

**FOREIGN CONSULS IN THE SOUTH.**—The Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune states that "Mr. Benjamin, the Secretary of State at Richmond has sent a note to the agents of the Confederacy abroad, with instructions to communicate it to the principal Powers of Europe. The contents of these notes are substantially these: "The interests and the wishes of the Confederate Government are to cultivate amicable relations with all the Powers of the continent, and to offer them a generous participation in all the benefits of a free, commercial, industrial and social intercourse with the South. But while this Government entertains the warmest sympathy with the nations of the Old World, and desires to invite it to a share of the wealth of the New, it must not forget that there are certain duties intimately connected with its safety and dignity which it would be wrong to ignore or overlook. Such are the duties imposed upon it by the presence of the European Consuls all over the Southern Confederacy. These gentlemen have been, since the beginning of the war, placed in a position which conflicted with the rights, if not with the existence of the Confederacy.

"In order to put an end to this anomalous state of things, and to regulate a very irregular position, the Confederate Government has decided that henceforward foreign Consuls would only be recognized in the capacity of naval agents, whose duties should be confined to the transactions resulting from the arrival and clearance of vessels, and to their crews. In doing this the Confederate Government does not divest the foreign Consuls of any of their legitimate duties, but prevents them only from exercising certain other assumed diplomatic functions which the new condition in which they were placed had rendered necessary.

The note concludes by stating that foreign Cabinets must not look upon this measure as indicating an intention on the part of Confederate Government to resent in any way the refusal of its recognition by them, but simply as a step dictated by prudence."

Day before yesterday, a portion of Baker's detective force captured on the Potomac, near Blackstone's Island, contraband goods in transit to Virginia, to the amount of \$15,000. Two blockade runners (out of eleven) were also seized. One of those taken proves to be a man named Adler who was twice before confined in the Old Capitol.

Hon. George H. Pendleton, chairman, and the other members of the delegation appointed by the Democratic Convention of Ohio, to wait upon the President with reference to the return of Mr. Vallandigham, have had two interviews with the President, and stated to him in writing their object and purpose. A response will not probably be made before Monday.

Gen. Franklin has been ordered to a command in Louisiana, under Gen. Banks.

Dr. Edward L. Sheehy, of Upper Marlboro, Md., had his pocket picked one night this week of a gold watch valued at \$130, while returning from Georgetown in one of the street cars.

An officer who has just arrived at Indianapolis from the Libby Prison, at Richmond, says that it is understood that Col. Straight and his officers are turned over to the Governor of Georgia, to be tried for stealing. The Governor of Indiana has called the Secretary of War's attention to this matter, and no more officers will be exchanged until these officers are released.

**HORRORS OF THE BORDER.**

[From the St. Louis Republican.]

People greatly mistake who suppose that on and near the line between Kansas and Missouri the question is any longer one of Union and Disunion. The real question is rather who has any property left to be stolen or any throat to be cut. Rascals and ruffians of all hues—collected from every part of the United States, and probably some parts of Europe—abound all through the border country. They are mere robbers and murderers, but disguise their character under some thin mask—sometimes of Secessionism and sometimes of Unionism. It might be interesting to contrast a census (supposing one could be taken) of the present number of inhabitants in the Missouri border counties with a register of the number three years ago. Desolation and desertion are printed in the saddest colors all over that ravaged tract of country. The Missouri border having been pretty thoroughly laid waste, the brigands are now paying their attention to the Kansas border. The merchants' caravans on the Sante Fe trail hold out strong temptations to these rascals, who vary their occupation of robbing stores, burning houses, and murdering peaceable settlers in Kansas, by assaulting and robbing the trains to New Mexico. A home in the range of the Bedouin Arabs would be about as safe and agreeable as one in this border country. It would seem that it must take some time and the most stringent measures of a fearless Government before that country can be again the fit abode of civilized man.

Gen. W. F. Smith has been assigned to the defences of the Susquehanna river, (we suppose under Gen. Couch,) and Gen. Dana to the defence of Philadelphia.

Rates of marine insurance are increasing in New York and Boston.

A session of the Illinois Legislature was held on the 23d, with the view of legalizing the Wabash Horse Railway, and testing the legality of the Governor's prorogation. The Democrats contend that the Assembly is still in session, having never adjourned. Four members of the House were present and two of the Senate. A committee was sent to the Governor to ascertain if he had any communication to make. The Governor replied that he had nothing to say, and did not recognize the meeting.

Official documents show that Massachusetts has contributed towards the war 80,000 soldiers in addition to the 10,000 recruited for the Navy within the limits of the State, which is an excess over her share.

The Indian Department has news of the assemblage of 10,000 warlike Indians of different tribes at Fort Larned, Kansas. It is thought that unless they are soon enlisted, they will give much trouble. Five hundred thousand dollars were distributed among them some time since by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to keep them peaceable, and he now urges upon the Secretary of War the propriety of enlisting them into the military service.

Up to the present time the Navy Department has dispatched thirty-two steamers and sailing vessels—mostly the former, in search of the Tacony, now committing such havoc.—Several of these vessels have returned unsuccessful, and a fresh squadron was to have left New York yesterday.

The newly appointed consul to Chee Fow was captured by a privateer recently on his way to China. All the consular property—books forms, stationery, &c.,—was burned with the ship.

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