New Orleans Daily Crescent.

Military Correspondence.

Special to the New Orleans Crescent.] WARRINGTON NAVY YARD, April 29, 1861.

Mr. Editor—The news from the border States has produced quite a fluster among the young soldiers, who are impatient of delay in the operations against Fort Pickens. They apprehend that there will be no field movements here; that it will be simply a battle of batteries, in which the main body of the army will not participate. A great many applications have therefore been made to Gen. Bragg for furloughs, but the General refuses them all. Our young soldiers must abide by their engagement. No reason but absolute disability will entitle any man in this army to a release or furlough. Even sickness is decided to be no ground for such release, as the General told several applicants that they could not find a healthier place in the Confederacy than Pensacola now is, nor better hospital accommodations or medical attendance. One man desired to be released on the ground that he was too deaf to hear the orders. "Oh, then," replied the General, "you will be too deaf to hear the big guns on the other side, and you will therefore be a good man at our batteries."

This is a wise determination of the General. Our young men must be more patient and considerate. This is too important a point; matters have gone too far, and the end is too near to justify any restlessness or impatience on the part of our young soldiers. Though Gen. Bragg's army has increased to 7000 men, it is none too large to defend this important point. Even though the men are not all needed for and may not be required to operate in the field, they are required to establish and strengthen the batteries, to work the guns, and when the cannonade is commenced and prosecuted to a successful result, they will be required for storming parties. All will thus share the glory of the achievement. Notwithstanding the numerical force of the army, there is an abundance of hard work for all. It is to be borne in mind that Gen. Bragg's line extends some eight or ten miles; that the guard duty, alone, is exceedingly severe. To prevent intercourse between the fleet and the main land, requires great vigilance. Sentinels are placed at short intervals all along the beach; and in the rear of the camps. To lighten this same duty, a small marine guard, composed of two little tugs and two schooners, has been placed under Commander Renshaw, to keep guard in the bay, and prevent any such annoying occurrences as that which I referred to in my last, of the passage across the bay of a man suspected to be a spy, who had been hanging about our camps for several days. Apropos of that affair, a constable was sent over under a flag of truce to the island with a warrant for the arrest of this man. On arriving at the wharf and stating his object, the constable was informed by Slemmer, the hero in green goggles, that they were not police officers, and that the people on the other side must take care of their own rascals. The constable replied that General Bragg would not only take care of them, but intended, in a few days, to extend his jurisdiction, and get rid of a large gang of rascals. Thereupon, Slemmer told the man he had better leave, which the Florida constable concluded to do, wishing Slemmer a pleasant time in his rat hole.

Since this occurrence, the guards have been increased, and the utmost vigilance enforced. A hundred glasses are fixed all day on the fort and squadron, to watch their movements, and see that they have no communication with persons or vessels coming into or going out of the bay. Everything that occurs on the island or in the squadron is observed and noted. They must have a very dull time of it in that fort and on those ships. They certainly have a very gloomy and forlorn aspect, cut off from the world, receiving no news except the unwholesome and indigestible items which are sometimes sent over to them from this side—such as, "Virginia is out!" "5000 Virginians on Arlington Heights!" and such as reached them in the transports which arrived eight or ten days ago. Besides, they are thought to be rather straitened for good drinking water, and are constantly hard up for fresh provisions. In the meantime, we on this side are living on the fat of the land. In evidence of which, I wish you could have been present, knowing your genial tastes and high appreciation of an artistic and generous spread, at the quarters of the Zouaves to-day, at a dinner given by the officers of that gallant corps to Col. Gladden, of the 1st Louisiana. It was a dinner which could not have been excelled by the prepared reports of the St. Charles Hotel, in the elaborateness and sumptuousness of its arrangements. Imagine a dinner *in camp* for fifty persons, with damask table-cloth, napkins, china plates, glass, with the names of the guests on cards at each plate; a dinner in which roast turkey *aux truffes*, pigeons with olives, chickens in every style of French art, and all the other components of a complete French and Creole dinner, with every kind of wine, and all the usual accompaniments of such feasts—toasting, speeching, singing, etc.—and all this festivity and joviality carried on under the batteries of a menacing foe, within easy reach of his big guns, which are expected in a few days to belch forth fire and destruction upon their very quarters. When this change of scene will occur is still a profound secret, known only to the General commanding, who keeps his own counsel; but, from certain indications, I think the time is approaching when "Old Discretion and Dispatch" Brown will be served with a notice to quit Santa Rosa. To facilitate his retirement, he is detaining the transport vessels here, which is a wise precaution. General Bragg has received his ten mortars, and will have them and some additional ten-inch columbiads in battery in a few days. Your photographist has been busily engaged in taking views, and has thus far been very successful. For two days past the weather has not been favorable for his operations. To-morrow he goes to work on the views from the lighthouse, which will include McRae and the neighboring batteries, the strongest in Bragg's lines. By-the-by, your photographist, who has hitherto been treated with great kindness and courtesy by the officers and men of this army, fell into the hands of the Philistines the other day, when he trusted himself into the camp of the Georgia regiment with his queer-looking wagon, which has the appearance of a moveable battery with port holes. Preparing his camera in the front of his wagon to take a view of the camp, he attracted the attention of the sentinels, who, regarding him, his wagon and his movements, as decidedly hostile and belligerent, called out the guard and arrested the astounded artist and marched him off to the guard-house, where he was detained until his pass, signed by general Bragg, could be sent to headquarters and verified. Fortunately too, your photographist was befriended by Captain Girardey of a Georgia artillery company, on account of his being from New Orleans, and treated with great kindness and courtesy. Captain Girardey is a brother of Captain Girardey of the Louisiana Guards, and is a gentleman and a soldier.

Captain Odolowski, whose services have been invaluable here, in the ordnance department, has been sent for to go to Montgomery, to assist in the organization of an ordnance bureau, but General Bragg cannot spare him at this time, and he will go.

I have been interrupted by the reports of big guns from the squadron. Everybody is alive to know what it means. It is thought to be the salute of the Minnesota. Will let you know in my next what it is. M.

Special to the New Orleans Crescent.] WASHINGTON NAVY YARD, May 1, 1861.

Mr. Editor—To some of your readers, this campaign may appear too serious an affair to justify a description of its ludicrous scenes. Martial law makes everything tragic, but I cannot resist the temptation of indulging an incurable propensity, by imitating a maiden's chat or a beldame's gossip. Commodore Ingraham left yesterday for Montgomery, to take charge of the Ordnance Bureau about to be organized there. The Commodore, as you know, is from South Carolina. He reminds you more in appearance of the descriptions of Lord Nelson. He is quite a small man, thin and delicate in appearance, apparently of weak constitution. The sea, the sun and the winds have done their work in bronzing his delicate features, and in giving a rugged aspect to his expressive visage. He listens much, speaks little, but when he does, his utterance is rapid, fluent—his sentences short but perspicuous and full of meaning. His manners are courteous. He is a true Southern gentleman, who knows the rights and feels the wrongs of the South, and who, as seen in his solitary walks and pensive air, reminds one of "Scipio's ghost walking unrevenged amongst us." I regret his departure from this important post. His place, as commander of the Yard, will be filled by Capt. Brent. It is said, however, that Tatnall, the heroic Georgian, will be sent to the command of this post. I have before acquainted you of the arrival of that magnificent company, the Shreveport Grays, with its 138 giants, physical and intellectual giants, including those twelve lawyers of Caddo parish. How Shreveport must suffer by such a deprivation—such a loss of "the honored fathers" of the learned profession. Such is the cause, so potent and inspiring, that moves our whole people to encounter all the perils and sacrifices of the battle-field, and reverses the fine sentiment which Addison places in the mouth of Cato, and makes the private station not a post of honor. Thousands of such rebels are laboring on the heights of Barrancas as willing traitors as Brutus or Tell, and equally "ripe for revolt and greedy for renown."

I heard of an illustration of the gallantry of one of our volunteer corps—the Mississippi regiments—which is worthy of record. Some time ago, when Gen. Bragg had everything prepared to storm Fort Pickens, the details of which are already familiar to you, the Mississippi regiments were called on for [illegible]. Volunteers were called for and every man in two regiments offered himself. But only 500 were needed. How to select this number without hurting the pride of those who might not be detailed, greatly puzzled the officers. It was, therefore, agreed to draw lots for this post of danger. This was done; and the consequence was there were 500 happy and contented soldiers, and 1200 of the most dissatisfied and grumbling heroes you ever saw. At first the holders of blanks only regretted their bad luck, then whispered suspicions of unfair play, then murmured loudly, and at length openly charged that they had been cheated in the draft. Such is the class of men the North has to deal with in this war it has so rashly provoked. They may be defeated—they can never be subdued. The first gun that thunders over the bay will wake their willing hearts to glorious deeds of valor, and not a man will fail to gather glory from every brick that piles the parymid of Pickens. Let the $17,000 salaried Fuss and Feathered General—that Dugald Dalgetty of warriors—that hireling soldier with his prostituted patriotism—meet such men upon the battle-field. They will soon rise from him all his ancient honors and return his blasted laurels.

Having given you all of serious interest in the transactions in this quarter, I trust I may be pardoned for a little gossip.

By your last monetary article, I see that our friends on Carondelet street are thinking more of the price of our cotton than the power of our cannon, which forcibly reminded me that the flags must be somewhat relieved of the long, rapid and quick gathering strides of our friend, W. E. Starke. He is here; here did I say! He is everywhere—anxious, watchful, and enquiring; his Southern predilections and Virginia pride but spur a temperament that was never a laggard, and makes hope with him a "blameless parasite," that will follow him throughout the world. But Starke, you know, is hard to find, and harder to hold, and reminds me of a ball of soap that one lets fall in the bath-tub; you can scarcely ever find it, and when one touches it, it bounces away in another direction, and we are not sure of holding it even when in our grasp. But which of us are without our faults, though he be the most "precious porcelain of human clay?" In him, however, the fault of temperament is forgiven, when we consider his urbanity, politeness and a graceful hospitality, which he extends with as much modesty as high-born pride.

By-the-way Walker, too, is one of our mess—Judge Walker—Walker of the Delta—secession Walker—revolutionary Walker—he who did as much to arouse to a sense of wrong alike the affluent monarchs of our Southern farms as the shirtless patriots that peddle on Perdido street. But he is certainly an interesting man to all here. His familiarity with the detail of American history, his association with and knowledge of all living men of national renown (many of whom are here) gives great interest to his conversation; but Walker, you know, is lazy and luxurious in all things but writing and talking; he is, however, particularly industrious in this last accomplishment; he makes an audience of me every night. We sleep in the same room, with a matrass for each, but no sheets; indeed, I have not seen a pair since I left home. I found and appropriated one pillow case, and he actually wanted me to cut that and divide it. Walker is certainly a very useful man here; he is a perpetual and universal reconnoiterer, knows everything progressing, and is as often found among those with whom the proudest may be glad to consort as in corners and places where the modest may blush to be seen in; but more particularly in places where he can gratify the gustative nature; for believe it, the ravin croaks not louder for its famishing young than Walker for his breakfast, and he enjoys it with an appetite that Gulouston might have sighed for and a raven envied; but, alas! on yesterday he had but codfish and potatoes. Still he ate. I passed it by, not liking it, from political prejudice.

I close this in haste, that it may reach you early, as a bearer waits. M.

Special to the New Orleans Crescent.] STEPHENSON, ALA., MAY 1.

Mr. Editor—As some of your readers would like to hear "our" first experience in soldier life, I send you a few items. Ours, individually, commenced with a duty not expressly that of a soldier, in having numerous uniforms made up to supply our great increase in numbers. Obtaining the services of several small specimens of the German tailor, who promised (with the help of "lager") to serve us night and day for a small compensation, and assisted by several kind and patriotic ladies—the ladies of the fair—and the employés of the sewing machines, we soon accomplished our object, though not without some trouble to all. Not being versed in the sewing department, we must have been a pest to the one and our departure "good riddance" to the others; but as our appearance in uniform among the ladies employed by the Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machine Company seemed to afford considerable merriment, we felt somewhat repaid in having relieved the monotony of their stitch, stitch, stitch—and it is understood that fatigue uniforms are more for use than ornament. After a few detentions we were able to set off at noon Sunday, and after being reviewed by Col. Blanchard, who paid us the oft-repeated compliment of being "the best looking set of fellows he had ever seen," we were politely invited (by the Captain's order) over to the Jackson Railroad depot, not however, until we had been allowed to "sun" ourselves for a few hours on the north side of the New Basin. On our arrival at the depot, Capt. G. gave us a short speech, in which he kindly told us while on duty we should be under strict discipline, but when off duty (to use his expression) "as brothers." He also gave us the cheering news that our company A would meet us at Grand Junction, which was met with three cheers for the "boys," three for Capt. G., and three for Capt. B. of the active honorary number, and we took leave of the latter and embarked. For some reason which your complainant knoweth not, the train reported to have been engaged was not on hand; but as we were determined to start on our way, a train was procured and we started for Kenner, to camp there. The cars furnished us were "dirt cars," but they bore a troop of "dirt eaters" that would have scared Horace Greeley and his minions from their darling propensities, "or any other man."

We have true cause to be proud of our corps and its officers. When we join company A we will number upwards of 260 men, commanded by officers we all respect, love and obey. We reached Camp Kenner at sunset, and proceeded to spread our tents, and in less than half an hour the clover ground on the right of Kenner was covered with some thirty, and presented quite a pretty appearance as seen from the road, with the camp fires burning and sentinels on duty. Nothing occurred of interest during the night, except the arrival of Capt. Wingfield's company from Tangipaho. The Guards and Rifles kept up a great cheering back and forth, in which we could not join, being pleasantly situated near a miserable table discussing chicken, (cooked in the egg,) and some splendid ham recommended for its strengthening qualities. In the morning there was a repetition for the worse, and we were well pleased to decamp on the arrival of the cars. We noticed several scarred faces, occasioned by the sting of an insect quite plentiful in those parts, called the gallinipper; something different from our pet mosquito in that they don't tell you when they intend making a charge. Our trip up to Canton, where we arrived Tuesday morning, (quick trip) was one continued cheering, the inhabitants in and about the depots having congregated in large numbers. The ladies of Amite met us with bouquets and Confederate Government flags, and seemed more eloquent than others, whether from personal interest or not, we can't say. At Canton we breakfasted in good style, at the house of Collins Pierce, who can't be beat. From here to Huntsville, Ala., we were received at all points by cheering, huzzaing and waving of handkerchiefs.

I noticed a greater number at Granada, Holly Springs, on the Mississippi Central, and at Iuca, on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, than at other points, until we reached Huntsville, Alabama, where our reception was beyond description. The fact of our being from New Orleans, and so large a number (being over 550 men in all) passing over the road for the first time, created intense excitement, and will, no doubt, prove beneficial to the cause. Every hamlet on the road, from mansion to hut, seemed crowded with more than its own inhabitants to witness our passing by and, had we not been delayed, would have been more so. At Huntsville we got off for dinner, and were entertained in a sumptuous style by the citizens, among whom particularly were Mr. Lee of the Huntsville Hotel, and Mr. Donnegan, father of one of the Guards. At the hotel the gallery was crowded with the fair sex who fairly pelted us with flowers, and seemed to vie each other in cheering the Guards. The other companies were also treated in the same style. Our companions will always remember their reception at Huntsville with pleasant feelings. We are now at Stephenson, Jackson county, Alabama, where we are joined by over 200 men from this county, and have received a report that our boys are thirty miles behind us, on the way, and expect to overtake us soon. We also hear a report that about 1000 troops from Nashville and Memphis are immediately behind on the route, but cannot vouch for it. Will write you at Richmond, where we arrive Friday evening—persons writing or sending papers, send to care Capt. Girardey, First Regiment Louisiana Volunteers, Richmond, Virginia.

The Guards are all in good spirits and perfect health, and determined to undergo any privations that have to be gone through. They are all anxious for the fight, but as it needs fire to try the metal, we'll say, in the words of our brothers in arms, the Washington Artillery, "Try us."

We have been plentifully supplied with provisions and stores, and feel under many obligations to Capt. Girardey and the active and honorary members for the care taken in supplying for our wants and comfort; but "*au revoir*."

——, LOUISIANA GUARDS.

MILITARY GOODS.—Mr. Louis Pillet, No. 133 Canal street, gives notice that he is just opening a large stock of military trimmings, of recent importation from Europe. He has also on hand a very select assortment of fancy goods. We refer our readers to the advertisement.

MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT DAVIS.

To the Special Session of the Congress Convened at Montgomery, April 29, 1861.

Gentlemen of the Congress—It is my pleasing duty to announce to you that the Constitution framed for the establishment of a Permanent Government for the Confederate States has been ratified by Conventions in each of those States to which it was referred. To inaugurate the Government in its full proportions and upon its own substantial basis of the popular will, it only remains that elections should be held for the designation of the officers to administer it.

There is every reason to believe that at no distant day other States, identified in political principles and community of interest with those which you represent, will join this Confederacy, giving to its typical constellation increased splendor, to its Government of free, equal and sovereign States, a wider sphere of usefulness, and to the friends of constitutional liberty a greater security for its harmonious and perpetual existence.

It was not, however, for the purpose of making this announcement that I have deemed it my duty to convoke you at an earlier day than that fixed by yourselves for your meeting. The declaration of war made against this Confederacy by Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, in his proclamation issued on the 15th day of the present month, rendered it necessary in my judgment that you should convene at the earliest practicable moment to devise the measures necessary for the defence of the country.

The occasion is, indeed, an extraordinary one. It justifies me in a brief review of the relations heretofore existing between us and the States which now unite in warfare against us, and in a succinct statement of the events which have resulted in this warfare; to the end that mankind may pass intelligent and impartial judgment on its motives and objects.

During the war waged against Great Britain by her colonies on this continent, a common danger impelled them to a close alliance, and to the formation of a Confederation, by the terms of which the colonies, styling themselves States, entered severally into a firm league of friendship with each other for their common defense, the security of their liberties and their mutual and general welfare, binding themselves to assist each other against all force offered to or attacks made upon them, or any of them, on account of religion, sovereignty, trade, or any other pretence whatever.

In order to guard against any misconstruction of their compact, the several States made explicit declaration in a distinct article—that "*each* State *retains its* sovereignty, freedom and independence, and every power, jurisdiction and right, which is not by this Confederation *expressly delegated* to the United States in Congress assembled."

Under this contract of alliance the war of the Revolution was successfully waged, and resulted in the treaty of peace with Great Britain in 1783, by the terms of which the several States were, *each by name*, recognized to be independent.

The articles of Confederation contained a clause whereby all alterations were prohibited unless confirmed by the Legislatures of *every State*, after being agreed to by the Congress, and in obedience to this provision, under the resolution of Congress of the 21st of February, 1787, the several States appointed delegates who attended a Convention "for the *sole and express purpose* of revising the articles of Confederation and reporting to Congress and the several Legislatures such alterations and provisions therein as shall, when agreed to in Congress, and *confirmed by the States*, render the Federal Constitution adequate to the exigencies of the Government and the preservation of the Union.

It was by the delegates chosen by the *several States* under the resolution just quoted that the Constitution of the United States was framed in 1787, and submitted to the *several States* for ratification, as shown by the seventh article, which is in these words:

"The ratification of the *Conventions of nine States* shall be sufficient for the establishment of this Constitution BETWEEN *the States* so ratifying the same."

I have italicised certain words in the quotations just made for the purpose of attracting attention to the singular and marked caution with which the States endeavored in every possible form to exclude the idea that the separate and independent sovereignty of each State was merged into one common government and nation, and the earnest desire they evinced to impress on the Constitution its true character—that of a compact between independent States.

The Constitution of 1787, having, however, omitted the clause already recited from the articles of Confederation, which provided, in explicit terms, that each State retained its sovereignty and independence, some alarm was felt in the States when invited to ratify the Constitution, lest this omission should be construed into an abandonment of their cherished principle, and they refused to be satisfied until amendments were added to the Constitution, placing beyond any pretence of doubt the reservation by the States of all their sovereign rights and powers, not expressly delegated to the United States by the Constitution.

Strange, indeed, must it appear to the impartial observer, but it is none the less true, that all these carefully worded clauses proved unavailing to prevent the rise and growth in the Northern States of a political school which has persistently claimed that the Government thus formed was not a compact *between* States, but was in effect a national Government, set up *above* and *over* the States. An organization, created by the States to secure the blessings of liberty and independence against foreign aggression, has been gradually perverted into a machine for their control in their domestic affairs; the creature has been exalted above its creators; the principals have been made subordinate to the agent appointed by themselves.

The people of the Southern States, whose almost exclusive occupation was agriculture, early perceived a tendency in the Northern States to render a common Government subservient to their own purposes, by imposing burdens on commerce as a protection to their manufacturing and shipping interests. Long and angry controversy grew out of these attempts, often successful, to benefit one section of the country at the expense of the other, and the danger of disruption arising from this cause was enhanced by the fact that the Northern population was increasing by emigration and other causes in a greater ratio than the population of the South. By degrees, as the Northern States gained preponderance in the National Congress, self-interest taught their people to yield ready assent to any plausible advocacy of their rights as a majority to govern the minority without control: they learned to listen with impatience to the suggestion of any constitutional impediment to the exercise of their will; and so utterly have the principles of the Constitution been corrupted in the Northern mind, that in the inaugural address delivered by President Lincoln in March last, he asserts as a maxim, which he plainly deems to be undeniable, that the theory of the Constitution requires that in all cases the majority shall govern; and in another memorable instance, the same Chief Magistrate did not hesitate to liken the relations between a State and the United States to those which exist between the county and the State in which it is situated and by which it was created. This is the lamentable and fundamental error on which rests the policy that has culminated in his declaration of war against these Confederate States. In addition to the long continued and deep seated resentment felt by the Southern States at the persistent abuse of the powers they had delegated to the Congress for the purpose of enriching the manufacturing and shipping classes of the North at the expense of the South, there has existed for nearly half a century another subject of discord, involving interests of such transcendant magnitude as at all times to create apprehension in the minds of many devoted lovers of the Union that its permanence was impossible.

When the several States delegated certain powers to the United States Congress, a large portion of the laboring population consisted of African slaves imported into the colonies by the mother country. In twelve out of the thirteen States, negro slavery existed; and the right of property in slaves was protected by law. This property was recognized in the Constitution, and provision was made against its loss by the escape of the slave. The increase in the number of slaves by further importation from Africa, was also secured by a clause forbidding Congress to prohibit the slave trade anterior to a certain date; and in no clause can there be found any delegation of power to the Congress authorizing it in any manner to legislate to the prejudice, detriment or discouragement of the owners of that species of property, or excluding it from the protection of the Government. The climate and soil of the Northern States soon proved unpropitious to the continuance of slave labor, whilst the converse was the case at the South. Under the unrestricted free intercourse between the two sections, the Northern States consulted their own interests by selling their slaves to the South, and prohibiting slavery within their limits. The South were willing purchasers of property suitable to their wants and paid the price of the acquisition without harboring a suspicion that their quiet possession was to be disturbed by those who were inhibited not only by want of constitutional authority but by good faith as vendors, from disquieting a title emanating from themselves.

As soon, however, as the Northern States that prohibited African slavery within their limits had reached a number sufficient to give their representation a controlling voice in the Congress, a persistent and organized system of hostile measures against the rights of the owners of slaves in the Southern States was inaugurated and gradually extended. A continuous series of measures was devised and prosecuted for the purpose of rendering insecure the tenure of property in slaves; fanatical organizations, supplied with money by voluntary subscriptions, were assiduously engaged in exciting among the slaves a spirit of discontent and revolt; means were furnished for their escape from their owners, and agents secretly employed to entice them to abscond; the constitutional provision for their rendition to their owners was first evaded, then openly denounced as a violation of conscientious obligation and religious duty; men were taught that it was a merit to elude, disobey and violently oppose the execution of the laws enacted to secure the performance of the promise contained in the constitutional compact; owners of slaves were mobbed and even murdered in open day, solely for applying to a magistrate for the arrest of a fugitive slave; the dogmas of these voluntary organizations soon obtained control of the Legislatures of many of the Northern States, and laws were passed providing for the punishment, by ruinous fines and long continued imprisonment in jails and penitentiaries, of citizens of the Southern States who should dare to ask aid of the officers of the law for the recovery of their property. Emboldened by success, the theater of agitation and agression against the clearly expressed constitutional rights of the Southern States was transferred to the Congress; Senators and Representatives were sent to the common councils of the nation whose chief title to this distinction consisted in the display of a spirit of ultra fanaticism, and whose business was not to promote the general welfare, or ensure domestic tranquility, but to awaken the bitterest hatred against the citizens of sister States, by violent denunciation of their institutions. The transaction of public affairs was impeded by repeated efforts to usurp powers not delegated by the Constitution, for the purpose of impairing the security of property in slaves, and reducing those States which hold slaves to a condition of inferiority. Finally, a great party was organized for the purpose of obtaining the administration of the Government, with the avowed object of using its power for the total exclusion of the slave States from all participation in the benefits of the public domain acquired by all the States in common, whether by conquest or purchase; of surrounding them entirely by States in which slavery should be prohibited; of thus rendering the property in slaves so insecure as to be comparatively worthless, and thereby annihilating in effect property worth thousands of millions of dollars. This party, thus organized, succeeded, in the month of November last, in the election of its candidate for the Presidency of the United States.

In the meantime, under the mild and genial climate of the Southern States, and the increasing care and attention for the well being and comfort of the laboring classes, dictated alike by interests and humanity, the African slaves had augmented in number from about six hundred thousand at the date of the adoption of the Constitutional compact to upwards of four millions. In moral and social condition they had been elevated from brutal savages into docile, intelligent and civilized agricultural laborers, and supplied not only with bodily comforts, but with careful religious instruction. Under the supervision of a superior race, their labor had been so directed as not only to allow a gradual and marked amelioration of their own condition, but to convert hundreds of thousands of square miles of the wilderness into cultivated lands, covered with a prosperous people; towns and cities had sprung into existence, and rapidly increased in wealth and population under the social system of the South; the white population of the Southern slave-holding States had augmented from about 1,250,000 at the date of the adoption of the Constitution to more than 8,500,000 in 1860, and the productions of the South in cotton, rice, sugar and tobacco, for the full development and continuance of which the labor of African slaves was and is indispensable, had swollen to an amount which formed nearly three fourths of the exports of the whole United States, and had become absolutely necessary to the wants of civilized man.

With interests of such overwhelming magnitude imperilled, the people of the Southern States were driven by the conduct of the North to the adoption of some course of action to avert the danger with which they were openly menaced. With this view the Legislatures of the several States invited the people to select delegates to Conventions to be held for the purpose of determining for themselves what measures were best adapted to meet so alarming a crisis in their history.

Here it may be proper to observe that from a period as early as 1798 there had existed in *all* of the States of the Union a party almost uninterruptedly in the majority, based upon the creed that each State was, in the last resort, the sole judge as well of its wrongs as of the mode and measure of redress. Indeed, it is obvious that, under the law of nations, this principle is an axiom as applied to the relations of independent sovereign States, such as those which had united themselves under the Constitutional compact. The Democratic party of the United States repeated, in its successful canvass in 1856, the declaration made in numerous previous political contests, that it would faithfully abide by and uphold the principles laid down in the Kentucky and Virginia resolutions of 1798, and in the report of Mr. Madison to the Virginia Legislature in 1799; and that it adopts those principles as constituting one of the main foundations of its political creed."

The principles thus emphatically announced embrace that to which I have already adverted, the right of each State to judge of and redress the wrongs of which it complains. These principles were maintained by overwhelming majorities of the people of all the States of the Union at different elections, especially in the elections of Mr. Jefferson in 1805, Mr. Madison in 1809, and Mr. Pierce in 1852.

In the exercise of a right so ancient, so well established, and so necessary for self-preservation, the people of the Confederate States, in their Conventions, determined that the wrongs which they had suffered and the evils with which they were menaced, required that they should revoke the delegation of powers to the Federal Government which they had ratified in their several Conventions. They consequently passed ordinances resuming all their rights as sovereign and independent States, and dissolved their connection with the other States of the Union. Having done this they proceeded to form a new compact amongst themselves, by new articles of Confederation, which have been also ratified by Conventions of the several States with an approach to unanimity far exceeding that of the Conventions which adopted the Constitution of 1787. They have organized their new Government in all its departments. The functions of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Magistrates are performed in accordance with the will of the people, as displayed not merely in a cheerful acquiescence, but in the enthusiastic support of the Government thus established by themselves; and but for the interference of the Government of the United States in this legitimate exercise of the rights of a people to self government, peace, happiness and prosperity would now smile on our land.

That peace is ardently desired by this Government and people, has been manifested in every possible form. Scarce had you assembled in February last, when, prior even to the inauguration of the Chief Magistrate you had elected, you passed a resolution expressive of your desire for the appointment of Commissioners, to be sent to the Government of the United States, "for the purpose of negotiating friendly relations between that Government and the Confederate States of America, and for the settlement of all questions of disagreement between the two Governments, upon principles of right, justice, equity and good faith."

It was my pleasure as well as my duty to cooperate with you in this work of peace. Indeed, in my address to you on taking the oath of office, and before receiving from you the communication of this resolution, I had said that, as a necessity, not as a choice, we have resorted to the remedy of separation, and henceforth our energies must be directed to the conduct of our own affairs, and the perpetuity of the Confederacy which we have formed. If a just perception of mutual interest shall permit us to peaceably pursue our separate political career, my most earnest desire will have been fulfilled."

It was in furtherance of these accordant views of the Congress and the Executive that I made choice of three discreet, able and distinguished citizens, who repaired to Washington. Aided by their cordial coöperation and that of the Secretary of State, every effort compatible with self-respect and the dignity of the Confederacy, was exhausted before I allowed myself to yield to the conviction that the Government of the United States was determined to attempt the conquest of this people, and that our cherished hopes of peace were unattainable.

On the arrival of our Commissioners in Washington, on the 5th of March, they postponed, at the suggestion of a friendly intermediary, doing more than giving informal notice of their arrival. This was done with a view to afford time to the President, who had just been inaugurated, for the discharge of other pressing official duties, in the organization of his Administration, before engaging his attention in the object of their mission.

It was not until the 12th of the month that they officially addressed the Secretary of State, informing him of the purpose of their arrival, and stating, in the language of their instructions, their wish to make to the Government of the United States overtures for the opening of negotiations, assuring the Government of the United States that the President, Congress and people of the Confederate States honestly desire a peaceful solution of these great questions; that it is neither their interest nor their wish to make any demand which is not founded on the strictest justice, nor to do any act to injure their late confederates."

To this communication no formal reply was received until the 8th of April. During the interval, the Commissioners had consented to waive all questions of form, with the firm resolve to avoid war if possible; they went so far even as to hold, during that long period, unofficial intercourse through an intermediary, whose high position and character inspired the hope of success, and through whom constant assurances were received from the Government of the United States, of peaceful intentions; of its determination to evacuate Fort Sumter; and, further, that no measure changing the existing *status* prejudicially to the Confederate States, especially at Fort Pickens, was in contemplation, but that in the event of any change of intention on the subject, notice would be given to the Commissioners. The crooked paths of diplomacy can scarcely furnish an example so wanting in courtesy, in candor and directness as was the course of the United States Government towards our Commissioners in Washington. For proof of this, I refer to the annexed documents marked ——, taken in connection with further facts, which I now proceed to relate:

Early in April the attention of the whole country, as well as that of our Commissioners, was attracted to extraordinary preparations for an extensive military and naval expedition in New York and other Northern ports. These preparations commenced in secrecy, for an expedition whose destination was concealed, only became known when nearly completed; and on the 5th, 6th and 7th of April, transports and vessels of war, with troops, munitions and military supplies, sailed from Northern ports bound Southward. Alarmed by so extraordinary a demonstration, the Commissioners requested the delivery of an answer to their official communication of the 12th of March, and thereupon received, on the 8th of April, a reply dated on the 15th of the previous month, from which it appears that, during the whole interval whilst the Commissioners were receiving assurances calculated to inspire hope of the success of their mission, the Secretary of State and the President of the United States had already determined to hold no intercourse with them whatever, to refuse even to listen to any proposals they had to make, and had profited by the delay created by their own assurances in order to prepare secretly the means for effective hostile operations.

That these assurances were given has been virtually confessed by the Government of the United States, by its sending a messenger to Charleston to give notice of its purpose to use force if opposed in its intention of supplying Fort Sumter. No more striking proof of the absence of good faith in the conduct of the Government of the United States towards this Confederacy can be required than is contained in the circumstances which accompanied this notice. According to the usual course of navigation, the vessels composing the expedition designed for the relief of Fort Sumter, might be expected to reach Charleston harbor on the 9th of April; yet, with our Commissioners actually in Washington, detained under assurances that notice should be given of any military movement. The notice was not addressed to *them*, but a messenger was sent to Charleston to give the notice to the Governor of South Carolina, and the notice was so given at a late hour on the 8th of April, the eve of the very day on which the fleet might be expected to arrive. That this maneuver failed in its purpose, was not the fault of those who contrived it. A heavy tempest delayed the arrival of the expedition, and gave time to the commander of our forces at Charleston to ask and receive the instructions of this Government. Even then, under all the provocation incident to the contemptuous refusal to listen to our Commissioners, and the tortuous course of the Government of the United States, I was sincerely anxious to avoid the effusion of blood, and directed a proposal to be made to the commander of Fort Sumter, who had avowed himself to be nearly out of provisions, that we would abstain from directing our fire on Fort Sumter if he would promise not to open fire on our forces unless first attacked. This proposal was refused and the conclusion was, reached that the design of the United States was to place the besieging force at Charleston between the simultaneous fire of the fleet and the fort. There remained, therefore, no alternative but to direct that the fort should at once be reduced. This order was executed by Gen. Beauregard with the skill and success which were naturally to be expected from the well known character of that gallant officer; and although the bombardment lasted but thirty-three hours, our flag did not wave over its battered walls until after the appearance of the hostile fleet off Charleston. Fortunately not a life was lost on our side, and we were gratified in being spared the necessity of a useless effusion of blood by the prudent caution of the officers who commanded the fleet in abstaining from the evidently futile effort to enter the harbor for the relief of Major Anderson. I refer to the report of the Secretary of War and the papers accompanying it, for further details of this brilliant affair.

In this connection I cannot refrain from a well-deserved tribute to the noble State the eminent soldierly qualities of whose people were so conspicuously displayed in the port of Charleston. For months they had been irritated by the spectacle of a fortress held within their principal harbor as a standing menace against their peace and independence, built in part with their own money—its custody confided with their own consent to an agent who held no power over them other than such as they had themselves delegated for their own benefit—intended to be used by that agent for their own protection against foreign attack, they saw it held with persistent tenacity as a means of offence against them by the very Government which they had established for their protection. They had beleaguered it for months—felt entire confidence in their power to capture it—yet yielded to the requirements of discipline, curbed their impatience, submitted without complaint to the unaccustomed hardships, labors and privations of a protracted siege; and when at length their patience was rewarded by the signal for attack, and success had crowned their steady and gallant conduct—even in the very moment of triumph—they evinced a chivalrous regard for the feelings of the brave but unfortunate officer who had been compelled to lower his flag. All manifestations of exultation were checked in his presence. Their commanding General, with their cordial approval and the consent of his Government, refrained from imposing any terms that could wound the sensibility of the commander of the fort; he was permitted to retire with the honors of war—to salute his flag, to depart freely with all his command, and was escorted to the vessel in which he embarked with the highest marks of respect from those against whom his guns had been so recently directed. Not only does every event connected with the siege reflect the highest honor on South Carolina, but the forbearance of her people and of this Government from making any harsh use of a victory obtained under circumstances of such peculiar provocation, attest, to the fullest extent, the absence of any purpose beyond securing own their tranquility, and a sincere desire to avoid the calamities of war.

Scarcely had the President of the United States received intelligence of the failure of the scheme which he devised for the reinforcement of Fort Sumter, when he issued the declaration of war against this Confederacy, which has prompted me to convoke you. In this extraordinary production that high functionary affects total ignorance of the existence of an independent Government, which, possessing the entire and enthusiastic devotion of its people, is exercising its functions without question over seven sovereign States—over more than five millions of people, and over a territory whose area exceeds 500,000 square miles. He terms sovereign States "combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, or by the powers vested in the marshals by law." He calls for an army of 75,000 men to act as a *posse comitatus* in aid of the process of the courts of justice, in States where no courts exist whose mandates and decrees are not cheerfully obeyed and respected by a willing people. He avows that "the *first* service to be assigned to the forces called out," will be not to execute the process of courts, but to capture forts and strongholds situated within the admitted limits of this Confederacy, and garrisoned by its troops; and declares that "this effort" is intended "to maintain the perpetuity of popular government." He concludes by commanding "the persons composing the combinations aforesaid," to-wit: the five millions of inhabitants of these States, "to retire peaceably to their respective abodes within twenty days."

Apparently contradictory as are the terms of this singular document, one point was unmistakably evident. The President of the United States calls for an army of 75,000 men, whose *first* service was to be to capture our forts. It was a plain declaration of war, which I was not at liberty to disregard because of my knowledge that, under the Constitution of the United States, the President was usurping a power granted exclusively to the Congress. He is the sole organ of communication between that country and foreign powers. The law of nations did not permit me to question the authority of the executive of a foreign nation to declare war against this Confederacy. Although I might have refrained from taking active measures for our defence, if the States of the Union had all imitated the action of Virginia, North Carolina, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri, by denouncing the call for troops it as an unconstitutional usurpation of power to which they refuse to respond, I was not at liberty to disregard the fact, that many of the States seemed quite content to submit to the exercise of the power assumed by the President of the United States, and were actively engaged in levying troops for the purpose indicated in the proclamation.

Deprived of the aid of Congress at the moment, I was under the necessity of confining my action to a call on the States for volunteers for the common defence, in accordance with the authority you had confided to me before your adjournment. I deemed it proper, further, to issue a proclamation inviting applications from persons disposed to aid in our defence in private armed vessels on the high seas, to the end that preparations might be made for the immediate issue of letters of marque and reprisal, which you alone, under the Constitution, have the power to grant. I entertain no doubt you will concur with me in the opinion that in the absence of a fleet of public vessels it will be eminently expedient to supply their place by private armed vessels, so happily styled by the publicists of the United States the militia of the sea, and so often and justly relied on by them as an efficient and admirable instrument of defensive warfare. I earnestly recommend the immediate passage of a law authorizing me to accept the numerous proposals already received.

I cannot close this review of the acts of the Government of the United States without referring to a proclamation issued by their President, under date of the 19th inst., in which, after declaring that an insurrection has broken out in this Confederacy against the Government of the United States, he announces a blockade of all the ports of these States, and threatens to punish as pirates all persons who shall molest any vessel of the United States under letters of marque issued by this Government. Notwithstanding the authenticity of this proclamation, you will concur with me that it is hard to believe that it could have emanated from a President of the United States. Its announcement of a mere paper blockade is so manifestly a violation of the law of nations that it would seem incredible that it could have been issued by authority; but conceding this to be the case, so far as the Executive is concerned, it will be difficult to satisfy the people of these States that their late confederates will sanction its declarations—will determine to ignore the usages of civilized nations, and will inaugurate a war of extermination on both sides by treating as pirates open enemies acting under the authority of commissions issued by an organized Government. If such proclamation was issued, it could only have been published under the sudden influence of passion, and we may rest assured mankind will be spared the horrors of the conflict it seems to invite.

For the details of the administration of the different departments, I refer to the reports of the secretaries which accompany this message.

The State Department has furnished the necessary instructions for three Commissioners who have been sent to England, France, Russia and Belgium, since your adjournment, to ask our recognition as a member of the family of nations, and to make with each of those powers treaties of amity and commerce. Further steps will be taken to enter into like negotiations with the other European Powers, in pursuance of your resolutions passed at the last session. Sufficient time has not yet elapsed since the departure of these Commissioners for the receipt of any intelligence from them. As I deem it desirable that Commissioners or other diplomatic agents should also be sent at an early period to the independent American Powers south of our Confederacy, with all of whom it is our interest and earnest wish to maintain the most cordial and friendly relations, I suggest the expediency of making the necessary appropriations for that purpose.

Having been officially notified by the public authorities of the State of Virginia that she had withdrawn from the Union, and desired to maintain the closest political relations with us which it was possible at this time to establish, I commissioned the Hon. Alex. H. Stephens, Vice-President of the Confederate States, to represent this Government at Richmond. I am happy to inform you that he has concluded a Convention with the State of Virginia, by which that honored Commonwealth, so long and justly distinguished among her sister States, and so dear to the hearts of thousands of her children in the Confederate States, has united her power and her fortunes with ours and become one of us. This Convention together with the ordinance of Virginia adopting the Provisional Constitution of the Confederacy, will be laid before you for your constitutional action. I have satisfactory assurances from other of our late confederates that they are on the point of adopting similar measures, and I cannot doubt that ere you shall have been many weeks in session, the whole of the slaveholding States of the late Union will respond to the call of honor and affection, and by uniting their fortunes with ours, promote our common interests and secure our common safety.

In the Treasury Department, regulations have been devised and put into execution for carrying out the policy indicated in your legislation, on the subject of the navigation of the Mississippi river, as well as for the collection of the revenue on the frontier. Free transit has been secured for vessels and merchandise passing through the Confederate States; and delay and inconvenience have been avoided as far as possible in organizing the revenue service for the various railways entering our territory. As fast as experience shall indicate the possibility of improvement in these regulations, no effort will be spared to free commerce from all unnecessary embarrassments and obstructions.

Under your act authorizing a loan, proposals were issued inviting subscriptions for five millions of dollars, and the call was answered by the prompt subscription of more than eight millions by our own citizens, and not a single bid was made under par. The rapid development of the purpose of the President of the United States to invade our soil, capture our forts, blockade our ports, and wage war against us, induced me to direct that the entire subscription should be accepted. It will now become necessary to raise means to a much larger amount to defray the expenses of maintaining our independence and repelling invasion. I invite your special attention to this subject, and the financial condition of the Government, with the suggestion of ways and means for the supply of the treasury, will be presented to you in a separate communication.

To the Department of Justice you have confided not only the organization and supervision of all matters connected with the courts of justice, but also those connected with patents and with the bureau of the public printing.

Since your adjournment all the courts, with the exception of those of Mississippi and Texas, have been organized by the appointment of marshals and district attorneys, and are now prepared for the exercise of their functions.

In the two States just named the gentlemen confirmed as judges declined to accept the appointments, and no nominations have yet been made to fill the vacancies. I refer you to the report of the Attorney General, and concur in his recommendation for immediate legislation, especially on the subject of patent rights. Early provision should be made to secure to the subjects of foreign nations the full enjoyment of their property in valuable inventions, and to extend to our own citizens protection not only for their own inventions, but for such as may have been assigned to them or may hereafter be assigned by persons not alien enemies.

The Patent Office business is much more extensive and important than had been anticipated. The applications for patents, although confined under the law exclusively to citizens of our Confederacy, already average seventy per month, showing the necessity for the prompt organization of a bureau of patents.

The Secretary of War, in his report and accompanying documents, conveys full information concerning the forces, regular, volunteer, and provisional, raised and called for under the several acts of Congress—their organization and distribution; also, an account of the expenditures already made, and the further estimates for the fiscal year ending on the 18th of February, 1862, rendered necessary by recent events. I refer to the report, also, for a full history of the occurrences in Charleston harbor, prior to, and including the bombardment and reduction of Fort Sumter, and of the measures subsequently taken for common defence on receiving the intelligence of the declaration of war against us, made by the President of the United States. There are now in the field at Charleston, Pensacola, Forts Morgan, Jackson, St. Philip and Pulaski, 19,000 men, and 16,000 are now en route for Virginia. It is proposed to organize and hold in readiness for instant action, in view of the present exigencies of the country, an army of 100,000 men. If further force be needed, the wisdom and patriotism of Congress will be confidently appealed to for authority to call into the field additional numbers of our noble-spirited volunteers, who are constantly tendering services far in excess of our wants.

The operations of the Navy Department have been necessarily restricted by the fact that sufficient time has not yet elapsed for the purchase or construction of more than a limited number of vessels adapted to the public service. Two vessels purchased, have been named the "Sumter" and "Macrae," and are now being prepared for sea, at New Orleans, with all possible dispatch. Contracts have also been made at that city, with two different establishments, for the casting of ordnance—cannon, shot and shell—with the view to encourage the manufacture of these articles, so indispensable for our defence, at as many points within our territory as possible.

I call your attention to the recommendation of the Secretary for the establishment of a magazine and laboratory for preparation of ordnance stores and the necessary appropriation for that purpose.

Hitherto such stores have usually been prepared at the navy yards, and no appropriation was made at your last session for this object.

The Secretary also calls attention to the fact that no provision has been made for the payment of invalid pensions to our citizens. Many of these persons are advanced in life, they have no means of support, and by the secession of these States, have been deprived of their claim against the Government of the United States. I recommend the appropriation of the sum necessary to pay these pensioners, as well as those of the army, whose claim can scarcely exceed $20,000 per annum.

The Postmaster General has already succeeded in organizing his Department to such an extent as to be in readiness to assume the direction of our postal affairs on the occurrence of the contingency contemplated by the act of 15th March, 1861, or even sooner, if desired by Congress.

The various books and circulars have been prepared, and measures taken to secure supplies of blanks, postage stamps, stamped envelopes, mail-bags, locks, keys, etc.

He presents a detailed classification and arrangement of the clerical force, and asks for its increase.

An Auditor of the Treasury for this Department is necessary, and a plan is submitted for the organization of his bureau.

The great number and magnitude of the accounts of this department require an increase of the clerical force in the accounting branch in the treasury. The revenues of this department are collected and disbursed in modes peculiar to itself, and require a special bureau to secure a proper accountability in the administration of its finances.

I call your attention to the additional legislation required for this department—to the recommendation for changes in the law fixing the rates of postage on newspapers and sealed packages of certain kinds, and specially to the recommendation of the Secretary, in which I concur, that you provide at once for the assumption by him of the control of our entire postal service.

In the military organization of the States, provision is made for Brigadier and Major Generals, but in the army of the Confederate States the highest grade is that of Brigadier General; hence it will no doubt sometimes occur that where troops of the Confederacy do duty with the militia, the General selected for the command and possessed of the views and purposes of this Government, will be superseded by an officer of the militia, not having the same advantages. To avoid this contingency in the least objectionable manner, I recommend that additional rank be given to the General of the Confederate army, and concurring in the policy of having but one grade of Generals in the army of the Confederacy, I recommend that the law of its organization be amended, so that the grade be that of General.

To secure thorough military education, it is deemed essential that officers should enter upon the study of their profession at an early period of life, and have elementary instruction in a military school. Until such school shall be established, it is recommended that cadets be appointed and attached to companies until they shall have attained the age, and have acquired the knowledge to fit them for the duties of lieutenants.

I also call your attention to an omission in the law organizing the army, in relation to military chaplains, and recommend that provision be made for their appointment.

In conclusion, I congratulate you on the fact that in every portion of our country there has been exhibited the most patriotic devotion to our common cause. Transportation companies have freely tendered the use of their lines for troops and supplies. The Presidents of the Railroads of the Confederacy, in company with others who control lines of communication with States that we hope soon to greet as sisters, assembled in convention in this city, and not only reduced largely the rates heretofore demanded for mail service and conveyance of troops and munitions, but voluntarily proffered to receive their compensation at these reduced rates in the bonds of the Confederacy, for the purpose of leaving all the resources of the Government at its disposal for the common defence.

Requisitions for troops have been met with such alacrity that the numbers tendering their services have in every instance greatly exceeded the demand. Men of the highest official and social position are serving as volunteers in the ranks. The gravity of age, the zeal of youth, rival each other in the desire to be foremost for the public defence; and though at no other point than the one heretofore noticed, have they been stimulated by the excitement incident to actual engagement, and the hope of distinction for individual achievement, they have borne, what, for new troops, is the most severe ordeal—patient toil, constant vigil, and all the exposure and discomfort of active service, with a resolution and fortitude such as to command the approbation and justify the highest expectation of their conduct when active valor shall be required in place of steady endurance.

A people thus united and resolved cannot shrink from any sacrifice which they may be called on to make, nor can there be a reasonable doubt of their final success, however long and severe may be the test of their determination to maintain their birthright of freedom and equality, as a trust which it is their first duty to transmit undiminished to their posterity.

A bounteous Providence cheers us with the promise of abundant crops. The fields of grain which will, within a few weeks, be ready for the sickle, give assurance of the amplest supply of food for man; whilst the corn, cotton and other staple productions of our soil afford abundant proof that up to this period the season has been propitious.

We feel that our cause is just and holy; we protest solemnly, in the face of mankind, that we desire peace at any sacrifice, save that of honor and independence; we seek no conquest, no aggrandizement, no concession of any kind from the States with which we have lately confederated. All we ask is to be let alone—that those who never held power over us shall not now attempt our subjugation by arms. This we will, we must, resist, to the direst extremity. The moment that this pretension is abandoned, the sword will drop from our grasp, and we shall be ready to enter into treaties of amity and commerce that cannot but be mutually beneficial. So long as this pretension is maintained, with a firm reliance on that Divine Power which covers with its protection the just cause, we will continue to struggle for our inherent right to freedom, independence and self-government.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

Montgomery, April 29, 1861.

MEXICAN CORRESPONDENCE.

Complications of Matamoras Affairs—Afraid of Filibusters, of Reactionists, and of Liberals—Another Row by the Church Party—Mejia Successful, so far—Yaqui Indians in Revolt—Machinations of Los Americanos—Items.

Special to the New Orleans Crescent.] MATAMORAS, April 26, 1861.

Mr. Editor—The good people of this particular locality are sorely bothered between three fires. They dread the filibusters, they do not know how long the Liberal Government will prevail, and they are threatened with the withdrawal of their privileges as a free city. Matamoras has been, for a long time, open to the merchandise of all the world, free of duty; and the partiality thus shown has had the effect of building up the place wonderfully. Juarez has already communicated his design of revoking this privilege, as it is complained of at Tampico and at other places that it gives Matamoras advantages not possessed by other places. The people here are desperately opposed to the reform, as it is called; and if they did not apprehend an attack from the filibusters, in the shape of assistance, the whole State of Tamaulipas would ignore and resist the central authority. We have no choice, either, for both parties favor the same scheme; and, if the Church party succeeds, we are no better off.

But the most imminent danger seems to threaten us from your side, for really we consider it almost impossible for a party of Texas troops to continue on the Rio Grande in force without committing acts which must eventuate in war. The disturbances on your own side of the river are fomented on this side, while those on this side are fomented by your people. Desperate men and shrewd speculators are bent on involving the two countries in trouble for the purpose of producing the conquest of the States of Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon and Chihuahua. Parties of Americans are even now gathering in Arizona, Mesilla, New Mexico, Lower California, and all along the Rio Grande, watching the favorable opportunity to pitch in and help the row. Wealthy but broken down Mexican politicians are favoring the same project, as they hope to better their prospects and increase their fortunes by introducing Americans into the beautiful, rich and healthy country now governed by faction.

You are already aware, no doubt, that the Reactionary party, with Mejia and Marquez at its head, have commenced another struggle for power. At the latest dates the revolution was growing into formidable proportions. Zacatecas has fallen already, and with it the chief strength of the Juarez Government. The Ortega family and the State of Zacatecas were the nurses and the nursery of the Liberal cause, and with the death of Gen. Ortega and the capture of its capital, both have gone by the board. It matters little, however, which party thrives; revolution will be the order of the day, and Mejia in power only makes Juarez a revolutionist instead of a President.

A local revolution occurred in this State some time since for the purpose of influencing the election for Governor. The row broke out in Tampico and the fortifications fell into the hands of the insurgents; but Gen. Garza came down on the rascals in short order, and, before they could turn their guns upon them, he had them in chokey. Nine were shot on the spot, and a number sent to the chain-gang. If the same policy had been pursued towards Mejia and Marquez when they were captured at Tampico two years ago, the country would have been the better for the shooting.

The Indians in the State of Sonora have revolutionized and set up for themselves. It is thought that they have been incited to this course by the Americans in Arizona, for the purpose of paving the way to the seizure of Guaymas and all that lovely tract of country thereabouts. Thousands of your people have fixed their eyes on Guaymas, and in time they will have it.

President Juarez has fulminated a decree against all titles. We are now compelled to call each other citizen, in imitation of the Robespierrian period of the French revolution. A host of Generals, Colonels, et cetera, have been thrust into the ranks of us private and untitled citizens by that decree.

It is stated in private circles here that the commandant at this place has demanded to know of Col. Ford if the activity of the Texas troops had any reference to Mexican affairs. I do not credit the report, however, for though we may be in ignorance of all the movements taking place on the American side of the Rio Grande, we still feel satisfied that the authorities in command on the Texas frontier will do all they can to preserve the peace between the two countries. On the other hand, I am told that Col. Ford has officially informed the officer in command in Matamoras that he (Ford) will hold Matamoras responsible with his guns for any movement the unlicensed rabble of Mexico may make to disturb the peace or property of the citizens of Texas. So we go.

The funeral of Señor Tejada has been celebrated with great pomp and circumstance throughout this section.

Gen. Jesus Gonzales Ortega, of whom I have frequently written, died quite recently in Zacatecas of typhoid fever. He was the head and front of the Liberal army.

The unprecedented dry weather of the last three months has been of immense injury to this section of the country. If we do not have rain soon, we shall scarcely make fodder, not to speak of corn.

I am writing where, with my spy-glass, I can see the immense howitzers and siege-guns with which Ford is said to have threatened this city, and I can tell you their yawning mouths look fearfully destructive.

It is officially stated that we are to have three thousand regular troops stationed at this place as an army of observation on the Texas forces; but it is probable the revolution of Mejia may alter the programme.

Degollado is said to have become a subject of the lunatic asylum. His friends attribute his derangement to poison and to political causes.

ATTENTION, VOLUNTEERS.—Mr. S. N. Moody, corner of Canal and Royal streets, to-day advertises a large assortment of articles requisite for the promotion of the health and comfort of our gallant volunteers. His stock embraces flannel campaign shirts, cotton check shirts, worsted and cotton undershirts, drawers, socks and many other articles for the use of the soldier. These goods are offered at the lowest prices. Those desiring to purchase should avail themselves immediately of this opportunity.