

### The Affair of the Wanderer.

Judging from the remarks of some of our contemporaries, one would infer that the African Slave-trade had been openly renewed by the Southern States, and that the yacht *Wanderer* was the first of a fleet of American vessels chartered for the express purpose of carrying on this traffic. The Washington Correspondent of the *Journal of Commerce* asserts that the *Wanderer's* voyage was in pursuance of notice distinctly given to the Secretary of the Treasury; but either this cannot be true, or the Secretary has been guilty of a neglect of duty of which we would not readily suspect any Cabinet officer. The *Tribune* and the *Post* have treated the matter, on the other hand, as one of tremendous political importance, and as establishing the fact that, while the rest of the world is discussing the morality of the Slave-trade, the South has re-established it, and is supported in its maintenance by the General Government.

For our own part we confess we can find no conclusive evidence, as yet, that the *Wanderer* has brought any slaves from Africa, or that she is in any way engaged in this inhuman traffic. There are certainly some suspicious circumstances connected with her movements, —and upon the strength of these a portion of her crew have been very properly arrested and held for trial by the federal authorities in the Savannah District. But we have no evidence, beyond the vaguest rumor, that any negroes were landed from the yacht. The *Savannah Republican* speaks of these reports as being current, and as fortifying the belief of her complicity, although they do not amount to legal proof:—but it also states that the vessel has no appearance of having ever carried slaves, and that the appearance of three of her seamen in Savannah and of their having expended \$200 for clothing were the strongest items in the evidence against her. An article which we also copy from the *Albany Statesman*, and which gives the impressions derived from conversation with some of her officers, throws additional doubt upon the rumor of her connection with the Slave-trade.

The report, it is to be noted, has undergone serious modifications since it was first started. Originally, the yacht was said to have brought 350 or 400 negroes to the coast of Georgia,—but the absurdity of this soon became apparent, and the number has now been reduced to 80. This, however, like the other and larger story, is entirely conjectural. And we should not be in the least surprised to hear that the whole report is a hoax, got up by the sporting characters on board the yacht, for the purpose of furnishing a suitable climax to the proceedings had in this port at the time of her original departure.

It will be observed with satisfaction that there appears to be no lack of vigilance, or of a proper feeling on the subject, in Georgia. The parties implicated have been arrested, and the *Republican* says that if they are, upon trial, found guilty, “such an example will be made of them as will put a stop to the Slave-trade, at least in that district.” We do not agree with our excitable neighbors in the belief that the Slave-trade has been fully restored in the Southern States.