

Baltimore Price Current.

Table listing various commodities such as sugar, coffee, and oil with their respective prices and units.

INTERESTING

To Messrs. and Underwriters. FROM THE LONDON STAR—Nov. 23.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH.

BARING V. DAY.

Mr. Easte stated, that this was an action of T. r. v. r., under the following circumstances: In the month of May, 1805, the ship John and William, sailed from Sarinam for England, and was stranded on Saley Beach, near Lynton. Two pilots went on board, and by their advice and direction, application was made to the defendant, Mr. Day, at Cowes in the Isle of Wight, for an anchor and cable. These articles were procured, but too late to be of any service, for by the time they got to the ship her head was stove in. A second application was then made to the defendant for all the help and assistance necessary for saving the cargo, and accordingly he sent boats and men, and the custom-house officers also attended. The cargo was unshipped into the defendant's boats, and carried on shore under the care and superintendance of the officers of the revenue, where they were put under locks and keys, one key being kept by the mate, the other by the revenue officers. Some days were spent in unloading the ship, during which the defendant lent the mate 300l. to pay the seamen's wages, which sum he afterwards returned to the defendant, and therefore formed no part of the present dispute. The law in a case of this kind, allowed the salvors to make a claim for salvage before the sheriff, magistrate or mayor, nearest the sea, or most contiguous to the place where a vessel might be so stranded. The defendant claimed 1816l. 16s. 2d. as salvage, which, of course was to be paid in proportions amongst those who had been active in preserving from destruction, but with this demand the plaintiff refused to comply, and appealed to the magistrates nearest to the spot, to determine the quantum of salvage.

The magistrates accordingly met on the 2d of January last, but as the defendant did not attend, they adjourned till another day, when they made an adjudication and award, by which, instead of 1816l. 16s. 2d. the salvage demanded, they only allowed the sum of 914l. 19s. 4d. A copy of this adjudication and award was served upon the defendant, in order that the plaintiff might obtain the cargo, and the above sum was tendered to him as the salvage, but he refused to take it or deliver up the cargo, which he kept under the act of parliament. The question, therefore, for the determination of court was, whether the adjudication and award by the magistrates, was conclusive against the defendant or not? Mr. Easte proceeded to argue, that it was not from the statute of the 12th of queen Anne, chap. 13, which stated that great complaints were made of ships, foreign as well as British, stranded upon the coast, being barbarously plundered by her majesty's subjects, and that even if any part of the cargo was saved, it was generally swallowed up by the enormous salvage demanded by the salvors. Now Mr. E. contended, that mischief was as likely to be apprehended from persons called in to assist, as from those who voluntarily offered their services. The constables and revenue officers lent their aid, and there was no penalty on them if they did not, for the legislature had the enactment for them, when it suffered them to interfere—but a penalty was imposed on the officers of the queen's ships, riding at anchor, should they not take every means to prevent the ship going ashore. Thus, in the one case, he contended the law was directory, while in the other it was compulsory. The next clause in the act was more liberal, for it enacted that all others who should act, or be employed in saving the vessel or cargo, should within 30 days thereafter, be paid a reasonable sum for their trouble; and that, in the mean time, the ship and cargo should remain in the custody of the custom-house officers, until such compensation should be paid. The law thus clearly said, that all persons acting, whether employed or not, should be entitled to a reasonable reward for so doing. The reason why a reasonable reward was so minutely stated in the act, he took to be the frequent exorbitant demand of salvors for salvage; the legislature had thus, in his opinion, by mentioning the words reasonable reward, been anxious, as far as it could, to prevent any undue advantage being taken over the vessels in distress.

Lord Ellenborough asked Mr. Easte, whether he meant to say that court could extend the act of parliament to this case, and where the fresh application for assistance had not been made to the custom-house officers. His lordship rather thought the plaintiffs in the beginning had not brought themselves within the act, and the court must regret that they had not done so. Mr. Easte replied, that it was a well known fact, that vessels in distress were exposed to most extravagant demands for aid and assistance. Supposing no application, as was the case in the present instance, had been made at first to the custom-house officers, he should wish to know what foreign vessels, in the same situation, would have done; or to whom they would have first applied? They knew nothing of custom-house officers, in case of such emergency, and would of course, have availed themselves of the assistance of the first pilots who might have boarded them. Mr. Gazelee, on behalf of the defendant, argued that the case, in regard to him, did not come within the act.

Lord Ellenborough said, whatever might be the determination of the court, the country at large was highly obliged to the plaintiff for bringing the question forward; as if the act of parliament should be thought defective, it must be found to be extremely so. The point at issue really required to be definitively settled. Many cases of salvage which had come before him professionally, when at the bar, and since he had been a judge, he could not contemplate with any satisfaction, the charges for salvage were so very exorbitant. Mr. Gazelee proceeded at some length, contending, that there was a considerable difference between the act of the 12th of Anne, and the 26th of George II. By that statute, he insisted, that it was clear, that if no application was made to the cus-

tom-house officers in a case of a stranded ship then the nearest magistrate had a right to interfere, and to award such salvage as might be claimed, or appear proper to them. The award by the magistrates was a great deal too small.

Mr. Easte briefly replied. Lord Ellenborough observed, that this was a case of great exorbitancy in salvage. There ought to be a clear and comprehensive statute enacted, where, in every case that might in future occur, an immediate resort might be had to a proper authority to save the ship or its cargo from the rapacity of the plundering country people. He, therefore, thought the smaller sum for salvage should be all that ought to be allowed at present. Mr. Justice Lawrence, Mr. Justice Grose, and Mr. Justice Le Blanc, were of the same opinion; the former learned judge making this forcible remark, in favor of the wish thrown out by lord Ellenborough—that it was of little importance to the owners of goods, whether they were taken from them by plunder, or the occurrence of such an accident—or the value taken out of their pockets by the large salvage now so universally demanded, and so generally paid.

LONDON, December 15.

On Saturday the following rear-admirals of the red were promoted to the rank of vice-admirals of the blue: James Kemphorne, esq. Sampson Edwards, esq. George Campbell, esq. Henry Frankland, esq. Arthur Philip, esq. Sir G. W. Fairfax, Knight. Sir James Saumarez.

Sir James Saumarez is to hoist his flag in the Channel Fleet, under Lord St. Vincent, in the room of Sir Charles Cotton, who, it is said, is to succeed Sir Erasmus Gower in the command at Newfoundland. We have not heard who is to succeed Sir James Saumarez in his command at Guernsey and Jersey.

The king's speech was finally settled, and read to his majesty by lord Grenville, on Wednesday last. House of Lords, Monday, Dec. 16.—The lord Chancellor informed the lords assembled, that it was not in his majesty's power, for several reasons, to be present at the meeting of parliament, but that his majesty would, on a convenient day, state his reasons to parliament for having called them together at this time.

Eight thousand men, all picked soldiers, are expected to proceed in three detachments on Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday next, to Paddington, in the vicinity of London, to be conveyed by the canal to Liverpool.—The passage will take about 8 days, after which they will be sent with all expedition to Dublin.

17th. Five of the largest transports in general Crawford's expedition, have been driven to Cromford, and 1000 of the men have been marched to Barnstable. In consequence of a new regulation in the alien department, brought forward by earl Spencer, all strangers before they embark for G. Britain, must obtain a passport from the British resident in the country from which they are about to depart, and this document, on their arrival, must be countersigned by the minister from that country residing here. In cases of neglect, of which due notice is immediately to be given to the secretary of state for the foreign department, those who have not such a testimonial to produce will be considered as objects of suspicion, and will, of course, not be permitted to continue in the country.

The Dantzig, Rosindale, which arrived at Hull on Friday afternoon, left the sound on Tuesday evening. The English ships at Dantzig have all got out, ready to put to sea, in case the French reached that place. The house of commons was taken up with the election of a speaker, who is Mr. Abbot, and with swearing in the new members.

HAGUE, December 17.

We Louis Napoleon, by the grant of God and the constitution of the kingdom of Holland have decreed and do decree as follows: Art. I. No vessel shall depart until further orders from the ports of the kingdom without special authority from us, which shall be granted only after a warrant and security have been given that the cargo shall not be discharged at any enemy's ports. The authorization for sailing shall be signed with our hand.

Art. II. All vessels entering any of the ports of the kingdom, shall be immediately arrested, without the possibility of being released unless by special authority from us, and signed with our hand. Art. III. Every fishing boat shall be examined before leaving & after returning in to port by the police and custom house officers.

Art. IV. No fishing boat shall be permitted to sail out unless the master has previously made oath that he will have no voluntary communication with any ships or vessels whatever, or if forced thereunto, to declare it without fail. Art. V. The post master and other officers in their employ are responsible for all letters coming from or going to England. They will remit them instantly to the minister of justice and police.

Art. VI. Our ministers are charged with the execution of the present decree, &c. The bill for the creation of a grand order of merit, and of an order of merit, was sent on the 11th inst. to the assembly of their high mightinesses. The king's message was couched in the following terms: GENTLEMEN, We send you the bill announced to you on the first of this month. Considering that amongst monarchical states, Holland is

the only one which has no order of knight-hood; considering that the Dutch nation is celebrated in the annals of the world, both by a genius of its inhabitants, and by their military history, and that it is our duty to leave no means neglected to preserve it in the rank and respectability which it has always enjoyed; wishing in consequence to institute public rewards for those of our subjects who have distinguished themselves and may distinguish themselves throughout every class, and particularly for the officers in the land and sea service; we propose to you to pass the following decree:

Art. I. A grand order of the kingdom shall be created under the name of order of the union, and likewise a royal order of merit, destined for civil and military actions. II. The grand order of the union shall consist of thirty great crosses at most. The grand order of the union shall not be endowed. The expenses of its administration shall be provided for by the persons to whom the king shall have granted this distinction.

III. The royal order of merit shall be endowed with an annual revenue of 60,000 florins. This revenue shall form part of the annual budget of the state. V. The king is declared chief, grand master and founder of the two orders. His successors shall be chiefs and grand masters in perpetuity. VI. The king shall appoint the grand crosses, commanders and knights of the two orders, assisted by a chapter formed by three of the eldest commanders, the three oldest knights and a grand chancellor of the order, chosen amongst the commanders, and shall at the same time be treasurer.

VII. The king shall order all the regulations concerning the decorations, administration and discipline of the two orders, as well as the administration and distribution of the funds set apart for the endowment of the royal order of merit. (Signed) LOUIS.

Their high mightinesses having taken into consideration his majesty's message, the bill was converted into a law in the same sitting. HAMBURG, December 12. General Michaud arrived here on 9th instant. He has been appointed by the emperor and king, Napoleon, governor of the Hanse Towns. General Laval, who commanded in our town, has been appointed governor of the country of Mecklenburg.

The French have set at liberty the privy counsellor Ephraim, of the Jewish religion, who was in confinement at Custring, by order of the king of Prussia. Intelligence from Sweden states, that all the troops there have received orders to hold themselves in readiness to march. Defensive preparations are making in Finland. The post now comes and goes as usual across the dutchy of Berg, to France, Spain and Portugal.

The head quarters of marshal Mortier are still at Anclam, on the frontiers of Swedish Pomerania, on the 7th inst. His corps of the army was reinforced daily with new troops. They are for the most part Dutch regiments. On the 6th a heavy cannonading was heard in the neighborhood of Lawenburg.

The Dutch troops have taken possession in the name of the king of Holland, and the dukedoms of Odenburg and Delmonhost, as also of the lordships of Varel and Kniphausen. The executive commission of the county of Hanover, published on the 9th as follows: "By order of his excellency Marshal Mortier, all commerce and every other intercourse between this country and England, are rigorously prohibited. It is besides severely forbidden to the inhabitants to send or expedite to England, any letter, package, &c."

November 24. Already it is believed that the Danes are about to unite with France, and to second the grand measures adopted by Napoleon to force the English to subscribe to a general peace, on terms favorable to maritime powers. We have 12000 French troops in this city and its environs; and others are arriving incessantly. Half the grand army of Holland is advancing towards Flanburg. [It is probable these troops are intended to overawe Denmark.]

November 26. A commission has been appointed to proceed to Berlin, to endeavor to obtain of the French emperor, every favor to our commerce which may be compatible with his great plans. A contribution of 5 million & a half of francs has been exacted in the country of Brunswick. 49,000 dollars has been paid for the ransom of the Swedish vessels at Rostock.

FRANKFORT, December 5. Letters from Scania in Sweden, announce that the Swedish army has received orders to hold itself in readiness to march; reinforcements have already set off from Istad for the garrison at Stralsund. December 16. The deputies from the kingdom of Italy arrived at Munich on the 10th instant. They are going to the imperial head-quarters to complement the emperor, in the name of the Italian nation, upon his new victories. They write from Vienna, that the French ambassador, gen. Andreossi, continues to have frequent conferences with the secretary of state, Count de Stadion. It is thought in that capital, that objects of the highest importance are negotiating between the two courts.

December 19. All the intelligence from Hamburg agrees in stating that peace has been definitively signed between the Porte and Servians. It adds that Czerni Gorges, to whom has been granted the title of prince of Servia, is to march into Moldavia, with 40,000 men in order to join the army which the Grand Seigneur has assembled in that province to oppose the Russians.

MADRID, November 19. Several shocks of an Earthquake have lately been felt at Grenada, which have damaged several houses in that town. It is also said that a whole village has been swallowed up, and that it is replaced by a river. This is all that the first alarm has permitted our correspondents to write us; further details are impatiently waited for.

PARIS, December 2. Some letters announce that the Russian army advances towards the Vistula. If this is true, the armistice will not be ratified. There has been communicated to our senate an imperial decree against the English; and a report on the same subject by M. Talleyrand. The report announces the declaration of the emperor, that he will not quit Berlin and Warsaw, until the Russians shall renounce their unjust pretensions upon Wallachia and Moldavia. All the letters from the maritime towns of the north announce that the French are actively pursuing the war which they have just declared against the English trade. The advanced guard of Marshal Davoust is at Warsaw. The town of Thorn is occupied by a division of Marshal Lannes. We have as yet no positive intelligence of the entrance of the French into Dantzick; nor into the fortress of Grandee.

Letters from Leghorn, state that several arrests have taken place there. Some persons have been exiled; among others, the brother of the Sardinian Consul, for having, as it is said, kept up a correspondence in Sicily. December 23. Private news from Posen, of the 10th December, states, that it was expected there, his majesty the emperor would shortly depart from that city, to repair to Warsaw, where the general wish of the inhabitants impatiently waited his presence. The Russian corps which had advanced towards the Vistula, have fallen back as precipitately as the season and the ill state of the roads would permit. In the mean time, whilst all military movements have been difficult, every part of Poland occupied by the French army has already given itself a kind of political and military organization. The French everywhere receive testimonies of affection and enthusiasm, which surpass all they had hoped for. The false measure which the king of Prussia was led to take against the Polish nobles who should show themselves disposed to stand up for the independence of their country, has redoubled their generous efforts; it has forced the most irresolute to determine immediately, and has reduced them all to the happy necessity of accelerating the glorious period of the national regeneration.

It is asserted that his majesty, wishing to give to the king of Spain a proof of his friendship, and desirous also to see the Spanish army on a respectable footing, which may enable it to co-operate towards the common advantage, has not only authorized the recruiting for Spain of 25,000 men, to be taken from amongst the Prussian prisoners, but has consented that 25,000 men more shall be put at the disposal of the government of Madrid, with the sole condition that the Prussian prisoners, amongst whom they shall be chosen, shall be freely enlisted, and can only be employed in the military service.

BERLIN, November 11. By a decree the emperor has divided Prussia into four departments, viz. the department of Berlin, of Custring, of Stettin, and of Magdeburg, and appointed French commanders. There are besides, provinces and circles. Each province has an intendant, Frenchmen are appointed to collect the revenue, &c. A general authority is appointed over the 4 departments. Mr. de Chaisson, auditor of the council of state, is appointed intendant of Glogau, in Silesia. Other auditors have each obtained a branch of the administration in chief of the revenue of Prussia; Mr. Dupont de Lorge, of the Salt-pits; M. Campan, of the posts; Mr. Lason, of the stamps; Mr. Thebureau, of the land tax; Mr. d'Hotelot, of the excise.

November 19. A deputation from the palatinate of Posen has been introduced to the emperor.—They offered the homage of that palatinate, and desired that the emperor would proclaim the independence of Poland. The emperor answered them that France had never acknowledged the different partitions of Poland; that he could not, however, make that proclamation, until the Poles should be determined to defend their rights as a nation, with arms in their hands, by all kinds of sacrifices, and even by that of their lives; that till now, Europe had reproached them with having often sacrificed in civil dissensions, the interests of their country; that they might now prove they were corrected by the experience of the long misfortunes which they have been the victims of.

November 20. It is said all the continental powers are to be called on to declare openly for or against France or England; and an intercourse with England is to be interdicted until a general peace. The emperor this day reviewed the troops here, and commended their exercise with the bayonet; remarking that they would beat the Russians at their favorite weapon, for Suwarrow had said that the ball was foolish, but the bayonet was wise! SEMPOLNO, (Poland) November 15. The French troops are taking various positions in Poland. They have advanced to Thorn and Wraclawek, upon the left