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## GEN. SLOUGH.

Yesterday, in the U. S. Senate, Mr. Chandler, from the Committee on the Conduct of the War, who were instructed to inquire into the system of military police, established at Alexandria, Va.; the place and mode of imprisonment and punishment, and whether cruel and unusual punishments have not been inflicted at the slave pen; what fines and forfeitures are levied and declared in said city, and by what authority and how the proceeds are appropriated. It seems by the report of the committee that the most extreme case of punishment for selling liquor was upon one Fauquier, who was finally banished from the town on account of repeated violations of orders in that respect. This case was made the subject of appeal to the President, and the sentence was approved by him. Gen. Slough has been sustained by Generals Banks and Heintzelman, by the President, and the Secretary of War. Order and quiet, say the committee, have been maintained to a degree reflecting the highest credit upon Gen. Slough. Out of \$18,000 or \$20,000 collected, perhaps \$10,000 have been expended on streets. As to the jail and slave pen, the committee think that they are probably as well managed as such places usually are. Nothing important is reported by the committee in relation to sales and seizures of liquors, nor as to cruel and unusual punishments. They conclude by saying that the administration of General Slough has been characterized by energy, discretion, and a careful regard for the peace and good order of the community.

The grand jury of the District of Columbia have found three bills of indictment against L. C. Baker, Provost Marshal of the U. S. War Department, on the charge of false imprisonment of Dr. Stewart Gwynne; of unlawfully opening a letter directed to him while in prison; and for libel in endorsing a written statement, confession of Stewart Gwynne, and causing to be published in a city paper a statement that he (Gwynne) had not been unconditionally released but was released subject to his (B's) orders.

The commotion among the Wall street brokers, last Monday, exceeded every thing of the kind ever before known among them in New York.

Mrs. Blanche Cunningham, wife of a U. S. Army Surgeon, committed suicide in Washington, yesterday, by taking prussic acid.

The reception at the President's House, in Washington, on Tuesday night, is reported in the papers as a "perfect jam."

It is understood that the bankrupt act is to be brought forward, in the U. S. Congress, with a view to its passage as a party measure.

There was, on Tuesday, a comparative calm in Wall street, New York, after the panic on Monday.

## Views of the Emperor of the French on American Affairs.

[From the Correspondent of the N. Y. World.]

BALTIMORE, April 16.—I have had a long interview this morning with a distinguished literary gentleman who has resided in Paris ever since the spring of 1861, and who, indeed, will return to that city in a few weeks, being here at present merely on business. The authorities at Richmond have been wise enough to send to Paris, as their representative, a man who, to say the least, fills the position of a foreign ambassador with credit to himself and with advantage to his country. In spite of the difficulties of his position (for he has not yet been formally recognized,) Mr. Slidell has proved himself to be the equal in diplomatic skill and *finesse* of the European diplomatists whom he meets at the French court. In a social point of view too (and you are aware how much depends upon this in Paris,) the representative of the United States has been continually kept in the shade by the elegance, the frequency, and the lavish expenditure of the entertainments given by the representative of the Southern States.

Before the arrival of Mr. Slidell in Paris, the agents of the South there had made such representations to the Emperor of the power, resources, and determination of the southern peoples as caused the Emperor to take the initiative in recognizing the "Southern Confederacy" as "a belligerent power" which was formerly done at Washington by the ministers of France and England. This act prevented our government from hanging as pirates the rebel privateersmen whom we had captured, and whom Mr. Seward had threatened that he would hang, and compelled us to treat them as prisoners of war.

The character of the Emperor Napoleon is such as leads him to form his plans, and to arrive at his determinations, with great deliberation. But when once they are formed, nothing can induce him to change them. But in forming his plans on any subject, he seeks light from every quarter, and it is in this respect that the presence of Mr. Slidell in Paris has been so beneficial to the South. The course which Napoleon will ultimately pursue toward the South will be the course which he believes will be the most advantageous to him, and that will redound the most to the glory of France. He believes—and you will remember that I make these statements on the authority of a gentleman whose relations with the diplomats of the French court are of the most intimate nature—he believes that the war of the North against the South will be unsuccessful in a military point of view; that the South cannot be conquered by the North; that the Southern States have abundantly demonstrated their ability to maintain their independence, and that three years of war have so weakened the North (not so far as men and materials of war are concerned, but financially) that he has nothing to dread from our government, in any event.

If the American States had remained united he would not, from considerations of policy, have acted in the manner he has in regard to Mexico. As it is, his operations in Mexico, and his designs toward the United States, are both parts of his plan of operations in America. This plan has been slowly maturing. But it was formed and decided upon months ago, and the time for its development is now at hand.

The Emperor believes that the political and commercial advantages which he will derive from an acknowledgment of the independence of the South, and from an alliance with the "southern confederacy," require him to take those steps, and he will take them. He requires the recognition of the empire in Mexico under Maximilian both by the North and South. The South, through Mr. Slidell, promised this readily enough, as part of the price she was to pay for her recognition.— But the eagerness of Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Seward in consenting to recognize the establishment of a monarchy in Mexico, on condition that he would remain neutral between the North and South, surprised and rather bewildered the Emperor Napoleon. He had been led to expect that our government would make some attempt at least, to maintain the Monroe doctrine; and he is amazed to see that doctrine so tamely given up; for it is literally true that Mr. Dayton, in obedience to instructions from Washington, communicated to the French minister for foreign affairs the readiness of our government to recognize the Emperor Maximilian as soon as he should ascend the Mexican throne. This action on the part of the administration, however, will not change the determination of the Emperor. And it is the opinion of my informant that neither will the recent action of the House of Representatives be seized upon by Napoleon as a pretext for a rupture with the North, because the resolution passed by that body is so meek and mild in its tone, and because the action of the House does not, and has no power to, commit the administration to any course whatever.

The action of Napoleon, when it does occur, according to this authority, will take the form of active intervention. The southern residents in Paris all seem to know that the North is to be invaded by two southern armies this summer, and it is the impression at the French court that that will be the time the Emperor will throw down the mask he has hitherto worn, and will openly declare his intentions. It is believed that the formal acknowledgment of the independence of the "southern confederacy" by Napoleon, and the formal reception of Mr. Slidell as the accredited envoy of that power at the French court, will be immediately followed by the appearance of a French fleet at Mobile, and the landing of French army at New Orleans. The occupation of the harbors of Charleston and Wilmington by fleets of French war vessels will immediately follow; the blockade of those ports will be raised; and the long-hoarded cotton and tobacco of the South, bought with French gold, will begin to flow toward the ports of France under convoy of armed vessels.

The New York World says: Flour was shipped to England yesterday in American bottoms for one penny (English) per barrel, the cheapest rate for freight ever known.

Letters from Acapulco received at San Francisco, confirms the reported occupation of Colima by the French. Proposals have been made to Juan Alvarez to acknowledge the empire. He declined to listen to them, and said that the French were enemies of his country, and he would resist them to the last extremity.

The New York World says: "Well authenticated reports from Washington state that Gen. Halleck has peremptorily tendered his resignation, and that Stanton is to be removed. Trouble with the lieutenant-general is said to be at the bottom of the matter."