

SECRET NEW YEAR'S HIS TORY

Seward's Private Secretary Now Reveals Events Behind the Scenes. HOW WAR WITH JOHN BULL WAS AVERTED

President Lincoln Slightly Gave Way to Secretary Seward—A Distinguished Nebraska Now Tells How He Secretly Surrendered Mason and Sidel.

January 1, 1862, was not a happy New Year's day in these divided States.

But there, that's getting ahead of the story.

New Year's day is the anniversary of an event which marked the happy conclusion of one of the most fearful acts in the shifting, momentous drama of the American rebellion.

On this date, just thirty-one years ago, the curtain of night fell on the peaceful drine to the famous diplomatic complication known as the Trent affair, which came generally known as the Trent affair.

The strange voyage was E. D. Webster, now a distinguished Nebraska. He was on a secret mission of state, the delivery of Mason and Sidel to an agent of Great Britain.

Mr. Webster was the private secretary of William H. Seward, Lincoln's great secretary of state, and he has a great store of secret war history that has never been published.

But first a bit of history to make the story clear to the younger generation.

In 1861, Mason and Seward, Virginia and John Sidel of Louisiana, who had left the United States to cast their fortunes with the confederacy were appointed commissioners to solicit the aid of Great Britain and France in behalf of the south.

On a dismal night in October they escaped from Charleston on a blockade runner. They left Havana on the 20th of December on the steamer Trent, Captain Charles Wilkes of the United States man-of-war San Jacinto.

Returning from an unsuccessful chase of the privateer Sumter, the Trent, which was intercepted by the Trent, took off the two commissioners and their secretaries and landed them as prisoners of war at Fort Warren in Boston harbor.

Of course John Bull went into an indignation, howling rage. He demanded the release of the prisoners and an apology.

To show that he meant business, he sent troops to Canada and began preparations for war. In addition to his formal demand he sent a little party to his minister at Washington directing him to allow the United States just seven days to comply.

This note was not for publication, but an evidence of good faith.

Equally of course the northern states were filled with exultation over the capture made by Wilkes. Boston banqueted him, the secretary of the navy, learned these facts, congress gave him a vote of thanks.

But Uncle Sam, the mythical embodiment of the governing power, was troubled. He saw the fearful danger of the Trent affair.

He remembered that fifty years previously he undertook to "thrash" John Bull for insisting on his assumed right to search American vessels for rebels.

copy from his pocket that Sunday afternoon he accepted Seward's proposition without reserve and with the understanding that he would change the impending course of American history.

There was a historic moment. When the suggestion that called him to have a third war with his insular cousin across the way.

The next difficulty was to surrender Mason and Sidel to Great Britain without raising a storm of indignation and opposition among the people of the north.

The secretary of state was an admirably pleasant duty naturally belonged to the secretary of the navy he said the affair could not be kept from the people.

"If you think you can do it perhaps you had better try it," retorted the secretary of the navy in a hoarse and irritated tone.

Mr. Seward cheerfully accepted the trust, and the cabinet meeting was adjourned.

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ODD INCIDENTS OF TRAVEL

Diversified Terrors of a Sail Across the English Channel. MIDNIGHT RIDE FROM DOVER TO CALAIS

A Chapter on the Custom of "Tipping"—Something About the Nearest Living Relative of Robert Burns—Wakeman's Wanderings.

London, Dec. 19.—[Special to THE BEE.]—I pray all of you who are to follow after in the English Channel to be careful of the English Channel between Dover and Calais.

A moment at the station, and then we creep along the docks and come alongside the royal mail steamer; hasted out of our wheeled, half-lighted cells and driven like unweaving cattle down the slippery descent and up over the gangway which sears us with desperate suggestions of danger; and are finally hauled aboard the rocking craft like the fatigued landlubber we are.

"First class," said the porter, "it is a very nice ship, but we are at last huddled aboard the 'Evan'—most appropriate name, for even here at the docks the sea is so mild that its spume is dashed over us—the luggage and continental mail are some-what shaky, and while a great lurch from which the steel rail is jerked, and a sudden lurch like that which is so common in another direction, our stomachs fairly began to rioting across the cabin."

Behind us, nestled in one of the most charming ravines in all England is ancient Dover, with its lights winding away to the westward and its lights winding away to the eastward, while the great Dover lighthouse flames out upon the channel and brings into our view the outlines of the stupendous castled fortifications upon which Dover's might rests.

You are instantly plunged into the plain, old-fashioned misery of sea-sickness. That obstinate gentleman's belongings had to be searched, but without result. The prisoners were then marched between the marines to the boat landing.

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Wakeman's Wanderings

There is a great distinction between British and American "tips" in Great Britain. Your true Briton "tips" with something like unconscious kindness.

Quite as striking a difference will be found in their acceptance of "tips" from Briton or foreigner. They often seem to be in a bad humor, and they are not in a bad humor, and they are not in a bad humor.

I have seen the English and the fact illustrated on countless occasions. Only recently while waiting for a London train at the Rugby station I saw a very venerable gentleman alighting from the carriage of a train from Coventry.

There were altogether sixteen parcels. Four were leather handbags, much the most common of a marketable Limerick pig. They were all finally tidily piled alongside the distinguished traveler.

The porter's hand went into his pocket, where there was apparently much coin, and I thought it will reappear with at least a shilling, possibly with a half crown. I could not help seeing it was only a ha'penny.

But the blame of the British serving class with which it was bestowed, and the momentary, half-conscious look of the porter and sympathy which accompanied it, were not to be denied.

One of the sweetest lasses in all Scotland, one of the best most generous of the stoutest of fathers are dear friends of mine at Dumfries, Scotland. The lassie is Jean Armour Burns Brown.

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One of the sweetest lasses in all Scotland, one of the best most generous of the stoutest of fathers are dear friends of mine at Dumfries, Scotland.

The lassie is Jean Armour Burns Brown. Her mother is a daughter of the famous poet, Robert Burns, who was himself a true poet and a man of profound intellectual attainment.

ELECTRIC SPARKS

A signal passes through the Atlantic cable in 31-100 of a second. An attempt with electric omnibuses is to be made in London.

A man in Columbus, O., has patented an electrical device intended to automatically lower or raise railroad gates at grade crossings at the approach and after the passing of trains.

A discussion is being carried on in relation to the telephone cable connecting England and France as to whether it is more economical to carry on a single wire which has light English or in French.

At a recent meeting of the American Society of Association a report was presented from a committee which has been appointed to ascertain the relative cost of operation of horse, cable, and electric street railways.

Unlike the Dutch Process No Alkalies—Other Chemicals are used in the preparation of W. BAKER & CO'S Breakfast Cocoa

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RIDE A COCKHORSE, TO CHICAGO OF COURSE, TO GET SOME OF SANTA CLAUS SOAP WHICH IS BOSS. ITS MERITS FOR CLEANING AND WASHING THE CLOTHES, ASSURE IT A WELCOME WHEREVER IT GOES.

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An Elegant Gold Watch FOR 300 Tags. This watch is stem wind and stem set, 18 size open face, a fine American movement, with patent dust proof safety pinion, and guaranteed to be a first class timepiece in every respect.

A Handsome Silk Umbrella FOR 50 Tags. This Umbrella is gents' size, 23 inches and 8 ribbed paragon frame, with fine handles of natural wood and attractive silver trimmings.

A Fine 4-Bladed Pocket Knife FOR 25 Tags. This knife has beautiful white or stag handle, 3 or 4 blades, solid patent back, and is made of the very best steel, combining utility, quality and durability.

PERKINS & ERNST, Covington, Ky. NOTICE—What some of the dealers of Omaha (who are handling PALM LEAF TOBACCO) say: To whom it may concern—We the undersigned dealers of Omaha, are handling PALM LEAF TOBACCO, and will say, we find it in quality equal to any pound lump we have ever handled.

To the SICK You are not well, and have no time or time to lose. Write your own name on the other side of the card; put it in the Post Office, and by return mail you will receive a bottle of some medicine that will do you good. Try it and tell your friends.

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