

[From the European Edition of the Herald.]

THE WALLER INCIDENT.

Mr. Vignaud Says It Has Been Used as a
Weapon Against the Ad-
ministration.

Mr. Henry Vignaud, First Secretary at the United States Legation, has been interviewed by a writer on the *Matin* respecting the misunderstanding which is supposed to exist between France and the government at Washington, in respect of ex-Consul Waller. Mr. Henry Vignaud said:—

“Everything that has been written on the subject is false. Even the note published by the *Agence Havas* is incorrect. No question of a pecuniary claim has so far been raised. There is no disagreement between us and the French government.

“An American citizen, former Consul of our country, has been sentenced by an exceptional tribunal. We were content to ask of M. Hanotaux the authorization to see the condemned man and the documents of the court-martial which might enlighten us in the matter.

“M. Hanotaux has kindly placed himself at our disposal, and if we have any claim to make we can only do so when we are sure that we have right to formulate it. So far, we have not yet even set eyes on the legal papers, which have been lost in transmission by reason of circumstances which would be too long to relate.

“Unfortunately” said Mr. Henry Vignaud, “political passions have envenomed matters. In the United States, as in France, journalists easily take fright and the opposition organs in America have used the incident as a war weapon against the party which is actually in power. Mr. Waller, moreover, is a colored man, and Mr. Eustis, like myself, is an ancient Confederate; we are wrongly looked upon as enemies of the negroes, when we have but one object in view—to fulfil loyally the mission with which we have been entrusted, and see that the rights of our country are respected.”