WEEKLY SENTINEL.

WEDNESDAY.....MARCH 13, 1861

The Legislature.

The regular session of the General Assembly virtually closed on Saturday night, as no laws could be enacted at a later period, under the restrictions or limitations of the Constitution. The revenue and appropriation bills, both general and specific, were passed, but beyond this but little was accomplished of general interest. An embezzlement law was enacted, intended to compel Republican office holders to be honest, but we doubt whether the result will show any more integrity upon the part of the present incumbents than their predecessors, and we think our Republican friends will find holes large enough in the act to drive an ox wagon through them. Aside from those we have named, but few laws of general interest have been passed. In fact, the present Legislature has been more barren in good works than any previous one since the State was organized. In a few days we shall give a summary of the acts of the present Legislature, for such was the confusion on Saturday, in both branches, that it is almost impossible to report just what has been done. We think the people of the State will be disappointed in the action of the General Assembly. The Republicans obtained, power, however, by representing that the Democratic Administration had been extravagant and profligate, and by the promise of retrenchment and reform in the public expenditures. In this regard the results will show that there will be but little, if any, improvement for the better. The entire legislation of the present Assembly will demonstrate that party and partizan interests have influenced its action. That consideration seems to have predominated. The public welfare was not consulted, unless party interests could thereby be promoted. A desire for change in the administration of public affairs often overrules every other consideration in the public mind. This impulse or sentiment has occasionally defeated the Democratic party, but experience has shown that the public interests have not been advanced or promoted by the change. We are confident that the present experiment of a Republican administration will convince the people of Indiana that the public interests will not be advanced or subserved thereby.

Mr. Lincoln on Judiciary Decisions.

If, by the mere force of numbers, a majority should deprive a minority of any clearly written constitutional right, it might in a moral point of view, justify revolution; certainly would, if such right were a vital one. But such is not our case. All the vital rights of minorities and of individuals are so plainly assured to them by affirmations and negations, guarantees and prohibitions in the Constitution, that controversies never arise concerning them. But no organic law can ever be framed with a provision specially applicable to every question which may occur in practical administration. No foresight can anticipate, nor any document of reasonable length contain express provisions for all possible questions. Shall fugitives from labor be surrendered by national or by State authority? The Constitution does not expressly say. Must Congress protect slavery in the Territories? The Constitution does not expressly say. From questions of this class spring all our constitutional controversies, and we divide upon them into majorities and minorities. If the minorities will not acquiesce, the majorities must, or the Government must cease. There is no alternative for continuing the Government but acquiescence on the one side or the other. * * * * * I do not forget the positions assumed by some, that constitutional questions are to be decided by the Supreme Court, nor do I deny that such decisions must be binding, in any case upon the parties to a suit, as to the object of that suit, while they are also entitled to very high respect and consideration in all parallel cases by all other departments of the Government; and while it is obviously possible that such decision may be erroneous in any given case, still the evil effect following it, being limited to that particular case, with the chance that it may be overruled, and never become a precedent for other cases, can better be borne than could the evils of a different practice. At the same time, the candid citizen must confess that if the policy of the Government upon the vital questions affecting the people is to be irrevocably fixed by the decisions of the Supreme Court, the instant they are made in ordinary litigation between parties in personal actions, the people will have ceased to be their own rulers, having to that extent practically resigned their government into the hands of that eminent tribunal.—*President Lincoln's Inaugural.*

It follows from all this, says the New York *Journal of Commerce*, that the minority have no protection in the Constitution against the tyranny of the majority, inasmuch as the latter can interpret the Constitution for themselves, and their interpretation is final and conclusive. They are judge, jury and executioner. If any one wishes to know how easily the plainest declarations of the Constitution can be made to conform to the views and prejudices of the interpreter, let him examine one of the standard publications of the Anti-Slavery Society, entitled "The Constitution of the United States," with Notes by William Goodell. Mr. Goodell is a man of respectable talents, and we suppose means to be honest. But his comments make the Constitution a very different thing from what it was intended to be by its framers; and as the commentary is so highly valued by the Anti-Slavery Society, it is fair to presume that a Congress of Abolitionists would interpret the Constitution in the same way. A Congress of any other description of ultraists or fanatics might interpret it in some other way, equally contrary to its fair intent and meaning, and destructive to the rights and interests of the minority.

Constitutions, it has been said, were made for the protection of minorities; majorities do not need them. Constitutions, in other words, were designed as a check upon the otherwise uncontrolled power of the majority. What check do they afford, if the majority can determine for itself what the Constitution means? Yet this is the position maintained by President Lincoln. Among other things, the Constitution specifies and defines the powers of Congress. Now if Congress can interpret those provisions, it will be very likely to make them as broad as its own ambition. At any rate, there is no chance for minorities, according to this theory, except what the majority may see fit to give them; and this despotism. The Autocrat of Russia can do as much for his vassals.

It was doubtless to guard against this monstrous wrong of concentrating in the same hands the power of interpreting the Constitution and also of carrying its provisions into effect, that the Convention which framed that instrument, provided another interpreter, viz., the Supreme Court of the United States. The Judges of this high tribunal, being selected from the very best, most learned, impartial and high minded men in the nation, and keeping aloof from party politics and popular excitements, might be expected to approach any subject of differences much more calmly, deliberately, fairly, and intelligently, than a political body whose ascendancy might depend entirely upon the result.

But Mr. Lincoln says that if the decisions of the Supreme Court are to be binding upon Congress, then "the people will to that extent have ceased to be their own rulers." How so? Did not the people make the Constitution? Did they not appoint the Supreme Court to interpret it, believing that *they* would be more reliable than Congress for the performance of that duty? If so, then to nullify that act of the people, is "to that extent" to deprive *them* of the right of self-government. It is, to usurp in behalf of Congress, rights which the people never gave to Congress, but placed in other hands. Why did not THE PEOPLE, through their delegates in the Convention which framed the Constitution, give to Congress the power of *amending* the Constitution? Because they would not trust them with such a work. Congress is not the people, neither are its members representatives of the people, in the same sense as were the members of the Convention which framed the Constitution. If Congress can not amend the Constitution, it can not or ought not authoritatively to interpret it; since in either case the effect would be to give Congress an aggregation of powers and an amount of power which cannot safely be concentrated in a single branch of the government.

What the President means by "vital rights," it is not easy to comprehend; since he immediately instances as not involving such rights, precisely those questions which for years past have agitated the nation from centre to circumference, and now have rent the Union asunder. If there are no "vital rights" involved, why have the Republicans raised an issue of life and death on such a basis? Why have they suffered "the Union to slide," rather than yield their pretentions or a part of them? The President has however given us one test by which we may determine what rights are *not* "vital." His language is, "All the vital rights of minorities and of individuals are so plainly assured to them by affirmations and negations, guarantees and prohibitions, in the Constitution, that *controversies never arise concerning them.*" It follows that all rights about which controversies ever arise, are *not* "vital;" and consequently (the umpirage of the Supreme Court being discarded) that in all such controversies, either the majority or the minority must yield, "or the Government must cease." As in these free fights, either the majority or the minority must yield, it is not difficult to say which will go to the wall. The majority will say to the minority as Uncle John used to say to his boys, "You or I must do so and so, and I won't." "You or I must yield, and I won't." Is it possible that the framers of the Constitution intended to leave their work in so imperfect and rickety a state as all this implies? We do not believe it.

The object of the President in repudiating the decisions of the Supreme Court as of any binding force upon "the Government," or indeed upon anybody else except "the parties to a suit, as to the object of that suit," is obvious. He wishes to destroy the effect of that memorable production, "the Dred Scott decision;" a decision which, if admitted, would be fatal to the leading doctrines of the Republican party. We are aware that there has been a difference of opinion, and doubtless will continue to be, as to the relations of the Supreme Court and its decisions, to Congress. But we can not believe that the theory which the President opposes on this head, will lead to any greater evils and absurdities than that which he advocates. And here we will stop for the present. We, however, append a few remarks from the Albany *Atlas and Argus*, in answer to a plea which is often set up by Mr. Lincoln's party, touching the authority of the Supreme Court.

[From the Albany Atlas and Argus.]

It must not be forgotten that two-thirds of the people, in the recent election, declared, with the Supreme Court, against the right of Congress to prohibit slavery in the Territories, and that thus, instead of being a new doctrine, it is the doctrine of the great jurists and public men of the country for sixty years.

For this defense of the decisions of the Supreme Court, the partisans of Mr. Lincoln pretend to find a precedent in the history of General Jackson's struggle with the United States Bank. The Supreme Court had declared in regard to the United States Bank, that if Congress deemed such a measure necessary to the fiscal functions of the Government, it might pass. When the Bank came up for re-charter, Gen. Jackson declared that a bank corporation was not necessary for the collection and disbursement of Federal revenues; and he vetoed it. Congress and the people sustained him, and time has vindicated the justice of his views. There was, in this instance, no collision between the executive or representative branches on one side, and the judicial power on the other, such as Mr. Lincoln refers to.

In the one case, the Court says Congress has power, if it deems fit, to incorporate a Government Bank. Congress merely refuses to exercise the power.

In the other, the Supreme Court decides that Congress has no power to interfere with the rights of citizens to slave property in the territories. Mr. Lincoln says that if in Congress he would disregard the decision and would exercise the power; and in his inaugural he declares that such a decision shall not bind him as President.

In the case of the Democratic Congress, under Jackson, there was an abstinence from the exercise of power which the Courts conceded. In the case of Lincoln and the Black Republican Congress, there is a usurpation of power denied by the Courts, and a disregard of the rights of private citizens to their property.

If Mr. Lincoln had declared, after election, that he would regard the popular will on the subject of the Territories, as manifested in the vote of about two-thirds against him, there would have been no disturbance at the South, no secession, no necessity for coercion or civil war.

If President Lincoln, upon taking the oath of office, had simply declared that he would respect the constitutional rights of citizens in the Territories as well as in the States, as declared by the highest judicial tribunal, and that he would enforce those rights, he would now disarm the South and command the support of the North.

His false position is, that he has taken the platform of the "Higher Law" instead of the Constitution; and while defying the decisions of the courts in regard to the property of private citizens, threatens civil war to recover the property (as he calls it) of the Federal Government. He can not stand in this position and command the confidence of the people.

"Breaking a Quorum."

The *Journal* devotes a column and a half to misrepresentations of the action of the Democratic Senators in reference to party legislation. In neither branch of the General Assembly have the Democratic members interposed any obstacle to legitimate legislation. On the contrary, they have done all in their power, and have ever been ready to do their whole duty to advance and pass any measures required by the public interests, or which would promote the welfare of the State. In both houses the Republicans have large working majorities, and if any necessary legislation fails, with them rests the responsibility, and the people will hold them accountable therefor. All the important committees—and it is there that business is matured for the action of the Legislature—are under the control of the Republicans, and they have the entire organization of both branches in their hands. Under these circumstances, what possible excuse can the dominant party offer, if any necessary legislation fails? If they have neglected to mature the measures required by the public interests, and if for want of time, at the heels of the session, any necessary laws are lost, can the party which has the entire control of the General Assembly offer any satisfactory apology? They know the exact time they had to accomplish legislation, and if it was neglected to advance partisan schemes and party interests the people will know just where the blame rests. During the last hours of the session when bills can be constitutionally passed, the most important measures are passed through with railroad dispatch, without the opportunity of investigating their character. This is the cause of so many loose and inefficient laws. But to the charges of the *Journal*. The Democratic members have not attempted to dictate legislation. They had not the power to do so. Mere party measures they have done all in their power to defeat. The Republicans have attempted to force the passage of apportionment bills, districting the State for Congressional and representative purposes, which were framed for the express object of perpetuating their power, without regard to public sentiment or the rights of the minority. The honest Republican voters of the State who look more to the interests of the public than to those of party, will not care the snap of a finger if all such measures are defeated. What objection to the present apportionment? Under it the Republicans have elected seven out of the eleven Congressmen and a majority in both branches of the Legislature. Should not that be satisfactory? Is any change necessary unless to advance party interests? What violation of allegiance to the Constitution is it, if the present apportionment remains when no necessity exists for a change?

The *Journal* says the Democrats have committed another great outrage. We quote its complaint:

"And the militia bill is required by the troublesome and dangerous times we are now passing through. But the Democrats were willing to spit upon their oaths, and leave the State defenceless in case of civil war, to effect a party purpose."

Who is going to attack Indiana? What occasion to put the State upon a war footing? Will Kentuckians ever invade our soil with hostile intent, unless we provoke, nay drive them to do it? The militia bill to which the *Journal* refers, if enacted into a law, would have added largely to the burdens of the tax payers, without any necessity requiring it. We need no standing army in Indiana. We need no expensive militia system. It can do no good, but on the other hand it might breed mischief and bring about the very evil which would give occasion for it. Nothing but party purposes instigated the proposed measure. The sober and reflecting citizens of the State will have no words of censure for those who aided to defeat the military bill. A law of the character proposed would be a millstone around the neck of any party, and if the Democrats desired to "effect a party purpose" alone, they would permit the Republicans to pass the bill. The Democratic members of the Legislature have done no injury to the public interests by placing obstacles in the way of passing an iniquitous apportionment bill, and an unwise, uncalled-for, and an expensive militia system. But the *Journal* thinks the failure of these bills "is a blow at the very existence of the Government." We think the Government will survive the blow, and, in fact, will never know it was hurt. Our neighbor will find that the crisis, which looms up terribly in his imagination, will be altogether an artificial one. Nobody will be injured outside of the Republican party. Gov. MORTON will be able to defend the State just as well without the militia bill as with it, but its defeat may prevent him from providing quite as well for his party friends.

The military and apportionment bills that the Republicans attempted to force through the Legislature were not only unfair and uncalled for by any public exigency, but they were purely party measures and designed solely to advance partisan interests. This Senator CLAYPOOL had the frankness to avow. In a speech in the Senate on Wednesday he said:

I do not think there is any use in whipping the devil around the stump. We are in the majority, and I am for putting the rowels into the Democratic party pretty strong. I know if they had the majority they would make every district in the State Democratic if they could. I have but one objection to the bill—it gives them three Congressional districts where they should have but two. If the gentlemen want to bolt, I say let them bolt. If this thing is to be held over the Legislature, as it has been from the commencement of this Legislature down, let it come, and come quickly. These gentlemen are demanding that we shall legislate according to the will and behests of the minority here. I won't do it. It is useless to bandy words. We have got to come to the point, and we have got a rope around your necks.

And yet for the defeat of a partisan schemes a bill for "putting the rowels into the Democratic party pretty strong" the *Journal* whines about its being "a blow at the very existence of the Government" Bah! Who will blame the Democracy for not allowing the Republicans to "put a rope around their necks?"

How it Came About.

In the following passage from a lecture delivered a few days ago by Hon. GEORGE LUNT, of Boston, the process is shown by which the judgment of many Northern men has been corrupted, the conscience perverted, and the popular mind poisoned by deep rooted prejudice toward our fellow-citizens of the South:

There can be no doubt that a systematic scheme has been on foot in certain quarters, for several years past, to alienate by every possible means both parts of the country from each other. Multitudes, who have been unconscious of the objects and agencies of this flagitious plan, have been insensibly inveigled into its direct or indirect support. Journals, lecture-rooms, and other places claiming even a more sacred mission, have been made to contribute to the same fatal purpose. A lecture, in recent days, before a miscellaneous audience, would hardly have been reckoned acceptable, without some sly inuendo or jeering allusion to certain of our distant fellow-citizens, and to their usages and supposed peculiarities of life and disposition. Literature, which ought to be universal, has been made the special minister to local passions and prejudices, even more demoralizing to ourselves, than uncharitable and offensive to others. To a very marked degree, both the school book and the hymn book—the elementary implement of common education, and perhaps the most emotional vehicle of religious feeling—have been used to impress the idea upon youthful and undiscriminating minds, that multitudes of our countrymen were wilfully persisting in an unpalliated wrong toward another race—that those persons were guilty of a mortal offense in the sight of God and man, who maintained institutions recognized, under the clear necessities of the case, by the great charter of our liberties, and fully entitled to, as it had solemnly received, the obedient sanction of national legislation.

The sense of moral accountability, throughout one half the country, and its equal constitutional immunities, were thus impugned. Many there are, I know, who deny all hostility to the South, of those who most stiffly and ceaselessly heap upon it the bitterest vituperation. Hostility to the South! Why it is by no means confined to that quarter alone; but it is wreaked upon those at the North, too, who are denounced as the friends of the South, because they are the friends and supporters of the Constitution. To such lengths has this sectional sentiment been carried into practical operation among ourselves, that it has produced even here the most intolerant, if not almost intolerable, political and social discipline. Those whose opinions did not accord with the prevalent idea have been sometimes practically ostracised, by large bodies of our citizens. They have been maligned and insulted, depreciated, and sometimes even threatened with summary retribution. They have appeared at times to have nothing to depend upon, but their reliance upon their own integrity, and the good name, which somehow seems to stand by every man who deserves it, under whatever infliction of calumnies. And sometimes it has happened, that those who were all conspicuous for the preservation of their own reason, and for their efforts to stem the tide of fiery zeal for an object totally impracticable upon its face and in its nature, have found themselves with a sort of mark set upon them, so that even their professed friends felt a little hesitation about too familiar intercourse with them. It has never been in many quarters, and especially in political circles, more than half-way sincere—which is one reason, perhaps, why this prancing hobby-horse of the time has been ridden with such signal success, by such a mustering swarm of adventurous and unscrupulous politicians. So far from being the entire sentiment of the community, it may be said to have been rather, in a great degree, their unconscious action—but quite enough so to control society in many important relations, by the factious eagerness and activity of its busiest agents. It has had prevalence, at any rate, and influence enough, often to put stability and character aside, and to raise those without ability or without character, and perhaps without both, to places of distinction and trust. In a word, under the sunlight and the shadow of these noblest of all Republican institutions, *while the good man of the house has been asleep, the enemy has been sowing tares.*

In the meantime, it may well be doubted, whether one man of a hundred in New England ever read the Constitution of his country. And did time permit me, I might proceed to trace many of the demoralizing influences of the times to other works, so extensively read by large classes of men and woman—works often equally mischievous and shallow, taking away strength from the mind, instead of rendering support and nourishment to its better faculties, and too frequently the vehicles of pernicious error, and ill enough fitted to make men and woman what they ought to be in this country, or in any other,—and, oh, how different from the nobler classics of our mother literature, perused by those who read at all, at the firesides of our fathers, and which were in general as choice in merit, as thy were select and few in number. I do not care to pursue this topic further; but such unquestionably has been the more recent education of the North, through these and many other channels, by no means difficult to trace. I am sure that such, and similar causes, have been the occasion of a vast deal of misapprehension between the South and the North, and without them no such serious controversy could have arisen, and no such present or future consequences could be at hand. In the eagerness and absorption of our business pursuits, and, as the flickering flame of our patiotism was fast going down—this, out of the ordinary range of many of us and quite apart from ourselves, has been the active, and, therefore, the external working sentiment of our community. It did not truly represent the the inner mind of our people; but by its energy it led multitudes into political and social errors, who gave it only a cursory thought, and who apprehended from it no danger and no evil. The state of sentiment it has produced is unnatural and unwholesome, but at the same time superficial, and could not long last. The end of it is, as might have been expected, the civil convulsion around us, and, unless we are equal to the emergency, all that can be meant by the ruin of the country, in any event, the fatal sentiment, which is the root of bitterness, is sure to die out. I only earnestly pray it may not be already too late.

The Inauguration.

The new Republican Administration at Washington has been installed with all the usual formulas and without one particle of disturbance. The wagon loads of torpedos that beset Lincoln in every railroad car and station-house, have all failed to explode. The immense efforts of unknown conspirators to destroy the trains upon which he made his triumphal march to the White-house, have proved signally abortive. The grand plot of the "statesmen and bankers" of the South to kill him, fell utterly harmless. The five hundred men sworn to kill him with an "air gun," have gone the way of all men in "buckram" or "Lincoln green." Not a torpedo! nary pop gun! nor nothing.

This is as it should be; and, as a patriot, we are glad of it. But for the sake of Pinkerton and old "Fuss and Feathers," one can not let off a squib; or some unlucky wight, with a bad cold and a good "couk," had not blown his nose in the basement of the Capitol! Something ought to have been done to give color to the miserable lies of the secret police, and the patched-up flight of Lincoln's. With this minor oversight, the inauguration went off *secundum artem.*—*Chicago Times.*

The Position of Judge Douglas.

The Republican press are exceedingly profuse just now in their compliments to Judge DOUGLAS for interpreting Mr. LINCOLN'S inaugural not to mean coercion, and for stating that he should stand by him in his efforts to preserve the Union by peaceful means, and to settle the slavery question by amendments to the Constitution. Mr. DOUGLAS took occasion on Wednesday, in a debate in the Senate, to explain his position. Because he had said that he should sustain Mr. LINCOLN in his efforts to preserve the Union by peaceful means, he did not wish it inferred that he sympathized with the Administration, or in any contingency that he and the President would be associated, for he expected to oppose the Administration on those great principles which separated parties in former times. Mr. DOUGLAS expresses the sentiments of every Democrat. If Mr. LINCOLN is willing to save the country by adopting the policy recommended by Democrats, every Democrat will bid him "God speed" and sustain him in the patriotic effort, but when Mr. LINCOLN attempts to enforce the doctrines of the Chicago platform as the policy of the country, he will find the Democracy arrayed against him in a solid mass, and Mr. DOUGLAS will be found foremost in the fight.

The Cabinet.

Mr. LINCOLN selected the following gentlemen as his constitutional advisers, and the nomination was unanimously confirmed by the Senate, with the exception of Messrs. BATES and BLAIR:

Secretary of State—WILLIAM H. SEWARD, of New York.

Secretary of Treasury—SALMON P. CHASE, of Ohio.

Secretary of War—SIMON CAMERON, of Pennsylvania.

Secretary of Navy—GIDEON WELLES, of Connecticut.

Secretary of Interior—CALEB B. SMITH, of Indiana.

Postmaster-General—MONTGOMERY BLAIR, of Maryland.

Attorney-General—EDWARD BATES, of Missouri.

This is a sectional Cabinet. The Southern States have no representation in the new Administration, for Messrs. BLAIR and BATES can not be regarded as the representatives of Southern sentiment. Messrs. CHASE, WELLES and BLAIR are regarded as coercionists, while the rest of the Cabinet now profess more moderate views. It is somewhat singular that not a Southern man could be found who would occupy a place in Mr. LINCOLN'S Cabinet. This is an ill omen for the peace and harmony of the country. It will be noticed that Mr. SMITH, whom we recommended to Mr. LINCOLN for a Cabinet appointment, has the important position of Secretary of Interior. We hope that the President will have no occasion to regret our suggestion in the matter, and that Mr. SMITH will not disappoint the expectations of his Chief.

Washington Correspondence of the Charleston Mercury.

Seward's Peace Policy.

WASHINGTON, February 28, 1861.

SEWARD'S GRAND PLAN OF RECONSTRUCTION.

The patchwork compromise has not passed yet, nor is it likely to do so. Indeed, the chances are quite the other way. Seward himself seems to be opposed to to it. So likewise the straightest Southern men in both houses. Seward's idea, as I hear from a reliable source, is to have no settlement while Buchanan is in power. The moment he is dethroned peace will be proclaimed, and the honor of saving the country will redound, not to the Republicans but to the Union party which Seward is forming, with the help of Bell and Douglas, Letcher and Botts. Peace restored, and the Confederate States recognized, the next step will be to call a National Convention. This Convention will remodel the whole structure of the government in such a way as to bring back the seceded States, and place the Union on a permanent and enduring foundation. Such is the grand project which Seward contemplates. What is to become of the "irrepressible conflict" between free and slave society he has not vouchsafed to inform us.

The Declaration of War.

Mr. Lincoln's Inaugural Address is before our readers—couched in the cool, unimpassioned, deliberate language of the fanatic, with the purpose of pursuing the promptings of fanaticism even to the dismemberment of the Government with the horrors of civil war. Virginia has the long looked for and promised peace offering before her—and she has more, she has the denial of all hope of peace. Civil war must now come. Sectional war, declared by Mr. Lincoln, awaits only the signal gun from the insulted Southern Confederacy, to light its horrid fires all along the borders of Virginia. No action of our Convention can now maintain the peace. *She must fight!* The liberty of choice is yet hers. She may march to the contest with her sister States of the South, or *she must* march to the conflict *against* them. There is left no middle course; there is left no more peace; war must settle the conflict, and the God of battle give victory to the right!

We must be invaded by Davis or by Lincoln. The former can rally fifty thousand of the best and bravest sons of Virginia, who will rush with willing hearts and ready hands to the standard that protects the rights and defends the honor of the South—for every traitor heart that offers aid to Lincoln there will be many, many who will glory in the opportunity to avenge the treason by a sharp and certain death. Let not Virginians be arrayed against each other, and since we cannot avoid war, let us determine that together, as people of the same State, we will defend each other, and preserve the soil of the State from the polluting foot of the Black Republican invader.

The question "where shall Virginia go?" is answered by Mr. Lincoln. She must go *to war*—and she must decide with whom she wars—whether with those who have suffered her wrongs, or with those who have inflicted her injuries.

Our ultimate destruction pales before the present emergency. To war! to arms! is now the cry, and when peace is declared, if ever, in our day, Virginia may decide where she will finally rest. But for the present she has no choice left; war with Lincoln or with Davis is the choice left us. Read the inaugural carefully, and then let every reader demand of his delegate in the Convention the prompt measures of defense which it is now apparent we must make.—*Richmond Enquirer.*

Another Version.

It is a favorite charge of the Republican press against the Democratic press, that the latter's misrepresentations of the purposes of Republicanism has caused the existing feeling at the South. The New York *World*, a Republican paper, seems to have another view of it. It says:

The dominant party has its fiery zealots, its implacable radicals, its jacobinical mountain. They bear, we believe, but a small proportion to the body of the party, and yet their ever-active audacity has given them an undue figure in the movements of the times. The gross misconception which prevails at the South, in regard to the aims of the Republicans has been derived mainly from the extravagant speeches and acts of this wing of the party. This evil influence must be discarded. It is morally impossible to settle upon a sound practical policy that shall revive the old sentiment of nationality, and carry the Administration safely and honorably through, without a firm resistance to ultraism in every form. Even though such resistance threaten schism in the party, the duty remains the same. The party would sustain no loss by the separation of this portion of it, which would be more than made up by the accession of good men; but even were it otherwise the obligation would be unchanged. The interests of the country are supreme—not the interests of party.

Lincoln's Consistency.

The following paragraphs of the inaugural we put in juxtaposition:

In your hands, my dissatisfied countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous question of civil war. The Government will not assail you.	The power confided to me will be used to hold, occupy and possess the property and places belonging to the Government, and collect the duties and imposts.

In other words, though you do not recognize me as President, I shall not molest you if you will pay taxes for the support of my Government. We must have your money, that we can not bring ourselves to decline, and if you do not let us have it peacefully, why we shall be compelled to take it from you by force; in which case you, not we, will be the aggressors. This means coercion and civil war, and nothing else.—*New York Day Book.*

New Form of Prayer.

CHARLESTON, February 19, 1861.

To the Clergy of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Diocese of South Carolina:

BELOVED BRETHREN:—South Carolina having now become one of the "Confederate States of America," a Provisional Government having been established, and the President inaugurated, permit me to request that hereafter in the prayer for "all in civil authority" now used, you substitute the words "Governor of South Carolina," the words, "President of the Confederate States of America;" and that in the "prayer for Congress," instead of the words, "United States," the words, "Confederate States" be used, and the words "Senate and" omitted.

I remain, very truly, your brother in Christ.

THOS. F. DAVIS,
Bishop of the Diocese of South Carolina.

Telegraphic.

CONGRESSIONAL.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, March 7.

SENATE.—The Vice President laid before the Senate a letter from Mr. Chase resigning his seat as Senator from Ohio, and asking him to have the goodness to make this known to the Senate and the Governor of Ohio.

On motion of Mr. Lane a copy was ordered to be furnished to the Governor of Ohio.

The Senate then resumed consideration of Mr. Dixon's resolution that there be printed the usual number of the President's inaugural.

Mr. Wigfall said that as Mr. Douglas yesterday had entered into a discussion of the meaning of Mr. Lincoln's inaugural it was proper that his (Wigfall's) construction of it should also be given to the country. It was impossible for an administration dealing in generalities whether glittering or not, to give peace to the country. It is a fact that seven States have withdrawn from the Union, entered into a compact and formed a Government. Though the fact is not officially announced, the whole country knew that the representatives of the Southern Confederation are now here prepared to be received at this court. Waving all questions of regularity as to the existence of their Government they are here to enter into a treaty with the Federal Government, and the matters of controversy must be settled, either by treaty or by the sword.

It is easy to talk about enforcing the laws and holding and occupying and possessing the forts. When you come to this, bayonets and not words must settle the question; and he would say that for this Pickens and Sumpter can not be held much longer. Forts Moultrie, and Johnson and Castle Pinckey are in the possession of the Confederate States, and the Confederate States will not leave Fort Sumter in the hands of the Federal Government.

In reply to Mr. Douglas he denied that the Union is now as it was formerly, legally and constitutionally.

The evil is upon us. The disease is seated. A blue pill at night and a cup of coffee next morning may relieve the liver, but when the disease is on you, blistering and blood letting is necessary, and when the patient dies it is necessary to have a coffin, a funeral service, and things of that sort. As he said the other night, the only question is whether there shall be a decent, quiet funeral after the Protestant form or an Irish wake. The Union is dead, and has to be buried. If you want a Protestant funeral, you can have it, or an Irish wake.

Mr. Wigfall proceeded to speak of the difficulty of enforcing the revenue laws, adding that troubles will envelop all around. Had you not better deal with this question practicably? Unfortunately, Mr. Lincoln will have but a brief during which to decide the question. If he supposes the re enforcement of Fort Sumter will lead to peace, he can make the experiment, and so as to recapturing Fort Moultrie. If he should not remove the troops from Fort Sumter, they will be removed for him. The adoption of the Crittenden compromise proposition might have adjusted the difficulties of the country, but in only received nineteen votes in the Senate. The Senator from Illinois (Mr. Douglas) has said that war can not preserve the Union. The Union, however, is dissolved. Seven Southern States have formed a Confederation; and to tell, as the President has done, that their acts of secession are no more than pieces of blank paper, is an insult.

He repeated, there is no Union left; the seceded States will never come back, they will not now come back under any circumstances, they will not live under this Administration. Withdraw your troops, then make no attempts to collect tribute, and enter into a treaty with these States, do this and you will have peace. Send your flag of thirty four stars thither and it will be fired into and war will ensue. Will you divide the public property and make a fair assessment of public debt, or will you sit stupidly and idly doing nothing, until there is a conflict of arms, because you cannot compromise with traitors? Let the remaining States reform their Government and if it is acceptable the Southern Confederacy will enter into a treaty of peace and amity with them, if you want peace you shall have it.

If you want war, you shall have it. The time for platforms and demagoguism is past. Treat with the Confederate States as independent States, and you will have peace. Treat them as States of this Union, and you will have war. Mr. Lincoln has to remove the troops from forts Pickens and Sumter, or they will be removed for him. He has to collect the revenue at Charleston, Savannah and New Orleans, or it will be collected for him.

If he attempts to collect the revenue, resistance will be made. It is useless to blind your eyes. No compromise or amendment to the resolutions, no arrangement you may enter into will satisfy the South unless you recognize slaves as property as you would buy other species of property. These States withdrew from the Union because their property was not protected.

The Republicans have preserved an ominous silence on the subject of the inaugural. The speech of Senator Douglas was calculated to produce the impression that Mr. Lincoln will do nothing; but the masterly inactivity policy can not prevail. "Action! action!" was the great Athenean orator said, is now necessary; you can not longer serve God and mammon. You must answer quickly the question.

You must withdraw your flag from our country and allow us to have our own and enter into a treaty with us. Do this or make up your minds for war in the stearnest aspect and all its accumulated horrors.

Mr. Douglas replied in substantially the same terms as yesterday. He feared Forts Sumter and Pickens could not be held much longer by Federal troops. There was a time when Fort Sumter could have been reinforced. He did not believe it could be now without the aid of 10,000 men by sea and land. There was but few who were not exhausted, and they had not bread and salt enough to last thirty days. There must be prompt action in favor of peace. He believed the President was in favor of peace.

Mr. Wigfall asked if Mr. Douglas would advise the withdrawal of troops from Forts Sumter and Pickens and from the borders of the Confederate States and that no attempt be made to collect the revenue.

Mr. Douglas replied that he was not in the councils or confidence of the administration and should not tender his advice till it was asked for; whenever the admission was wanted advice it would doubtless ask it. It would be hardly the part of wisdom to state what his policy might be to one who may so soon be in the councils of the enemy and commander of an army.

In reply to a remark of Mr. Wigfall Mr. Douglas said he saw no reason to modify any sentiment in his Norfolk speech.

After further debate Mr. Mason spoke against the inaugural as a proclamation of war. Virginia would become a party to the war by the unanimous consent of her people when the first gun was fired against a seceding State.

Mr. Douglas spoke further to the effect that if the administration anticipate the use of arms we shall see a proclamation for an extra session of Congress in order to increase the regular forces and call volunteers into the field.

WASHINGTON, Friday, March 8.

SENATE—Mr. Dixon's resolution that the usual number of the President's inaugural shall be printed was adopted.

Mr. Foster offered the following:

WHEREAS, As Mr. Wigfall, now a Senator of the North States from Texas, has declared in debate that he is a foreigner and owes no allegiance to this Government, therefore,

Resolved, That he be expelled from this body.

Mr. Clingman moved to amend Mr. Foster's resolution by striking out all after the word whereas and insert: It is understood that the State of Texas has seceded from the Union and is no longer of us, therefore,

Resolved, That Texas is not entitled to be represented in this body.

Mr. Foster, not seeing Mr. Wigfall in his seat, moved that the resolution lie over for the present.

Mr. Bright presented a list of the standing committees which had been previously agreed on by both parties. By his motion the list was unanimously adopted.

On motion of Mr. Anthony, it was

Resolved, That a Committee of three be appointed to consider and report what additional arrangements and regulations are necessary to preserve order in the galleries of the Senate.

On motion of Mr. Sumner, the Senate referred to the Committee on the Judiciary the resolution heretofore submitted by Mr. Mason, that there be paid out of the contingent fund such actual cost as shall be incurred pursuant to law by Silas Carlton and those associated with him in prosecuting in civil suits, now pending in the Circuit Court of Massachusetts against them, founded in their act in executing a process of the Senate against a certain F. B. Sanborn, of said State.

On motion of Mr. Sumner, certain papers in the same case were similarly referred.

The Senate then went into executive session.

When the doors were opened, on motion of Mr. Hale 2,000 extra copies of the act of temporary patent office laws were ordered to be printed, it being he said very low and frequent applications being made for it.

There being no public business to transact, several ineffectual motions were made to adjourn but were rejected, the majority being willing to wait sometime for executive communications. After waiting some time no communications being sent in, the Senate adjourned till Monday.

The tollowing are Senate Committees:

On Foreign Relations—Messrs. Sumner, Collamer, Doolittle, Harris, Douglas, Polk and Breckinridge.

On Finance—Messrs. Fessenden, Sumner, Wade, Wells, Hunter, Pearce and Bright.

Of Commerce—Messrs. Chandler, King, Morrill, Wilson, Clingman, Saulsbury and Johnson.

On Military—Messrs. Wilson, King, Baker, Lane, Rice, Latham and Breckinridge.

On Naval Affairs—Messrs. Hale, Grimes, Foot, Cowan, Thompson, Nicholson and Kennedy.

On Judiciary—Messrs. Trumbull, Foster, Ten Eyck, Cowan, Bayard, Powell and Clingman.

On Post Office—Messrs. Collamer, Dixon, Wade, Trumbull, Rice, Bright and Latham.

On Public Lands—Messrs. Harlan, Bingham, Clark, Wilkinson, Johnson, Mitchell and Bragg.

On Private Lands—Messrs. Harris, Ten Eyck, Sumner and Bayard.

On Indian Affairs—Messrs. Doolittle, Baker, Cowan, Ten Eyck, Sebastian, Rice and Nesmith.

On Pensions—Messrs. Foster, Bingham, Lane, Simmons, Saulsbury, Powell and Mitchell.

On Revolutionary Claims—Messrs. Chandler, King, Wilkinson, Nicholson and Nesmith.

On Claims—Messrs. Clark, Simmons, Howe, Cowan, Bragg and Polk.

On the District of Columbia—Messrs. Grimes, Anthony, Morrill, Wade, Kennedy, Clingman and Powell.

On Patents—Messrs. Simmons, Sumner, Doolittle, Thompson and Sebastian.

On Public Buildings—Messrs. Foot, Dixon, Chandler, Bright and Kennedy.

On Territories—Messrs. Wade, Wilkinson, Hale, Cowan, Douglas, Sebastian and Bragg.

On Audit Expenses—Messrs. Dixon, Clark and Johnson.

On Printing—Messrs. Anthony, Harlan and Nicholson.

On Engrossed Bills—Messrs. Lane, Morrill and Mitchell.

On Enrolled Bills—Messrs. Bingham, Baker and Saulsbury.

On Library—Messrs. Pearce, ——— and Fessenden.

Washington Items.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, March 6.

The debate in the Senate between Clingman and Douglas was quite lengthy to-day. In the course of his remarks Douglas said he did not desire it to be inferred that he sympathised with the Administration, or in any contingency that he and the President would be associated, for he expected to oppose his Administration on those great principles which separated parties in former times. But on questions for the preservation of the Union by peaceful means, and the settlement of the slavery question by amendments to the Constitution, if he understoood the President's true meaning, he was with him.

Commodore Stewart is appointed President at the trial of Captain Armstrong. Commodores Shubrick, Paulding; Jarvis and Reed, with eight Captains will comprise the court.

Charges against Armstrong are: First, disobeying of orders; second failure to re-enforce Fort Pickens when requested by Lieutenant Slemmer; third failure to supply the Fort with provisions.

Andrew Johnson says publicly he wants nothing more to go to Tennessee upon, than Corwin's joint resolution.

Mrs. Lincoln was to-day presented with a span of magnificent horses upon the part of several New York gentlemen.

The feeling among diplomatists is that the inaugural will be very acceptable to European powers.

Judge Douglas received the following dispatch to-day from Richmond: "Is there any hope? Can we remain in the Union?" To which Douglas and Crittenden replied: "Yes, there is hope. Stand firm and all will yet be right."