New Orleans Daily Crescent.
WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 13, 1861.

LOUISIANA STATE CONVENTION.

TUESDAY, Feb. 12, 1861.—The Convention assembled at half-past 10 o'clock; 86 members present. Prayer was offered by the Rev. Mr. McCoy, of the Presbyterian Church.

Inauguration of the Flag.

Mr. Taylor, of the Military Committee, to whom had been referred the matter of providing for the inauguration of the flag of Louisiana, reported all things in readiness, and moved that the Convention adjourn temporarily, in order to witness the ceremony outside the building. The members accordingly went outside in a body, and witnessed the ceremony, which is elsewhere described.

At half-past 11 the Convention reassembled, and proceeded to business.

Honored Visitors.

The Hons. John Slidell and J. B. Benjamin, late Senators of Louisiana at Washington, and the Hon. John Robertson, of Virginia, were introduced, under a resolution previously adopted, to seats within the bar. The gentleman from Virginia made a short speech, in which he set forth the strong feeling and sympathy of his State for Louisiana in her present proud position.

Payment of Claims.

Mr. Gardère, of the Finance Committee, reported favorably upon propositions to pay certain claims, salaries of the officers of the Convention, etc.

The Public Lands.

Mr. Swayze, the newly-appointed chairman of the Committee on Public Lands, (Mr. Elgee having resigned) presented a new draft of an ordinance on public lands, which was taken up and debated, amended, and in part adopted.

The first seven sections, as amended and adopted, read as follows:

ORDINANCE.

Be it ordained by the people of Louisiana, in Convention assembled:

1st.—That all the *unappropriated* public domain within the limits of the State of Louisiana is of right the property of said State; and that the title, control and jurisdiction of the same are hereby vested in said State, to be held subject to such rights as have been acquired under the laws of the late Government of the United States.

Be it further ordained, That all laws and parts of laws of the late Government of the United States, respecting the sales and surveys of the public lands in this State, and all rules and ordinances concerning the administration of the same, which were in force in this State on the 26th of January, A. D. 1861, and which are not inconsistent with the ordinances passed by this Convention, shall continue to be in full force within this State.

Be it further ordained, That until otherwise provided, all of the powers, duties, rights and emoluments which, by the existing laws of the late Government of the United States are held, possessed or enjoyed by the Surveyor-General of the State of Louisiana, and the Registers and Receivers, and which are not inconsistent with the laws of the State, or the ordinances passed by this Convention, shall continue to be held, possessed, enjoyed and exercised by the said Surveyor-General and the said Registers and Receivers.

Be it further ordained, That the Surveyor-General and the Registers and Receivers of the Land Offices aforesaid, shall be continued in their respective offices, provided they forthwith take the oath of office of this State, and execute new official bonds in favor of the State, to be approved of by the Governor and those remaining in office, (together with their sureties) shall be held harmless against all damage which might be claimed of them by the United States by reason of their compliance with the requirements of this ordinance.

Be it further ordained, That in case the Surveyor-General, and the Registers and Receivers of the several Land Offices at New Orleans, Opelousas, Natchitoches, Monroe, and Greenburg, in this State, shall refuse to take the oath referred to in the previous section, then the Governor of the State, or some person authorized by him, shall immediately take possession of all the public monies in their hands, and all the books, records, papers and archives of, and belonging to their respective offices.

Be it further ordained, That all monies now in their hands, and those arising from the sales of the public lands, shall be paid over by the Receivers of the said several Land Offices to the Treasurer of the State, at such times, and in such form as the officers pursue in paying over such public monies to the late Government of the United States, and all reports required to be rendered to said Government at Washington by the officers herein named, shall be rendered and made to the Surveyor-General of Public Lands for the District of Louisiana.

Provided, however, that any warrants which may have been drawn on the said Receivers as disbursing officers by the late Government of the United States, prior to the 26th of January, A. D. 1861, shall and may be paid at once by the Receivers; provided, that before the said payment is made, the said warrant shall be approved by the Governor or the Surveyor-General of the State.

Be it further ordained, That the Governor of this State shall have authority to fill all vacancies in the Land offices aforesaid, whenever he may consider said removal conducive to the public interests, and he shall have authority to fill all vacancies, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and in case any of said officers should fail or refuse to take the oath required, the office shall be deemed vacant, and the Governor shall fill the vacancy as provided for above.

The remaining five sections, with amendments, etc., were laid over, to be acted upon at the next session. They stand as follows:

Be it further ordained, That all the controversies now existing, and those which may hereafter arise in the Land Offices before mentioned, shall be examined and determined by the Register and Receiver of said Land Offices, and that in all cases thus to be determined, appeals from the decisions of the Register and Receiver may, within thirty days from notice of the decision, be taken to the District Court of the district of the county in whose favor judgment shall have been rendered by the Register and Receiver, provided that party is a resident of the State of Louisiana, and from the decisions of the cases to be thus carried before the District Courts, appeals may be taken to the Supreme Court of the State of Louisiana, whenever the value of the land in controversy shall exceed three hundred dollars; *Provided* the party appealing from the District Court shall comply with all the requirements imposed by the laws of Louisiana in cases of appeals.

Be it further ordained, That all further locations of Military Bounty, land warrants issued by, or under the authority of the late Government of the United States, within this State, be and the same is hereby prohibited.

Be it further ordained, That the Legislature of this State shall establish a land department for the central sale and administration of the public lands, and provide for the appointment of such officers as may be necessary for that purpose.

Be it further ordained, That this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect until the Legislature shall have established the land department provided for in the foregoing section.

Be it further ordained, That the State of Louisiana does hereby assume all arrearages due by the late Government of the United States to the Surveyor-General, or any of the employes of the Land Office within the limits of this State, for their salaries, and the same shall be paid out of any funds now in the hands of the Receivers of the several Land Offices, or which may hereafter be received from the sales of public lands upon the warrant of said Surveyor-General or employes, said warrants being first approved by the Governor.

Adjournment.

The question of adjournment was called up and discussed. The hour of final adjournment was changed from 2 to 3 o'clock.

Secret Session.

The President announced the receipt of important news from Montgomery, requiring the secret action of the Convention. The Convention then, on motion, went into secret session. Shortly afterward the doors were thrown open again.

The Finance Committee.

The resolutions of this committee, to pay $10,000 for account of the new Custom-House, to pay the officers of the Convention, etc., were taken up, discussed and adopted.

Final Adjournment.

Mr. Martin, of Assumption, moved that the resolution for adjournment this day be rescinded. He read news from the evening papers which he believed portended early and serious difficulty, if not war, and insisted upon the Convention remaining in session longer.

Different members objected; and, pending the debate, the hour of three arrived; whereupon

The President declared the Convention adjourned to the 4th of March.

THE HAPPY PAIR.

Says Dick to Jack, 'Your neighbors say,
You wrangle with your wife each day.'
'Pooh, pooh, (said Jack,) they only joke
'Tis now a fortnight since we spoke.'

NEW ORLEANS DAILY CRESCENT.

THE CRESCENT IS PUBLISHED DAILY AND WEEKLY, BY J. O. NIXON, No. 70 CAMP STREET. · · · TERMS: DAILY, $10; WEEKLY, $3 PER YEAR.

VOLUME XIII. WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 13, 1861. NUMBER 295.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

[Special to the New Orleans Crescent.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6, 1861.

Mr. Editor—One of the most disgusting and disgraceful scenes ever witnessed in the Senate happened yesterday when Mr. Benjamin was delivering his farewell speech—a specimen of chaste, impassioned and touching eloquence worthy of Burke in his palmiest days. The Republicans, who had laughed like fiends at Iverson when he took leave, dared not treat Mr. Benjamin quite so outrageously; but meanly, sneakingly, loathesomely sought to mar the effect of his glowing oratory by talking with each other in so loud a tone that the clear, musical voice of Benjamin was at times completely drowned. Still, the galleries caught enough to warm and inspire them. He was frequently and enthusiastically applauded, and closed only to receive the heartiest congratulations on all sides. Mr. Slidell's speech is spoken of as a master-piece of reasoning. Louisiana has cause to be proud of her Senators.

The fatal belief among the Republicans that there is a large party, even in the extreme Southern States, who are so attached to the Union that they would take up arms for it if they could be aided by the Abolitionists, has induced Adams, of Massachusetts, to state that "should any considerable number of men in the Southern States desire to escape the tyranny of the Secessionists, it would be the duty of the Federal Government to assist them in regaining their liberty." This is his exact idea, though not his precise language. All expression of devotion to the Union, coming from Southern members, encourages this terrible delusion, and increases immensely the chances of civil war.

So does the present attitude of Virginia, which, from all accounts, went yesterday for the Unionists by a sweeping majority. Seeing the border States falter, and mistaking Unionism for submission, the war party among the Republicans is strengthened in the conviction that it only requires a firm front and a show of force to make the cotton States quail also—a most unhappy error. It would appear that war is in this way thrust upon us, in spite of ourselves, to the Providential end that the separation between the North and South may be made final, and the contrasted experiment of a slaveholding and a non-slaveholding Republic may be carried on side by side, for the instruction and guidance of after ages.

The Peace Congress—queer name for it—assembled yesterday at Willard's, and adjourned over to await the arrival of more delegates and give the Committee on Permanent Organization time to act. Ex-President Tyler, it is thought, will be elected to preside over the deliberations of this august assemblage, whose sessions are to be secret and whose conclusions are to satisfy nobody. It is possible they may recommend the immediate call of a national Convention; but the Congress has been so adroitly infiltrated and supersaturated with Republicanism that there is reason to doubt whether any recommendation whatever will be agreed upon.

Seward, as I am informed by reliable authority, is nearly alive to the full peril of the times, and more than anxious to save the Union entire. He is fully reconciled to a division in his own party, and bent upon forming a Union party. Douglas will aid him in this. But he is afraid to venture too far at once, lest he lose all Republican support; and events are progressing so rapidly that he cannot keep up with them. He will carry Lincoln with him, but he loses Wade, Sumner, King, Hale and all that crew. If he can keep things quiet for sixty or ninety days, he feels sure of bringing the North around. But Virginia must have some positive assurance to keep her still, and the devil himself can't keep the Gulf States in a perfectly passive condition that long. Moreover the idea of reconstruction is now abandoned by all true Southern men, the machinery of the Southern Confederacy is being made, and, that once started, no earthly power can patch up the Union again. It takes a long time for people to reconcile themselves to the fact of an everlasting dissolution, and the fear is that war may come, not because of enmity so much as actual inability on the part of the people to comprehend the issue promptly, and to adapt themselves to it. There is still another matter which threatens to bring the sections in collision. Maryland is obliged to go with Virginia. Virginia can't stay in without the cotton States. The Republicans say they will have the Capital and the public archives. We may give them the archives, but Maryland can't give up the District of Columbia. How the matter is to be adjusted without bloodshed, heaven alone can tell.

The Republicans are horribly enraged at the loss of the money in your Mint. Touch their pockets, and they howl like mad dogs. It just shows that the rascals care nothing for us, but love our money. And some Southern men are raising a terrible pother over the same thing. A pretty business, truly, it would be for you to let that money go into the hands of men who lack not the disposition but the power to carry on a war of subjugation against you. Give the Abolitionists a stick to break your head with! That ain't your name, or any other Southern man's.

MALOU.

NEW YORK CORRESPONDENCE.

[Special to the New Orleans Crescent.]

THE GAY ARTIST,
New York, Feb. 5, 1861.

Mon Cher Colonel—I witnessed rather a curious scene at the Academy of Music last night. The opera was the "Barber," with Miss Hinckley as *Rosina*, Brignoli as *Almaviva*, Ferri as *Figaro*, and Susini as *Don Bartolo*. Hinckley's *Rosina* is not precisely the thing that we require here about us, and the tenor being in a state of disgust, the first act went for nothing, almost everybody feeling inclined to go to sleep. The performance of the second act was distinguished by the episode to which I alluded at the beginning of this letter.

It was no less an event than the introduction of the "National" air, "The Star Spangled Banner," during the music lesson which *Almaviva* gives to *Rosina*. Why anything should be introduced here passes my comprehension, and if you ask the artistes they can't tell you. They say simply that Malibran used to sing "Polly, put the Kettle On," that Sontag rung in "Home, sweet Home," that Patti gives "Comin' thro' the Rye" in this scene; and that, therefore, everybody has a clear right to introduce anything into it.

Miss Hinckley, being an American prima donna, was to sing a waltz by Pacini, and afterwards the S. S. B. After finishing the waltz, *la belle* Hinckley came down to the foot-lights very nervous and more cross-eyed than usual, and started off with the air of the Banner before the orchestra had finished the symphony. A few people rose, and their example was followed by about two-thirds of the audience, which was not, by the way, a large one. In the middle of the first verse the prima donna stuck fast, and the prompter tried in vain to help her out. She then made a fresh start, and stumbled along until she came to the refrain, when she trotted over to the proscenium box and received a small, cheap cotton flag from Mr. J. K. Hacked, and waved it over her head. The second verse was even worse than the first, and people began to say that it was very odd that Miss Hinckley should undertake to sing a song without knowing the words; however there was a good deal of applause, and a decided *encore*, in response to which Miss Hinckley sang another verse. Then the nobs and the snobs settled down to their seats again and the performance went on as before.

It appears that Miss Hinckley was not to blame in this matter. Some enthusiastic individual had written what he called a "parody" on the S. S. B., and dedicated it to "Miss Isabella Hinckley, the American Queen of Song." This "parody" was in six stanzas of eight lines each, and was put into the hands of the singer just before the opera commenced. It was awful stuff, and I don't see how anybody could manage to get it into any ordinary head in six months. Here you have two verses as a sample:

O, say did you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we cheered at the twilight's last gleaming;
Those broad stripes and bright stars which on Moultrie's staff night
O'er the ramparts of Sumter now gallantly gleaming.
And rockets' red glare, and bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof that our flag was still there;
O, say that the star-spangled banner still waves,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

From the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where some lofty frigate and the foeman reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines on the stream,
'Tis the star-spangled banner! O long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

O, God, give them courage that hunger to save.

The other verses are even worse than those quoted.

I must tell you that Miss Hinckley has made what is called a "hit," although the opera season has not been brilliant. She is a native of Albany, daughter of a physician who died recently, and left a family without a dime. Miss Hinckley is now endeavoring to earn money enough to pay for the education of her brothers and sisters. She is a nice singer, with a fresh mezzo-soprano voice, a good school, but can't act a bit, and is very cold. When Hinckley and Brignoli come together, it is like a ceremonious visit from one iceberg to another. However, she may warm up after a while.

In order to give Colson a little rest, they offered La Signorina Elena a chance at *Lucretia Borgia* last week. Elena is another instance of the fact that this world is awfully given to lying. The papers said she was a gushing young thing, with a splendid voice, fine dramatic style, magnificent stage presence, and so on. She turned out to be a rather stout Irish lady, (her name is Ellen Cowran) with a loud voice, as far as it went, but no school and very little acquaintance with the music. She really did not seem to know what she was singing about. Her acting was pretty fair, and she ought to go on the stage for the heavy, mother style of business.

The operatic enthusiasm of the Brooklyn people has already begun to decline, and one or two more performances will use them up. The illustrious Grau is making a bold push with the new opera, "Un Ballo in Maschera," with which the season is to be wound up. This opera is Verdi's latest work, and after hearing one or two rehearsals, I have fallen quite in love with it. The plot is the most deliciously absurd of any in the modern drama. Here you have the official *resumé*:

Richard, Count of Warwick, and Governor of Boston, America, falls in love with Amelia, the wife of Reinhart, his secretary and intimate friend. Amelia conceives a similar passion for him; but in order to preserve her honor and virtue, goes to consult Ulrica, a black astrologer, in order to know from her the means of subduing her passion. Ulrica tells her that she knows a certain herb, growing in a certain place near Boston, where criminals are hung, which possesses the virtue of which causes people to forget the objects of their love; but she tells her that this herb must be gathered personally, by moonlight, by those very people who stand in need of its magic powers. Amelia, though frightened at the description of the place, and of the circumstances under which the magic herb was to be gathered, still pressed by what she thinks is her duty, distributes to Richard at the same that very night. Richard, meanwhile, who had gone at the same time to visit the astrologer, for amusement, with a party of friends, in disguise, overhears all the conversation that passed between Amelia and Ulrica, and thereupon he secretly resolves to follow Amelia during the night to the above mentioned place, which he accordingly does.

But, while conversing there with Amelia, he is accosted by Reinhart, Amelia's husband, who had come thither to warn him against the danger he was in of being assassinated by a party of conspirators, headed by Samuel and Tom, who had followed him secretly to that place, to that effect. Reinhart has very wisely decided Richard to go home alone, lest the lady, going with him, should serve as a mark for his assailants, Richard, before going, makes Reinhart promise on his oath, to accompany home the lady without removing the veil from her face, nor attempting otherwise to discover who she is. This Reinhart promises to do. But, while on their way, they are waylaid by the conspirators, who, upon finding Reinhart instead of the Country, to conceal their purpose by pretending to have gone there to meet some lady. Meanwhile, Tom insists upon seeing the lady who is with Reinhart; and, while the latter strives to defend her, a general strife ensues, during which Amelia, through fright, drops her veil, and she is consequently recognized by all the party.

Reinhart, upon finding out the treacherous conduct of the Count in his regard, turns into hatred all the affection he had previously entertained for him, and in revenge he joins the conspirators in a plot to assassinate the Count at a masked ball, which he was to give in his palace on the evening, night. Lots having been drawn as to whom of the conspirators was to stab the victim, the task falls upon Reinhart, who accordingly succeeds in accomplishing the deed. Richard, before dying, assures Reinhart that, notwithstanding all that has happened, his wife was pure and innocent; and, for his part, he renounces all the determination he had made the day previous, to send both him and Amelia to England, in order to avoid every further occasion of tempting her virtue; then, forgiving all those who were implicated in his assassination, he dies sincerely regretted by his people, who had loved him like a father for the many benevolent acts he had exercised toward them.

Richard is the baritone, *Reinhart* the tenor, *Ulrica* and *Amelia*, soprani. This a very nice plot for the modern Athens towards the end of the nineteenth century, isn't it? The scene was originally placed in Italy, but it was changed by order of the Roman authorities, who didn't fancy some of the political allusions. I can tell your lady readers to get ready for some choice piano morceaux, and particularly a dashing little canzonet in the first act. The tenor has two airs in the composer's best vein, a barcarole in the first act, and a romance in the third. For the ball scene, which closes the play, the composer has written a very brilliant act of Mazurkas. Colson, Miss Phillips, Miss Hinckley, Brignoli and Ferri will sing in this opera.

Decidedly, you must ask M. Bouduous quite to give you "Un Ballo in Maschera," a work which has been received with the greatest enthusiasm wherever it has been performed.

In the theaters, the only excitement we have had has been the so-called rivalry between Forrest and Booth in "Richelieu." The play was altogether so much better done at Niblo's than at the Winter Garden, that Booth quickly left the field and tried "Macbeth." I have not seen it, but hear that it is an uneven, shaky performance. The Winter Garden people are trying to stave off Charlotte Cushman, who is engaged to follow Booth, and put on Mrs. John Wood, who looks very well, but somewhat thinner since her European tour. Wallack announces a new five act comedy, which is, I hear, the old play, of "All in the Wrong," cut down and localized. The last scene of the "Seven Sisters" still draws well at Keene's. She took this scene from an English theater, and patented it here! Now, her English machinist is getting it up for one of the Philadelphia theaters. "Professor" Anderson is fixing up the old Bowery for a "Temple of Magic." Old Wallack declares in the papers that nobody has loaned him $13,000 wherewith to finish his theater; he only wishes they had. I hear that the work is going on, but that the house will not be done before the middle of April, or maybap the first of May.

The skating in the Central Park interferes a good deal with the theaters. Everybody skates now a-days, ladies and all. The other day I saw Mary Gannon and Fanny Morant trying it on. They were get up magnificently, but their skating was rather shy. Yesterday, the ice was in fine order, and the park was visited by sixty-five thousand persons, of which number fifteen thousand were of the feminine persuasion. It is a valuable study in human nature to see rusty old fellows, who put off their skates twenty years ago, hobbling about on the ice, trying to do the graceful and swan-like.

Many of the city papers have come down heavily upon the "Varieties Volunteers." The Evening Post says that they are enlisted to help the people of Louisiana in stealing the Federal property, and in impeding the navigation of the Mississippi, and suggests that the fact should be remembered, if they, Jordan, Davenport & Co., come North to play. The Sunday Atlas pitches into them fiercely, and says that they ought to call themselves the Cocktail Guards. The Mercury is equally savage, and the Leader ridicules the movement. The Tribune says that the New Orleans actors are down with the secession fever, and then uses language similar to that of the Post. I presume the stage reflects the popular opinion of New Orleans, as it does that of this city. In our theaters, when any sentiment in favor of the Union or against war and coercion is uttered, the enthusiasm of the people is kindled at once. I can see no harm in such demonstrations in either section; but our Republican friends are a good deal frightened and very cross about these times.

Apropos to politics, they say that the new religious daily, the "World," is in the market, and that it will be bought by Thurlow Weed, John Bigelow & Co., for Seward's organ. Greeley has been fattened out in the Senatorial contest, and is to be snubbed, and not to have any of the spoils. The Times is too wishy-washy, and the World is just the thing they want. Under Weed & Bigelow the World will not be pious any more. Piety isn't much in their way. It will advocate conciliation, settlement, the distribution of the New York spoils by Weed, and a foreign mission for Bigelow. This gentleman is rather a clever writer, and has been Bryant's right-hand man since 1854. In 1856 he wrote Fremont's life, which sold pretty well. Last year he compiled a book about the Prince of Wales, and offered it to several publishers, who declined to print it; whereupon it was printed in the Post, and was a very good thing for the nursery. Bigelow is married to a very pretty woman, who wishes to live abroad; hence the anxiety for the mission. He has been in pretty good society, but is rather a dangerous acquaintance, as he don't hesitate to use publicly what he picks up privately.

If you recollect the row at the New York Hotel between the habitués of that house and the Wide Awakes, you may recall the circumstance that two or three rich young men were arrested. Among them were some of Bigelow's acquaintances, and he gave in the Post some "spicy" particulars about their families. It was considered funny at the time, and made the Black Republican's laugh a good deal, I have no doubt; but Bigelow has suffered some for it since, having received the cut direct from large numbers of people up town.

I think that's about all for this week. My crinoline friends tell me there isn't a drop of relishable scandal to be had at any price. The men talk of nothing but politics, the old women are almost frantic and the young ones quite in despair.

Yours, merely,
L'ENFANT TERRIBLE.

RIO GRANDE CORRESPONDENCE.

The Mails to be Continued Between New Orleans and the Rio Grande—Business at a Stand in Brownsville—Something about the Frontier Troops—What is likely to be done with them—What the Troops Think—Texas Election—Hanging of a Cortina Traitor.

[Special Correspondence of the Crescent.]

BROWNSVILLE, Feb. 7, 1861.

Mr. Editor—The good old steamer Arizona arrived here quite unexpectedly on Tuesday, or at least she arrived at Brazos on Monday evening, and her mails came to this place on Tuesday. As a matter of course we were duly thankful, and we are still further gratified at the information that there is no likelihood of our being deprived of regular steam communication with your city on account of the prevailing disturbances. The Southern Steamship Company does not intend to suspend service on any of the lines. It is to be hoped that Texas and Louisiana will speedily make some provision for carrying the mails as of yore, by a regular contract. The Company ought to be paid, and more than that, it ought to be bound by a contract which would satisfy both parties.

This town is at the present time intensely dull and sluggish. Business appears to be stagnant, and our men of means are threatening to break up and move off. Great inducements are offered to speculators to buy out old fogies who see in a dissolution of the Union the decay and destruction of monetary success. Merchants are slow to buy, and therefore they say that commercial death is on them. This is therefore a town of lamentations, or else of jubilant gratification. We are divided into two ultra classes, the submissionists or the secessionists, with a sprinkling of abolitionists, or rather of men who say that they would serve under Lincoln or the devil, provided it paid. Poor fellows. I hope they will become composed to the great revolution, or that they will take their long faces and doubtful sentiments to a land that suits them better.

The greatest riddle, however, in our town, is the United States army. The soldiers are here two hundred and odd strong, with detachments not far off numbering as many more. These men have enlisted under the United States, of which concern Texas was a partner. The firm of United States & Co. has gone into liquidation, or has been declared bankrupt, and the partners are the only auditors. One set of members of the old firm have seized and now hold a greater portion of the common assets, deeming that the decree of bankruptcy was null as to them. Would it not be fair, would it not be equitable, under these circumstances, that the partners who have drawn out, but who have failed to obtain a satisfactory settlement, should seize and hold the property in their possession until a general balance sheet is agreed to? I think so. Texas needs an army just about as strong as that now in her territory, and I think it would be the best thing if she just adopted Uncle Sam's contracts, and accepted the forces in this State under Gen. Twiggs into her service.

The troops at this place and on the river have not been paid up recently, and they are in a sad state of discontent, if I am to believe general report. Their situation is peculiar, for even if they continue in their present service, there is no telling when they will be paid; and if they leave it, they are here without a dollar, and they do not know what penalties might follow them. They are men capable of reading, of good thinking faculties, in receipt of the newspapers, and they would be a remarkable class if they could keep from forming conclusions as to the present crisis. Many of them are Southern men, others are favorable to the South, and but few of them are attached to the North. It is impossible to make such men machines for carrying out the follies of old Scott.

The garrison here has been expecting to receive marching orders by every steamer, but, as yet, nothing has been done. I suppose that the Government does not intend to call the troops away from here, for this force would be ineffective elsewhere to accomplish any great purpose, and if the United States Government intends to use force, it would be the more sensible idea to have these troops here, where coercion will be as necessary as elsewhere, and proceed at once to call out the militia. Moreover, it is decidedly doubtful if the force on this river, at present, can be moved away, without the men are paid; and if all reports are true, Uncle Sam has not the necessary amount of spondulix to do this with.

It is very well settled now that if the present Federal force is turned over to the State by Gen. Twiggs, at San Antonio, most of the men will immediately enlist under the Texas banner, and we shall have the same protection as ever. If not, it has been officially notified to us that Texas rangers will be in the field at a moment's notice; and two or three companies of rangers on this frontier, under Ben McCulloch, would soon produce grand results.

The river is low—the steamboats are doing nothing—public health good—and we are all waiting for the good time coming.

TELEGRAPHED TO THE NEW ORLEANS CRESCENT.

THE SOUTHERN CONGRESS.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE EIGHTH DAY.

The Collection of the Customs.

THE OCCUPATION OF FORTS, ARSENALS, ETC.

[BY THE SOUTHWESTERN LINE.]

MONTGOMERY, Feb. 12.—Congress met at the usual hour this morning. After a prayer and the reading of the journal of yesterday, the President announced the standing committees.

The President received and read a telegraphic message from the Convention of Louisiana, cordially approving of the nominations of Hon. Jeff Davis and A. H. Stephens to the Presidency and Vice-Presidency of the Confederated States of America.

The designs for a flag and seal for the Southern Republic were referred.

A resolution was offered, that until otherwise provided the several officers connected with the collection of customs in the several States of the Confederacy be and the same are hereby authorized to continue to hold office under the new Government. Referred to its proper committee.

The following was then submitted:

Resolved, That the Committee on Foreign Affairs be requested to inquire into the propriety and necessity, as soon as the President is inaugurated, of sending Commissioners to the Government of the United States. Referred.

Congress went into secret session, during which the following was adopted and removed from secrecy:

Resolved, That this Government take under its charge the question and difficulties now existing between the sovereign States of this Confederacy and the Government of the United States, relating to the occupation of forts, arsenals, navy yards and other public establishments, and that the President be directed to communicate this resolution to the Governors of the several States.

Maltreatment of the British Consul.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—A telegram received here to-day announces the maltreatment of H. B. M.'s Consul at Mobile.

The Stolen Bonds.

The Committee on Stolen Bonds will report tomorrow, implicating Bailey criminally and Floyd and Russell inferentially.

Withdrawal of the Virginia Delegation.

A resolution will be offered tomorrow in the Virginia Convention, requesting Messrs. Mason and Hunter to vacate their seats in the Senate of the United States on account of the secession sentiments.

Georgia and the General Government.

RICHMOND, Feb. 12.—Judge Johnson, Commissioner to the seceding States, says the Governor of Georgia accepts the mediation of Virginia between Georgia and the General Government.

Commissioners from Kansas.

LEAVENWORTH, Feb. 12.—Kansas will send Commissioners to the Peace Conference now in session in Washington.

More Reinforcements.

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—Another detachment of troops left the Brooklyn barracks yesterday for Washington, to reinforce the Navy Yard.

Proceedings of the Federal Congress.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—In the House of Representatives Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, introduced a bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to accept of States the guarantee of United States notes to the amount of public money deposited with such States. Mr. Sherman demanded its immediate passage.

Mr. Garnett, of Virginia, objected to its passage, and the bill was laid over.

The Service Roll.

The resignation of Capt. Morrisson, of the revenue cutter Lewis Cass, was this day received.

Secretary Dix has issued an order striking Capt. Morrison from the service roll, for surrendering his vessel to the sovereign State of Alabama.

It is understood that the same course will be pursued in similar cases.

The Election in Tennessee.

NASHVILLE, Feb. 12.—The election returns which come in to-day are very meagre. There are indications that the Union candidates will have an aggregate majority of over 50,000 votes. The Convention itself is defeated by probably 20,000. As far as heard from, only two secession candidates are elected.

Arrival of Lincoln at Indianapolis.

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 12.—Hon. Abraham Lincoln arrived here last evening from Springfield, and met with an enthusiastic reception.

In the course of his speech, he asked: Would marching an army into South Carolina be invasion? I think it would, and it would be coercion also, if South Carolina was forced to submit. But if the United States should merely hold and retake her own forts and collect her duties, or withhold the mails where they are habitually violated, would any or all these things be coercion or invasion? If the professional Union lovers, resolved to resist coercion, think so, then their idea of preservation is exceedingly thin and airy.

Mr. Lincoln further said, on the ground that a State had no legal right, upon the principle, to break the Union by withdrawal, than a county, by withdrawal, has a right to break the Union.

Lincoln concluded that he was not asserting anything, but asking questions for the audience to decide upon what was right or wrong.

Proceedings of the Peace Conference.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—It is generally conceded that the peace conference will recommend the reference of questions to a National Convention.

Liabilities of Frederick Squires, at New York.

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—The liabilities of the firm of Frederick Squires & Co., which failed on Friday, are put down at $1,000,000.

Adjournment of the Kentucky Legislature.

FRANKFORT, Feb. 12.—Both branches of the Kentucky Legislature adjourned yesterday at noon till the 20th of March, without transacting any business of a national character.

Domestic Markets.

NEW YORK, Feb. 11.—The prices of Cotton were irregular and somewhat lower. The sales amounted to 1900 bales at 11½ to 11¾c. for Middling Uplands. Flour dull, and prices 5 to 10c. lower; sales to-day of 8000 bbls. at $5 to $5 10 for Superfine State. Corn declining—sales 123,000 bushels at 63 to 65c. Pork closed steady, with sales of 190 bbls. at $17 50 for Mess. Sugar steady; sales of New Orleans at 5 to 6½c. per lb.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 11.—Flour nominal. The prices of Corn range from 35 to 37c. per bushel. Whisky is quoted at 13½c. Lard in kegs is quoted at 10c. Nothing is scarcely being done in provisions. Sugar; sales at 5½ to 7c. per lb. Molasses is worth 30 to 31c. the gallon. Coffee; sales at 13 to 13½c.

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—The Cotton market closed dull and heavy, with sales of 900 bales at 11½ to 11¾c. for Middling Uplands. Flour declined 5c. the barrel; sales to-day, 8500 barrels at $5 00 to $5 10 for Superfine State. Corn closed dull with sales of 29,000 bushels at 61 to 70c. Pork rules dull at $19 25 the barrel for Mess. Sugar; sales 250 boxes Cuba at 4⅞ to 6¼c., and 190 hhds. New Orleans at 6¼c. the pound.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 12.—Flour closed dull, with sales at $4 50 and $4 60 the bbl. for superfine. The prices of Corn range from 30c. to 33c. per bushel. Oats are worth 27½c. the bushel. Whisky is quoted at 13½c. the gallon. Lard—sales at 8½c. to 9½c. the lb. Western Mess Pork was sold at $16 75 to $18 the bbl.

River Intelligence.

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 12.—The Ohio river at this point was falling this evening, with seven feet nine inches water in the canal by the mark.

GOT IT AGAIN.—For the past two weeks our city has been filled with strangers, most of whom were volunteers either to Fort Morgan or to some of the Florida forts. Among them were men from all parts of the country and of every disposition. During their stay here we have heard of a great many jokes played and anecdotes told of some of the "green ones," and how some of the "smart ones" were taken in; but about the coolest thing we heard was one told on a young man from the interior of Mississippi, who, whilst looking around the city in search of sights, was picked up by some rogues-in and introduced into a skin game of "seven up." It did not take them long to "gull" him out of all the small change that was on his person, and $60 more on his watch. After he lost that amount, as a matter of course, he quit the game, came out on the street, and met an old friend of his father's, related the circumstance to him, who had some respect for the boy's feelings, and loaned him the $60 to get back his watch. The youngster stepped away in the direction where his watch was in "soak," and in about twenty minutes returned to where the Doctor was standing in conversation with some gentlemen, and, with a kind of hopeful grin on his countenance, tapped him on the back, smiled, and remarked, "they've got it again, Doctor—got it again." [Mobile Tribune.

The fast and most unwelcome planet children see while in their mother's arms—Weanus.

Local Intelligence.

INAUGURATION OF THE FLAG.

In pursuance of arrangements made by the Military Committee in the State Convention, the authorized and adopted flag of Independent Louisiana was yesterday forenoon hoisted and unfurled to the breeze from the top of the City Hall.

Lafayette Square (opposite the Hall) was a scene of extraordinary brilliancy and life. Numerous military companies were there, in their full strength and elegance; the Washington Artillery fired a jubilant salute with their polished field-pieces; the members of the Convention appeared in a body in the square, and stood with uncovered heads whilst the beautiful flag was unfurled to the breeze, and whilst the music of the bands and the cannon firing greeted it. The multitude of spectators was very great, and the enthusiasm spread far and wide.

We shall see, very soon, the flag of Louisiana unfurled from all the public places. The pelican has been garroted, and there appears to be no Good Samaritan left to endeavor to restore it to life or to preach its funeral sermon.

MARDI-GRAS.

Yesterday being a bright and beautiful day, the Mardi-gras spirit of merriment and devilry was effulgent all over the city—from the river to the swamp, from the barracks to the stock landing.

The little boys and girls reveled as usual in cheap masks and fancy costumes, and pelted each other and the darkeys and loafers with flour, according to the usual custom. The cyprians and their masculine rowdy companions took full advantage of the license accorded to them on this one day of the three hundred and sixty-five, and whilst amusing the town by their outlandish and grotesque costumes and processions and antics, doubtless enjoyed themselves according to their fancies—nobody envying them their enjoyment.

There were many laughable groups in wagons—nigger minstrels, clowns, harlequins, horrible beasts, devils, and so on, and some extraordinary processions on foot. In the early part of the day a band of nigger minstrels, playing nigger music, marched around, having at their head a comical effigy of Old Abe Lincoln, riding a rail of his own splitting. Old Abe's "express wagon" was another show which thoroughly amused all who saw it.

St. Charles and Canal and Royal streets were thronged all day long with multitudes of people who turned out to look and laugh at the fancy, grotesque and ridiculous displays of the Mardi-gras mummers.

At night, the decent and respectable part of the population had their Mardi-gras. The numerous society balls, the festival of the Mistick Krewe, and the other reunions of the night, were crowded, gay and splendid.

We will endeavor to give some account of the Mardi-gras doings in to-morrow's Crescent.

FLAG PRESENTATION.

Capt. Todd's Company, the Louisiana Guard, are to receive a flag next Sunday, from the patriotic ladies of New Orleans. We acknowledge the receipt of a polite invitation to be present. The flag, after the presentation, will be consecrated at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, on Baronne street.

SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS.

The annual examination of the First District Schools is in progress. We have not had time to visit the Schools yet, but expect to do so before they get through. We acknowledge the polite invitations we have received to attend the examinations.

SUDDEN DEATH.—Yesterday morning, at about 11½ o'clock, a woman named Prachell Peffner died suddenly on Jackson, between Rousseau and New Levee streets. The cause of death was not known.

THE COURTS.

FIRST DISTRICT COURT—*Judge Hunt*—Jno. Scott charged with larceny, was arraigned, and pleading not guilty, was remanded to await his trial.

Mike Mannion was arraigned upon the charge of assault with a dangerous weapon with intent to kill. He plead not guilty, and was remanded to await the judgment of the law.

Hugh Shaffrey, charged with stabbing with intent to murder; John Carpenter, charged with shooting with intent to murder; John Robinson and Jas. Marsin, charged with assault with a dangerous weapon with intent to murder; Paul Burgundy, charged with assault and shooting with intent to murder; were severally discharged; on motion of the District Attorney, a *nolle prosequi* being entered.

RECORDER BLACHE'S COURT.—Gentlemen may cry war! war! but peace reigns in the Second District of our city. Not even a breach, so far as we could learn, was made in the rampart.

RECORDER LOSE'S COURT—*Recorder Blache acting*.—Messrs.