent, or any other British vessel, or elsewhere. After discussing the whole question at great length, in all its bearings, Mr. Seward says, I trust I have shown to the satisfaction of the British Government by a very simple and natural statement of facts and analysis of law applicable to them, that this government has neither meddled nor practiced or approved any deliberate wrong in the transaction to which they have called its attention; and on the contrary, that what has happened has been simply an inadvertency, consisting in a departure by the naval officer, free from any wrongful motive, from a rule unceremoniously established, and probably, by the several parties concerned, either imperfectly understood or entirely unknown; for this error the British has a right to expect the same reparation that we as an independent State should expect from Great Britain, or from any friendly nation in a similar case.

I have not been unware that in examining this question I have fallen into an argument for what seems to be the British side of it against my own country; but I am relieved from all embarrassment on that subject. I had hardly fallen into that line of argument when I discovered that I was really defending and maintaining not an exclusively British interest, but an old honored and cherished American cause, not upon British authorities, but upon principles that constitute a large portion of the distinctive policy by which the United States have developed the resources of a continent, and thus becoming a considerable maritime power, have won the respect and confidence of many nations. These principles were laid down for us by James Madison in 1804, when Secretary of State under Jefferson, in instructions to James Monroe, our then Minister to England.

Mr. Seward says after quoting these instructions, "If I decide this case in favor of my own Government, I must declare its most cherished principles, and reverse and forever abandon its essential policy. The country cannot afford the sacrifice. If I maintain those principles, and adhere to that policy, I must surrender the case itself. It will be seen therefore that this government could not deny the justice of the claim presented. We are asked to do to the British nation just what we have always insisted all nations ought to do to us. 'In coming to my conclusion, I have not forgotten that if the safety of this Union required the detention of the captured prisoners, it would be the right and duty of this Government to detain them. But the effectual check and warning proportions of the existing insurrection, as well as the comparative unimportance of the captured persons themselves, when disproportionately weighed, happily forbid me from resorting to that device, nor am I unaware that American citizens are not in any case to be unceremoniously surrendered for any purpose into the keeping of a foreign State; only the captured persons, however, or others, who are interested in them, could justly raise a question on that ground. It would tell little for our own claims to the character of a just and magnanimous people if we should so far consent to be guided by the law of retaliation as to lift up buried injuries against national consistency and national conscience. Putting behind me all suggestion of this kind, I prefer to express my satisfaction that by the adjustment of the present case upon principles confessed by America, and yet, as I trust, mutual satisfaction to both nations concerned, a question is finally and rightly settled between them, which, heretofore exhausted not only all forms of peaceful discussion, but also the arbitrament of war itself, for more than half a century alienated the two countries from each other, and perplexed with fears and apprehensions of the other nations."

Four persons in question are now held in military custody at Fort Warren, in the State of Massachusetts. They will be cheerfully liberated. Your Lordship will please indicate a time and place for receiving them. I renew the assurance of my very high consideration.

[Signed] WM. H. SEWARD.

**STRENGTH OF CANADA AND THE STATES OF THE BORDER.** By the Canadian census of this year and the United States census of 1860, the relative strength of the Canada, and the States bordering on them is as follows:

Canada East, bordering on New England,	1,003,666
Canada West, on the New York and Michigan borders,	1,265,222
<b>Total,</b>	2,268,888

The States in proximity to the Canada line, according to the census of 1860, show the following population:

New York,	3,851,563
Michigan,	754,391
Maine,	619,958
New Hampshire,	325,672
Vermont,	325,827

**Total,** 5,877,811

The number between the ages of eighteen and forty-five in Canada, is 470,000; in the States on the border, 1,183,000—or nearly three to one.

OYSTERS. James Freeman, 105 Federal St. Portland, who never forgets to send his compliments, annually, with a keg of oysters, to the editors in this State, added to the value of the present this year, by sending it in season for Christmas. Let those who wish to test their quality send an order to the above address.

It is said that the Wilton Edge Tool Co. are preparing to locate their business at Lisbon Factory.

rying from eight to ten fathoms at low water, inside Bangs island.

This island is the natural fortress that defends the approach to the harbor; its outside shore line, extending over one mile in a nearly straight line rises about eighty feet above the level of the sea.

The distance from this outer shore wall of the island is less than three miles from the densely populated portion of the peninsula on which the city is built.

Behind this natural fortress, ships of war may lie in deep water and shell the city entirely protected from the guns of Fort Preble, Fort Scammel, or Fort Gorge.

In point of fact, the present forts are of very little, if any, value in defending the city from guns of long range used in modern warfare.

Bangs island contains two hundred and twenty acres. By fortifying this island all possible approach to Portland by water with large ships is cut off.

In that event, no holding ground or places of anchorage can be found where gunboats can reach the city without coming within range of the guns of its fort, or those of Fort Gorge.

By making Bangs island a fortress, Fort Gorge may be advantageously changed into a water-battery, with only one tier of guns, and the expense of the proposed casemate battery saved, and thereby Portland would become impregnable by water.

The town itself is situated on a high peninsula, once an island two and a half miles in length and averaging three-fourths of a mile in width, around which still sweep the tide waters of Casco bay, approaching within a few rods from opposite sides.

A ditch of a few rods in length will change this peninsula into an island, and secure a flow of the tide completely around the city. The land rises more or less abruptly on all sides from the water, reaching an elevation of 176 feet at the western end, and 161 feet at the eastern end of the peninsula, so that a redoubt at each end of the city overlooking this most or ditch, and commanding the approaches by land, or across Back bay, will present all approach to the city. No land rises so high as that of the peninsula of Portland, within ten miles. One-tenth of the expense of fortifying Sebastopol or Cherbourg would make Portland one of the strongest fortresses of the world.

As a harbor of refuge that of Portland is unrivalled, and the approach of a storm is foreshadowed by a movement of vessels in that direction.

Between five and six hundred sail have been known to enter Portland harbor for shelter in a single night, and six hundred sail can be often counted on a clear morning, standing out to sea after an easterly storm.

The first great naval battle with any modern armament was fought in the harbor of a little Port of Portland.







100

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*Messrs. E. B. Magnus & Co.*—I have used  
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croup, colds, and Sore Throat, and it has proved  
a efficacious remedy. It is a valuable addition  
to the list of remedies for colds, coughs, &c.  
I am, &c., Yours,  
L. J. UNDERWOOD.  
Burlington, Oct. 8, 1860.

From Hon. Jas. Poland, *State Senator, Vt.*  
I have used **WEEKS' MAGIC COMPOUND**  
in my family, and have never found any remedy  
so effectual in curing coughs and sore throat, and  
other diseases of the lungs.

J. JOSEPH POLAND.

Montpelier, Oct. 1, 1860.  
*From Hon. Timothy P. Redfield.*  
 By using WEEKS' MAGIC COMPOUND  
 short time, I was entirely cured of one of the  
 most severe and distressing affections  
 that I ever experienced. I know of no remedy  
 equal to it for cough and lung complaints gener-  
 ally.  
 TIMOTHY P. REDFIELD.  
 Montpelier, October 15, 1860.  
*From Rev. E. B. Smith, D. D., Principal of N. H.*  
*Hampton Institute.*  
 THE MAGIC COMPOUND which you fur-  
 nish me last spring when I was suffering most  
 severely from the effects of a lung complaint, has  
 cured my lungs, acted like a charm. The fre-  
 quency of the cough has been lessened, and sleep  
 better than for weeks before, and the use of  
 medicine rendered the difficulty entirely. I shall  
 use it again in preference to any medicine I can  
 procure.

Yours Truly, E. B. SMITH,  
Fairfax, Vt., April 24, 1860.

**GROUP.**

A short time since my child was attacked mor-  
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live five minutes. A single dose of WEEKS  
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she has had no attack of it since. I think  
my family should be without it.

M. F. VARNEY,  
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