

CAPTURE OF THE ARIEL BY THE CONFEDERATE STEAMER ALABAMA.

The Panama correspondent of the San Francisco Bulletin, gives the following account of the capture of the Ariel, one of the Vanderbilt steamers, running between New York and Aspinwall, by the Alabama:

At about two o'clock, a.m., on Sunday, December 7th, just as the passengers sat down to dinner, "a bark in sight" was reported to Capt. Jones. The Captain immediately left the dinner table for the deck. The vessel was just coming out of the sun glare, close to Port Maysi [the east end of Cuba], when Captain Jones made her out to be English built, and saw she was a propeller. He immediately ordered all steam to be put on. The propeller hoisted the American flag and gave chase. The Ariel, a slow craft, was going only eight knots an hour, and the Alabama, under steam alone, at eleven knots. When she gave chase she was only about four miles off. She soon got close to the Ariel, when she hoisted the Confederate flag, and fired a blank shot. The Ariel paid no attention, but kept on, when she fired two shells simultaneously, one a steel pointed one, which explodes immediately on striking an object, and the other a common fuse shell. Fortunately the steel-pointed shell passed over the vessel, but the round one struck the foremast above the hurricane deck, cutting away nearly the size of the shell. The one hundred and forty marines and officers on board the Ariel at this time were drawn up for resistance, which Captain Jones insisted upon making; but Commodore Sartori and Major Garland, seeing the futility of defense, ordered the men to be disarmed and sent below. The Ariel then dove to and hauled down her flag.

Soon Lieutenant Low, a young officer, came on board and called for the ship's papers, manifests, etc., which were given him—assuring the passengers, who were very much frightened, that not a hair of their heads should be despoiled and not a dollar of their property touched. Finding there were 140 marines on board, he communicated with Captain Semmes, who ordered that they and all the officers should be paroled "not to serve against the Confederate States nor in any manner serve the United States during the war," which, of course, had to be agreed to. The money on board the ship was then demanded, and \$8,000 in Treasury notes belonging to Wells, Fargo & Co., and \$1,500 in coin, belonging to other parties, was taken. Being assured that the Ariel had no letter mail, the sacks were not overhauled. The sacks of Wells, Fargo & Co., those of the Panama Railroad Company, and the State Department sacks for the United States Consul at Aspinwall all came safe to hand.

The sails of the Ariel were cut away and thrown overboard, and that was all the injury done to the vessel. Captain Semmes sent for Captain Jones, who went immediately on board the Alabama, where he was received most courteously, but was told that his passengers would be landed and the vessel burned. He first proposed to land them in a little spot on San Domingo, where there were only a few huts. Captain Jones remonstrated, stating that nothing could be had there, and half his passengers must perish. Semmes then said he would land them at Kingston. He complained bitterly of Commodore Vanderbilt—said he had given one of the finest ships in America to the government to run him down, and he would in revenge destroy everything belonging to him that he fell in with.

Captain Jones, after a long conversation, returned to his ship, with orders to keep company with the Alabama, which he did. At dark a valve of the Ariel was taken out and carried to the Alabama, thus disabling her. The Alabama then left her and cruised about for other vessels. Next morning she restored the valve and kept company as before, only the Alabama would occasionally dart off at the sight of a sail, and finding her not American would return to the charge of her game, which she had plenty of time to do, going as she did, two knots to the Ariel's one.

On the 8th, Monday, stood for Jamaica, chasing vessels occasionally as before, and so up to Tuesday night, at half-past ten o'clock, when a light was made near Kingston. All this time Captain Semmes seemed at a loss to know what to do with the Ariel with her 800 souls, as if he had won an elephant at a raffle. He finally let go his hold on her and she proceeded on her voyage. To a question of Captain Jones if he would be allowed to go into Kingston for water, Semmes answered yes. The Ariel kept along under the coast of Jamaica, and at six o'clock a.m., on Wednesday, spoke a Kingston branch pilot, who agreed to take a letter from Commodore Sartori to the town in Morant Bay, thirty-six miles from Kingston. The letter was addressed to the United States Consul at Kingston; and another to the Mayor of Morant urged that the letter to the Consul should be forwarded at once. Commodore Sartori thinks the letter must have reached Kingston by twelve noon same day. If the Consul is anywise smart he will dispatch a steamer at once to the south side of Cuba, if he can get one, and thence telegraph to Havana the facts for the benefit of the United States cruisers.

I forgot to say that Captain Jones bonded the vessel and cargo to the Confederate Government—the vessel for \$125,000; cargo, \$123,000; freight \$12,000; payable thirty days after the independence of the Confederate

States. Captain Semmes retained the "slow" manifest of the Ariel.

Before Lieutenant Low left the ship, Commodore Sartori and Garland having, with their marines, been deprived of their arms, fearing that their men might become disorderly and unmanageable from liquor during the rest of the voyage, requested the Lieutenant to destroy all the spirits and wines, which he did, knocking in the heads of the whisky barrels, and throwing everything overboard from the bar. Lieutenant Low said Captain Semmes felt much annoyed by the lying report of the master of the Lamp-lighter, which he had destroyed, who published in the papers that the first thing his officers and men did on visiting the vessel was to ask for liquor; when, in fact, they destroyed it all immediately, for fear that the men under their command might get it and make beasts of themselves.

Lieutenant Low, while on board, behaved in the most polite and even courteous manner—calmed the fears of the women, patted the children on their heads, etc. He said he was only doing his duty, and told Captain Sartori that he could not blame him, as he (Sartori) would do the same thing were his country so outrageously treated as the South had been. He allowed Captain Sartori to keep a favorite fowling piece.

The Alabama in chasing the Ariel had only just got up steam, having had her fires banked, and carried only 11 pounds. With 25 pounds steam she would make 15 or 16 knots. She can make eleven knots under sail.

Captain Semmes spoke particularly of the Pacific, naming all the United States vessels there. Perhaps, if the Atlantic gets too hot for him, he will try our coast.

He had last coaled in Martinique. He said that as he left the port the San Jacinto trained a gun upon him, when the fort at the entrance of the harbour at once trained its guns upon the San Jacinto.

All the officers as well as Captain Jones accord to Semmes the most gentlemanly conduct, utterly at variance with the reports of the masters of vessels he had previously taken.

He had taken two barks and a schooner a few days before, the names of which I have not yet learned. The barks were burned, and the schooner, I believe, sent to Kingston.

The following are the names of the officers paroled: Commander Sartori, United States sloop-of-war Cyane; Major Addison Garland; Captain David M. Cohen; First Lieutenants Edward McElrath, W. H. Mc Kean, and F. H. Carrie; Second Lieutenants A. W. Ward and C. Daniels; Sergeants, musicians and privates for California, 100. For Panama, Lieutenant McElrath, 1 Sergeant, 2 Corporals, and 24 privates.

I wouldn't like to say that Semmes isn't smart, in the face of so many things to the contrary; but it strikes me he scared the bird before he got ready to shoot. Had he waited for the Ariel to return, he might have got a million of dollars. Now, Jones will leave Aspinwall at night, with all lights out, and go clean down to Cape Gracias a Dios, thence to Cosumel, in Yucatan, and thence home by a long route, where Secesh won't be likely to pick him up. He was apparently looking for the Champion while he had the Ariel under charge, but the Champion must have got through the islands before the 10th at night, as she left Aspinwall on the 5th. Thus he lost the Champion while minding with the Ariel.

There should be an arrangement at once by which the Government shall send a war steamer once a month to Aspinwall to take home all the California treasure. It is not even safe at the wharf in Aspinwall. The best and safest place in the world for Semmes to lie in wait for California gold is under the land at Porto Bello, only fifteen miles from Aspinwall.

A CHAPTER ON FOOD.

The diversity prevailing in different nations in reference to the various articles of food seems to confirm in its literal sense the proverbial saying, that "One man's meat is another man's poison." Many an article of food which is in high esteem in one country is regarded in others with abhorrence which even famine can hardly surmount.

In the Shetland Island it is said that crabs and lobsters abound, which the people catch for the London market, but refuse to eat even when half starved. The John Dory is reckoned by epicures one of the choicest fish, but in Devonshire, where it bounds and also Ireland, it used to be thrown away as unfit for food. There seems to be some superstition connected with this as it is said that a Devonshire cook flatly refused to dress it. Eels, in Cumberland and Westmoreland, and also in Scotland are regarded by the people there with as much disgust as snakes. Skate, which is in high repute in England, in Ireland, is hardly ever eaten except by fishermen. Scallops, on the other hand, which are reckoned a dainty in Ireland, are hardly ever eaten in England; and although they are abundant on many of the coasts few of the English have any idea that they are eatable. The cuttle-fish, that kind which produces the inky fluid, although found on our coast, is not eaten by us. But at Naples it is highly esteemed and travelers report that it tastes like veal. Cockchafers are candid and serve, with other confectionery by the Italians.

The hedgehog no one thinks of eating in England, except the gipsies, and some who have joined them report that they are better than rabbit. The sailors in the English and Dutch whalers do not eat the flesh of the

whale; but those in the French whaler with their well known skill in cookery, are said to make a palatable dish of it. By almost all the lower classes in England, venison and game of all kinds are held in abhorrence, and so are fresh figs. By the Australian savages, frogs, snakes, large moths, grubs picked from the wood—all of which the English settlers turn from in disgust—are esteemed dainties; but they are shocked at our eating oysters.

Milk, as an article of food except for sucking babies, is loathed by the South Sea Islanders. Goats had been introduced into many of the islands, but the people deride the settlers with using their milk and ask them why they do not milk their sows. On the other hand, dogs and rats are favorite articles of food with them. Those last, as is well known, are often eaten by the Chinese, who also eat salt earthworms and a kind of seasin, which most Europeans will turn from in disgust.

In the narrative of Anson's voyages, is a full account of the prejudice of the South Americans, both Creoles and Indians, against turtle, as poisonous. The prisoners captured on the prize-ships warned the sailors against eating it, and for a time lived on bad ship beef; but seeing our men thrive on the turtle, they began to eat it—at first sparingly, and at last heartily. And when set ashore and liberated, they declared they blessed the day of their capture, which had introduced to them a plentiful supply of wholesome and delicious food. Horse-flesh, which most Europeans would refuse to eat, except in great extremity, is preferred by the Tartars to all other; and the flesh of a wild ass colt was greatly esteemed by the Romans. As for pork, it is on religious grounds that Jews and Mahomedans abstain from it, as the Hindoos do from beef. But the Christians of the East seem to have nearly an equal aversion to it, and the like prevailed till lately in Scotland.

The large snail called escargot, was a favorite dainty with the ancient Romans, and still is so in a great part of the south of Europe, though most Englishmen would be half starved before they would eat it. In Vienna, the large wood-ants are served up and eaten alive. Small land-crabs are eaten alive in China. The iguana, a species of large large lizard, is reckoned a great dainty in some of the West India Islands.

Maize, the Indian corn of America, has been introduced into New Zealand by the missionaries, and the people cultivate and highly esteem it. But their mode of preparing it for food is to most Europeans disgusting. They steep it in water till it is quite putrid, and then make it into a kind of porridge, which emits a most intolerable stench.

Human flesh has been and still is eaten in many parts of the world, and that by people considerably above the lowest rank of savages—such as the Fiji Islanders and an Indian people called Batta, who are said to have a written language. And even in cannibalism there are great diversities: some nations eat their enemies and some their friends. Herodotus relates that a Persian king asked the Indian soldiers that were in his service what reward would induce them to burn the dead bodies of their friends, instead of eating them. They replied by entreating him not to mention anything so shocking. On the other hand, the New Zealanders—before their conversion, who seemed to have considered that the proper diet of mankind is man—seem to have eaten only their enemies.—[English Paper.]

A GHOST STORY.

At the "Crow Inn," at Antwerp, some years ago, a white spectre was seen bearing a lamp in one hand and a bunch of keys in the other—this unpleasant visitor was seen by a variety of travelers passing along a corridor.

Nothing would satisfy the neighbors that an unfortunate traveler had not at some period or other, been dispatched in that fatal room by one of the previ us landlords of the house; the hotel gradually obtained the name of the "Haunted Inn," and ceased to be frequented by its old patrons.

The landlord finding himself on the brink of ruin, determined to sleep in the haunted room, with a view of proving the groundlessness of the story. To make the matter more sure, as he said, he caused the hostler to bear him company, on pretence of requiring a witness to the absurdity of the report; but in reality, from cowardice. At dead of night, however, just as the two men were composing themselves to sleep in one bed—leaving another which was in the room untenanted—the door flew open and in glided the white spectre!

Without pausing to ascertain what it might attempt on approaching the bed, towards which it directed its course, the two men rushed naked out of the room; and by the alarm they created, confirmed more fully than ever the repute of the house.

Unable longer to sustain the cost of so unproductive an establishment, the poor landlord advertised for sale the house in which he and his father before him were born and had passed their lives. But bidders were as scarce as customers! the inn remained on sale for nearly a year, during which, from time to time, the spectre re-appeared.

At length an officer of the garrison, who had fortunately frequented the house, undertook to clear up the mystery by sleeping in the aforesaid chamber: nothing doubting that the whole was a trick of some envious neighbor, desirous of deteriorating the value of the freehold in order to become a purchaser.

His offer having been gratefully accepted, the captain took up his quarters in the fatal room, with a bottle of wine and a brace of

loaded pistols on the table before him, determined to fire at whatever object might enter the room.

At the usual hour of midnight, accordingly, when the door flew open and the spectre, bearing a lamp and a bunch of keys, made its appearance, he seized both his pistols, when, fortunately, as his finger was on the point of touching the trigger, he perceived that the apparition was no other than the daughter of his host, a young and pretty girl, evidently waking in her sleep. Preserving the strictest silence, he watched her set down the light, place her keys carefully on the chimney-place and retire to the opposite bed, which as it afterward proved, she had often occupied during the life time of her late mother, who slept in the room.

No sooner had she thoroughly composed herself, than the officer, after locking the door of the room, went in search of his father and several competent witnesses, including the water bailiff of the district, who had been one of the loudest in circulating the rumors concerning the Haunted Inn. The poor girl was found quietly asleep in bed, and her terror on awaking in the dreadful chamber afforded sufficient evidence to all present of the state of somnambulism in which she had been entranced.

From that period the spectre was seen no more; probably because the landlord's daughter removed shortly afterward to a home of her own; and the tales of horror so freely circulated to the bewilderment of the poor neighbors, ended in the simple story of a young girl walking in her sleep.

WORSE THAN WASHINGTON.—A writer in the Grenada (Miss.) Appeal, on Nov. 7, from Richmond, says:

Richmond is now worse than Naples—worse than Baltimore was when Wmter Davis was the Wilkes of the Plug-Ugly swell mob of that lawless city. No one thinks of going into the Cicerian streets after night-fall with ut arms. A large and well-organized band of cut-throats has "taken the town." They lie in wait at almost every corner, well provided with slung-shot tillies, brass knuckles, and all the other devilish implements of mischief which the city highwayman uses to disable his victims, and they attack everybody that walks along, oftentimes gentlemen when attended by ladies.

Should such a state of affairs long continue, Richmond, Washington and New York will be entitled to a similar meed of notorious infamy.

MEDIATION AND INTERVENTION.—The Toronto Leader, a strong advocate of mediation, makes a marked distinction between the two above terms—so conspicuous of late in the vocabulary of diplomac:

"Intervention," it says, "usually implies force, the *fortiter in re*. Mediation implies friendly interposition, the *suaviter in modo*. That the time has come for mediation by some powers of sufficient importance to render their remonstrance of weight will hardly be denied. The war has reached a stage which should attract the serious attention of the whole world; and the time appears to be rapidly drawing on when the utmost degree of culpability will attach to those neutral powers which shall longer refuse to bring the full weight of a most solemn protest against the continuance of the war to bear upon the two belligerent powers. There is nothing more clearly taught in the law of nations than that the interests of humanity call upon foreign powers to take such a course."

THE NEW POPE.—Geo. Francis Train has nominated Archbishop Hughes for the next Pope—and discarding Rome, selects for him a residence on the banks of the Hudson. He (Train) says:

"Rome is exploded. The holy places are no longer at Jerusalem. The Catholic Church is working westward. Catholics never go round among our people with a hat. They are not Christian beggars. They never talk politics in the pulpit. They do not believe black men are any better than white men. The Catholic Church in America ought to demand the Papal see for John of New York. The times are changing."

THE NEW KING OF GREECE.—A British gossip-correspondent says:

"Prince Alfred will surely be King of Greece; that he is now being feasted, stuffed in advance, for the office, at Corfu, and that he is a bright boy, smarter than the Prince of Wales, but not so sweet-tempered."

NEGRO REGIMENTS.—The New York Sun says:

"If Congress does not legislate on the negro question with a vengeance it will not be the fault of the radicals. Already Mr. Hickman, of Pennsylvania, has introduced a bill to raise one hundred regiments of Africans for seven years or less, each man to receive six dollars a month as pay; one half of the regiments to be retained in the service until the full term of seven years expires. The second section provides for the establishment of ocean steamers between New York and Liberia for the transportation of freedmen, mails and passengers, and the appointment of three commissioners at salaries of \$3,000 per year each."