THE DAILY EXCHANGE.

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SEE FOURTH PAGE.

THE NEWS.

By the arrival of the steamer *Africa*, at New York, we have two days later intelligence from Europe, but the despatches received by us contain no items of special interest. It appears that the surrender of Messina was unconditional. Some five thousand prisoners were taken. The Duchess of Kent, Queen Victoria's mother, is dead. Cotton closed dull at last advices.

The steamer *Daniel Webster*, at New York, from Texas, reports landing two companies of the troops lately in Texas at Fort Jefferson, Tortugas, and two at Fort Taylor, Key West. The Indian outrages on the frontier of Texas continue to increase. It is reported that Cortinas was only waiting the departure of the troops to commence his operations on a more extensive scale than heretofore.

In the Virginia Convention, on Saturday, a resolution was adopted to terminate debate in Committee of the Whole on Thursday next, when votes will be taken on the various propositions. It is believed that the Convention will adjourn in about two weeks.

The Legislature continued in session all Saturday night engaged in the discussion of the resolutions relative to the movements of troops and arms in the Commonwealth by the Federal Government. The resolutions as passed authorize the Governor to call out the military to resist the removal of arms from Bellona arsenal.

The Texas Convention has ratified the Constitution of the Confederate States, there being only two dissenting votes. The Convention adjourned on the 25th. It is stated that all Gov. Houston's efforts in opposition to secession have failed.

A telegram states that the Chicago banks will to-day throw out the notes of thirty-two of the State Banks who have a circulation of $35,000,000, based on the State stocks of Missouri, Tennessee, and Louisiana.

The general election in Connecticut takes place to-day. The candidates are as follows:

	Republican.	Opposition.
Governor	W. A. Buckingham	James T. Loomis,
Lt Governor	Benj. Douglas.	Aug. G. Hazard,
Sec. of State	J. H. Trumbull,	N. B. Stephens,
Comptroller	L. W. Cutler,	Horace Taylor,
Treasurer	Ezra Dean,	T.H.C.Kingsbury,
Congress, Dist. 1	Dwight Loomis,	Alvin P. Hyde,
Congress, Dist. 2	John Woodruff,	Jas. E. English,
Congress, Dist. 3	M. A. Burnham,	
Congress, Dist. 4	Orrin S. Ferry,	Rufus L. Baker.

The Republican candidates for Governor and Congress are the incumbents in all cases.

We publish this morning a synopsis of the proceedings in the South Carolina Convention on Wednesday and Thursday, the Confederate Constitution being under consideration.

Petitions are in circulation in Norfolk city and county, Va., instructing their delegates in the State Convention to vote for immediate secession.

THE EXCITEMENT IN VIRGINIA.

THE GUN QUESTION—PROMPT ACTION OF THE VIRGINIA SENATE.—The Senate of Virginia, at its session of Friday evening, passed some important resolutions in relation to the contemplated removal of the cannon from Bellona Arsenal to Old Point Comfort.

At seven o'clock the Committee reported a preamble and two resolutions, the first of which authorizes and directs the Governor to seize and detain said guns for the use of the Commonwealth, and to that end to order out the Public Guard, and such portion of the militia force as he may deem necessary to arrest the contemplated removal of the guns beyond the reach and control of the Government of this State.

The second resolution authorizes and requires the Governor to pay to Dr. Junius L. Archer the amount due him, viz: seven thousand eight hundred and seventy-two dollars on his contract with the Government at Washington and to the said Government at Washington, the sum of fifteen thousand and twenty-four dollars, paid by it to the said Archer, on account of the contract; the Governor to require the superintendent of the Armory, at Richmond, to take possession of said guns and deposit them therein for safe keeping.

The first resolution was passed by a vote of 27 to 8. The second resolution passed—yeas 32, nays 1.

EXCITEMENT IN PETERSBURG, VA.—The Petersburg *Intelligencer* of Saturday says:

Owing to the exciting rumor that Lincoln had ordered the removal of the arms from the Bellona Arsenal to Fortress Monroe, and that they were expected to be brought this way via the South-Side Railroad, caused the popular interest to be wrought up to duty yesterday, and almost immediately several petitions were in circulation, and in less than two hours three hundred names were enrolled, pledging that the arms should never pass through this city, at the sacrifice of their lives. Some of the petitions were headed by some of our most honored, hoary-haired citizens, who have still the blood of a youth and a Virginian flowing through their veins, with a motto, "resistance to Lincoln and to his Black Republican Administration."

The same paper has the following:

THE BELONA ARSENAL GUNS—ORDER COUNTERMANDED.—We are indebted to a friend for the privilege of publishing the following private despatch from Richmond. We may mention in this connection, that several hundred of the best citizens of our city had agreed to resist the order to remove the arms to Fortress Monroe, and pledged themselves to unite in any necessary act for the prevention of the same:

RICHMOND, March 29.—I learn that the citizens of Richmond will arrest the guns if sent here. I learn, also, that Col. Alfred Barbour has received a letter from the Ordnance Department at Washington, stating that the order for the delivery of the guns has been countermanded.

[By Telegraph.]

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE—EXCITING DEBATE.

RICHMOND, March 31.—The House of Representatives was in session all last night considering the joint resolutions relative to the movement of troops and arms within the Commonwealth by the Federal Government, growing out of the proposed transfer of guns from the Bellona foundry. Various amendments were proposed, but rejected after an exciting debate. The Senate amendments were finally passed, after being modified by authorizing the Governor to call out the public Guard to arrest the contemplated removal, and directing him to employ needful force to resist any attempt to remove the same beyond the reach of the General and State Government.

SAM HOUSTON'S PROTEST.

Gen. Samuel Houston in his address to the people of Texas, after reviewing the national troubles, says:

You have withdrawn Texas from her connection with the United States. Your act changes the character of the obligation I assumed at the time of my inauguration. As your Chief Executive, I am no longer bound to support the Constitution of the United States. If your act did not relieve that obligation, it was nothing. If this is not the result of the action of the people, the position of the officers of the State Government, and especially that portion who are members of this Convention, has indeed been an anomolous one. Have they still been acting under their oath to support the Constitution of the United States? As your Executive, no matter what my views may have been, I am bound to reflect your expressed will. I have endeavored to do so. Were I asked to swear to support your Constitution I might waive my objections to the source from which the oath came. I am called upon to swear to support the Constitution and laws of the Confederate States, which I have never seen, as your Chief Executive, to render my allegiance to that Government, when you have never in any manner or form declared your desire to become annexed to the same.

Fellow citizens, in the name of your rights and liberties, which I believe have been trampled upon, I refuse to take this oath. In the name of the nationality of Texas, which has been betrayed by this Convention, I refuse to take this oath. In the name of the Constitution of Texas, which has been trampled upon, I refuse to take this oath. In the name of my own conscience and my manhood, which this Convention would degrade by dragging before it, to pander to the malice of my enemies, when by the Constitution the privilege is accorded me, which belongs to the humblest officer, to take my oath of office before any competent authority, I refuse to take this oath.

I am ready to be ostracised sooner than submit to usurpation. Office has no charms for me, that it must be purchased at the sacrifice of my conscience and the loss of self-respect.

I love Texas too well to bring civil strife and bloodshed upon her. To avert this calamity, I shall make no endeavor to maintain my authority as Chief Executive of this State, except by the peaceful exercise of my functions. When I can no longer do this I shall calmly withdraw from the scene, leaving the Government in the hands of those who have usurped its authority; and still claiming that I am its Chief Executive.

I expect the consequences of my refusal to take this oath. My office will be declared vacated. If those who ostracise me will be but as true to the interests of Texas as I have endeavored to be, my prayers will protect them.

Fellow-citizens, think not that I complain at the lot which Providence has now assigned me. It is perhaps but meet that my career should close thus. I have seen the patriots and statesmen of my youth, one by one, gathered to their fathers, and the Government which they hadreared, rent in twain, and none like them are left to unite it once again. I stand the last almost of a race, who learned from their lips the lessons of human freedom. I am stricken down now because I will not yield those principles, which I have fought for and struggled to maintain. The severest pang is that the blow comes in the name of the State of Texas. I deny the power of this Convention to speak for Texas. I have received blows for her sake and am willing to do so again.

I protest in the name of the people of Texas against all the acts and doings of this Convention, and declare them null and void! I solemnly protest against the acts of its members who are bound by no oath themselves, in declaring my office vacant, because I refuse to appear before it and take the oath prescribed.

It has accomplished its mission, and its chief object has been fulfilled. If to drive me from office and defeat the will of the people, is an honor, it may wear it. To prevent my having an opportunity to send a message to the Legislature, which meets on Monday, March 18th, I am required to appear at its bar to-day, and take the test oath. Even Shylock granted the full three days ere he claimed his pound of flesh. The Convention prescribed that time as the limit, but its President has been less gracious than Shylock, and clamors for the bond ere two days are gone. If I am thus deprived of the poor privilege of putting upon record my sentiments, through a refusal on the part of the Legislature to receive my message, I will lay the same before the people, and appeal to them, as I declared I would do in my inaugural.

SAM HOUSTON.

Among the many rumors afloat in England in regard to Major Yelverton, the Cork *Herald* of the 9th gives currency to the following:

We are informed that Major Yelverton was transacting business yesterday in this city. It is rumored that both he and Mrs. (Forbes) Yelverton sailed from Queenstown yesterday for America.

Per Contra, the Cork *Examiner* of the 11th inst., states that the above rumor is, so far as the lady is concerned, unfounded.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

FURTHER FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMER AFRICA.

NEW YORK, March 31.—The steamer Africa from Liverpool on the 10th, brings some two days later advices, but nothing important.

The Duchess of Kent, mother of Queen Victoria, is dangerously ill.

The London *Times* ridicules the idea of the Confederate States effecting loans after Mississippi repudiation.

The surrender of Messina was unconditional.—Five thousand prisoners and three hundred cannon were taken.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

The Liverpool Cotton market opened with a slight decline, but subsequently recovered under the American advices per steamer Kangaroo, and closed firm at last week's quotations. The sales of the week amounted to 57,000 bales, including 9,500 bales to speculators and 11,000 bales for export. The sales of Friday were 15,000 bales, including 7,000 bales for speculation and export. The market closes buoyant. New Orleans fair 7¾d.; middling 7d.; Mobile fair 7¼d; middling 6¾d. Stock in port 907,000 bales, including 750,000 bales American Cotton. Messrs. Hewett & Co. say the market closed at very full prices, with an advancing tendency.

Manchester advices are favorable. There is an improved tone, and in some cases holders demand an advance.

Produce—Ashes are steady. Pots 28s. 9d @29s. Pearls 29s. Rosin was steady at the opening of the market at 4s. 1d.@4s. 2d., and under an increased demand, closed firm at 4s. 6d. Spirits Turpentine closed steady at 31s. Rice is steady, with more doing in Carolina at 20s. 9d.@ 22s. 3d.

Provisions are quiet. Lard closed dull and all qualities slightly declined. Beef and Pork are quiet. Bacon also.

Consols 91⅞@92 for money and 92⅛@92⅜ for account. Bullion at the bank had increased £260,000.

Breadstuffs are firm at former rates. Richardson, Spence & Co. quote: Flour is quiet and prices steady at 28s@31s. Wheat 5d. higher; red 12s. 6d.@13s.; white 12s. 6d.@14s. 6d. Corn is firm and partially a shade dearer; mixed 37s.@ 37s. 6d.; Yellow 38s.@38s. 6d.; white 38s.@39s.

The British Government is said to have received despatches from their Consul at Warsaw, which generally confirmed the published accounts.

Mr. Gladstone had promised to introduce the Budget on the 11th of April.

The London *Times* asks where the Confederate States are to negotiate their proposed loan, seeing that one-fifth of their population are pledged to repudiation. It says that President Davis is the man who laughed at the dupes in Mississippi bonds.

The reduction by the Bank of France of the rates of discount to 6 per cent. had produced a good effect on the money market. Paris and London Rentes advanced 6 68f. 30c.

The Corps Legislatiff continued to debate the address. The independent members strongly advocated the liberal amendment already published. The first three paragraphs of the address had been adopted.

PARIS, Saturday.—In the Corps Legislatiff it has been intimated that it might become necessary to fix a later day than the 1st of October for the execution of the Treaty of Commerce with England, in which case the Chamber of Deputies will be called upon to decide in the matter.

Count Reckberg had arrived in Paris.

THE LATEST.

LIVERPOOL, Saturday, March 16.—Sales of Cotton on Saturday, 25,000 bales. Hewitt's circular reports the market buoyant and fully ½d. higher.

Breadstuffs closed generally unchanged.

Provisions closed quiet.

Consols closed at 92@92¼ for money and 92¼@92⅜ for account.

The Africa brings £82,000 in specie.

The Duchess of Kent died on Saturday.

Virginia Convention.

RICHMOND, March 30.—Mr. Flournoy, in Convention to-day, made a speech in favor of presenting an ultimatum to the North. He opposed the holding of a Border State Conference.

Mr. James Barbour made a speech in favor of secession.

Mr. Goggin urged the plan of withdrawing and reconstructing the Union, as set forth in his report.

The Convention, by a vote of 64 to 38, adopted a resolution to terminate the debate in Committee of the Whole, on Thursday next, when the Committee will proceed to vote on the various propositions separately, giving a brief time for explanations and amendments. It was also determined that hereafter no member, in committee, shall speak more than once on the same proposition.

Ex-Governor Wise offered a series of amendments as a substitute to the majority report; referred and ordered to be printed. They were not read, but it is believed that they embrace the propositions set forth in his minority report. Some members entertain the opinion that the Convention will adjourn in about two weeks. The agricultural portion of the Convention are getting anxious to return home.

The Convention then adjourned.

Washington Items.

WASHINGTON, March 31.—A strong impression prevails here that the Secretary of the Treasury will not accept the bids for the proposed loan, unless within a small fraction of the fair market rates.

It is understood that the further consideration of Diplomatic and Consular appointments is to be deferred, to give time for the consideration of other matters by the President.

It is said that no uneasiness is felt by the Confederate States Commissioners, either in regard to the evacuation of Fort Sumter or the reinforcement of Fort Pickens, and that they are satisfied on these points.

While there is a great rush for office in the Interior, as well as other Departments, it is a noticeable fact that by the 1st of July, the force will be reduced in the Pension and Census bureaus, to the extent of about fifty or one hundred clerks, as the legal necessity for their further employment will cease to exist.

Removals and appointments of clerks, however, in other branches of the public service, continue, including four on Saturday, in the Adjutant-General's office.

The Disposition of the U. S. Troops from Texas.

NEW YORK, March 30.—The steamer Daniel Webster, which arrived below to-day from Texas, reports landing at Fort Jefferson, Tortugas, companies L and M, of the first artillery, and at Fort Taylor, Key West, companies F and K of the same regiment. The officers report that the Indians were creating great havoc among the people of Texas, killing some and running off their stock.—Major Lilley has chastised some of the savages.

Cortinas was understood to be waiting the departure of the troops to recommence his operations on a larger scale than heretofore.

Secession Spirit in Virginia.

NORFOLK, March 30.—A petition numerously signed, instructing the delegates to the Convention from this city to vote for immediate secession, is in circulation.

A large and enthusiastic meeting was held at Washington Point to-day, when a resolution instructing the delegates from Norfolk county in the State Convention to vote for immediate secession was adopted. The meeting also appointed delegates to the Convention to be held on the 19th of April in Suffolk, to nominate a secession candidate for Congress should Virginia remain in the Union.

Later from Texas.

GALVESTON, (*via* NEW ORLEANS,) March 29.—The State Convention have ratified the Constitution of the Confederate States. There were only two dissenting votes. The Convention adjourned *sine die* on the 25th, without referring the Constitution to the people. Governor Houston's efforts at making an opposition to secession have proven an entire failure. All is quiet in the State.

Depreciation of Illinois Bank Notes.

CHICAGO, March 30.—The banks here, on Wednesday, will throw out the notes of thirty-two Illinois banks. These banks have a circulation of about $35,000,000, based upon Missouri, Tennessee and Louisiana stocks, at the present market rate of the securities, the notes of these banks are worth 85@95 cts. on the dollar.

Transportation of Federal Troops from Texas.

NEW ORLEANS, March 30.—The steamer Coatzalcoalcos arrived off Matagorda Bay on the 25th to take away the Federal troops. It is reliably stated that the troops will be landed at New York. A large number of troops were awaiting transportation at Indianola. There were also several companies from San Antonia.

Marine Disasters.

BOSTON, March 30.—The British ship William Hammond, from New Orleans for Cork, was abandoned at sea on the 16th instant. The crew has arrived here in the Dutch brig Serene, from Rotterdam.

NORFOLK, March 30.—The schooner Sarah Hibbard is ashore, eighty miles south of Cape Henry, with a cargo of red cedar, which will probably be saved. Assistance has gone to her.

Difficulty in the Chicago Post Office.

CHICAGO, March 30.—Mr. Shallcross, Special Agent of the Post Office Department, took charge of the Chicago Post Office to-day, by order of the President, for cause of alleged arrears and faulty accounts running through even a longer period than the present quarter. The city is rife with rumors in regard to the matter, and many of the reports are, doubtless, highly exaggerated.

Shooting Affair at Richmond.

RICHMOND, March 31.—A rencontre occurred yesterday between Messrs. Ballard, of the House of Representative, and Hugh L. Gallagher the contractor at the Rip Raps. A pistol was fired and the ball passed through the coat of Joseph Segar, a member of the Legislature. He escaped unharmed. To-day Mr. Gallagher accidentally shot himself and is expected to die.

Arrival of the Steamer Daniel Webster with the United States Troops from Texas.

NEW YORK, March 30.—The steamer Daniel Webster, from Texas, with the United States troops from that State, has been signalled below.

The Failures of the Week.

BOSTON, March 29.—The Boston *Commercial Bulletin* reports eleven failures at New York, six at Baltimore, seven at Boston, and twenty three in other cities, during the past week.

Ship News.

NORFOLK, March 30.—The bark Reindeer, from Callao, sailed from Hampton Roads to-day for New York. The Norwegian bark Columbus from Bermuda, has arrived in the Roads in distress.

Conviction of Hernandez.

BOSTON, March 29.—Joseph G. Hernandez, tried for shooting Miss May, with intent to kill, was to-day convicted and sentenced to the State's prison for five years.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

INTEMPERANCE, WRETCHEDNESS AND DEATH.—Yesterday afternoon a most revolting and distressing scene was presented at No. 2 Centre street. The house is occupied by two families. The first floor by one named Curran and the second by one named Campbell. About two o'clock in the afternoon officer Darling was attracted to the house by cries of distress, and on entering found lying on a mat on the floor a dead man. Near the body were three women, one of whom was mourning and lamenting the death of the husband. All the women were more or less drunk. The wife stated that she had just discovered that her husband was dead, but could give no account of the manner or cause of his death. The officer sent for Coroner Hall, who came to the scene with his usual foreman, and soon summoned a jury of inquest. The only witnesses were those who were in the house, and several neighbors who were called in to testify as to the manner of life of the Curran family. Those in the house were too drunk to testify intelligently, and their evidence amounted to nothing, except to portray a scene of the utmost dissipation. On the Saturday night previous all the parties were on a spree, which continued on Sunday morning.—Curran was a noted drunkard, and a worthless indolent man. He had pawned most of the articles of furniture for whiskey, and was frequently known to steal the bread which his wife procured for the sustenance of their children, and trade it away for whiskey. On Saturday night he was the drunkest of the whole party, and his first demand yesterday morning was for whiskey, which his wife gave him. He then laid down on the wretched mat on the floor, from which he rose once afterwards to demand whiskey, on getting which, he again laid down in wretchedness and filth, and died. How long he was dead before the discovery was made by his wife is not known, as she was under the impression that he was asleep, and did not go near him for several hours. The feeling exhibited by the wife before the jury was that of surprise more than sorrow and grief. Just before the labors of the inquest closed, a policeman visited the garret where he found a man lying in a drunken sleep. He awoke him and requested that he should go down stairs, which the party refused to do, and a struggle ensued between him and the policeman. He was finally brought down, swearing and blaspheming, naked and filthy, when the coroner ordered him to be taken to the station-house. The jury rendered a verdict of "death from intemperance."

AIR FOR THE POOR.—Upon the assembling of the members of the Board of Aldermen for business, about 10 o'clock on Saturday morning, at the Exchange Building, on South street, pursuant to previous announcement, John C. Brune, Esq., President of the Association for the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor, was introduced by Henry M. Warfield, Esq., President of the Exchange, for the purpose of making a personal appeal for aid for the great number of suffering poor in this city. Mr. Brune stated the objects had in view by the Association of which he had the honor to be President, and which was formed some years since, for the purpose of promoting an improvement in the moral and sanitary condition of the poor. In the exercise of their responsible duties, he said they made no discrimination whatever on account of nationality, religion or color; and to show that the operations of the Association were not sectarian, he read the following statement:—From October, 1859, to October, 1860, assistance was rendered to 3,158 families, embracing 10,579 persons; of whom 1,380 were industrious, worthy widows, supporting 2,534 children. Of these 10,579 persons, 186 were Baptists, 177 Lutherans, 124 Presbyterians, 983 Episcopalians, 1,348 Methodists, 2,680 Catholics, and 5,679 belonging to no church at all. He also stated that the expenditures of the Association were not sectarian, he read the following statement:—From October, 1859, to October, 1860, assistance was rendered to 3,158 families, embracing 10,579 persons; of whom 1,380 were industrious, worthy widows, supporting 2,534 children. Of these 10,579 persons, 186 were Baptists, 177 Lutherans, 124 Presbyterians, 983 Episcopalians, 1,348 Methodists, 2,680 Catholics, and 5,679 belonging to no church at all. He also stated that the expenditures of the Association, since the 1st of October, 1860, to the meeting in February, 1861, amounted to $3,000, leaving in the Treasury $3,535.62. The appropriations for March amount to $3,600. The number of persons relieved in January, 1860, was 7,978, while the number relieved in January, 1861, was 8,887—an increase of 909; in February, 1860, the number was 8,222; in February, 1861, it was 10,968—an increase of 2,346; the number in March, 1860, was 4,266, while in 16 days of March, 1861, the number is 5,000—showing an increase of 734 persons over the entire corresponding month of 1860, or an increase of over $5,000 for the entire month. He made other statements, the tendency of which was to show the great amount of suffering among the poor of the city, and concluded by earnestly pressing the matter upon the attention of all present. At the conclusion of his address, Mr. Warfield invited the members to subscribe to the fund, and in a short time, the sum of $450 was realized. The attendance was not large, and it is expected that the amount subscribed will be greatly increased upon being presented to all the members of the Exchange, as they have heretofore been distinguished for their liberality upon such occasions.

BUILDING CAUSHED.—On Saturday afternoon, about 1 o'clock, the back building attached to the dwelling occupied by Mr. David Dickinson, No. 24 North street, was knocked down by a wall and a large number of bricks, falling upon it. Messrs. Osbourn & Co., the contractors for the erection of the new United States Court House, had men employed in tearing down the old parsonage, (which adjoins the house of Mr. Dickinson,) and the old bricks were piled against a brick wall which divides Mr. Dickinson's property from that of the United States. The pile had reached a heighth of twenty feet, when the brick division wall gave way, and the whole mass fell against Mr. Dickinson's back building, crushing it to the ground. Mrs. Dickinson and a servant woman had left the building but a few moments before the accident occurred, and were just in the act of returning to it, when the brick pile fell. Messrs. Osbourn & Co., set men at work to remove the ruins, and the building will be immediately re-built.

FALL OF A WALL.—Some excitement was created in the vicinity of North and Fayette streets on Saturday, caused by the falling of a pile of bricks which had been placed on the back part of the lot in which the excavation for the foundation of the new United States Court House are being made. The pile of brick had been undermined in consequence of which it tumbled over and falling against the back building of a house fronting on Fayette, occupied by Mr. Daniel Dickinson, completely demolished it, besides injuring some valuable furniture. The family made a narrow escape, having left the dining-room but a moment before the accident occurred. Mr. Dickinson's loss will probably reach several hundred dollars. The workmen employed in making the excavation immediately set to work to remove the rubbish and render every assistance.

APRIL FOOL.—Again we have the First of April, or All Fool's Day, as it is called, and with its dawn the imaginations of the mischief-loving were on work to conjure up some "sell" for the unwary. No doubt every conceivable means will to-day be resorted to secure "the point." Though the readers of the *Exchange* are not easily fooled, we venture to remind even them that to-day is the first of April, in order that they may be prepared to resist all attempts on their intelligence or credulity. If they should see a ten dollar bill stretched out before them on the streets they had better not touch it. If they should see a neatly folded and addressed package lying upon the pavement, they had better pass it by; if they stoop to pick it up they will hear some one whisper "April Fool."

PARADE POSTPONED.—A few days since the announcement was made that on to-morrow afternoon the Light Guard Cadets, composing six companies of the Fifty-third Regment of Infantry, would make a full-dress parade for the purpose of drill, but it appears that upon consultation the commissioned officers have decided to recall the order, with the view of reserving a grand display upon the occasion of the approaching first law parade, which will take place on the afternoon of the first Monday in May.

THE "CONTINENTAL."—On Saturday night Col. Ellinger, of the "Continental," gave a supper to the reportorial profession of the city. It was largely attended, and was a splendid entertainment. The evening passed away in sentiment, speech, flashes of wit, and good cheer, greatly enjoyed by the participants, The Opera House will be opened this evening with an excellent company, among whom we notice the name of Miss H. O. Hawthorne, one of the best ballad singers in the country. "Old Joe" Parker will dispense humor.

VIOLENT ASSAULT.—On Saturday, Thos. Strugis and Robt. Collins were arrested on the charge of assaulting and beating in an outrageous manner a man named James Murphy. The assault was of a very violent character. Murphy could be seen in the public house of Peter Flavins on Frederick street, near Pratt street, when the accused entered his room and beat him terribly, without his being able to resist them. They were both committed to jail for Court.

INQUEST.—On Friday evening Coroner Sparklin held an inquest over a man named John Baughman, who died suddenly at the house of Mrs. Barbara Harshett, No. 29 Eastern avenue, near President street. It appears that the deceased had been in his usual health until a few hours previous to his death, when he complained of being unwell, and went to bed, where he died without any person being aware of it.

APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL JUDGE.—Upon the application of the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Harford county, Judge Krebs appointed Stevenson Archer, Esq., of that county, Special Judge to try the case of J. W. Lovering & Sons *vs.* Isabel Pritchard, owing to the existence of the contingencies mentioned in the 22d section of the article of the Revised Laws of the State of Maryland, which disqualify Hon. John H. Price, Judge of the said Court, from trying the case.

DIED OF HER INJURIES.—The woman, Bridget Mulligan, who was shot on Friday by the accidental discharge of a gun in the hands of Walter Wills, a guard at the Penitentiary, died of her injuries about four o'clock on Saturday afternoon. Coroner Hall held an inquest over the body, and a verdict was rendered exonerating Mr. Wills from any intention or carelessness.

GAMBLING ON SUNDAY.—Yesterday J. Patterson and Stephen Barnes were arrested on the charge of gambling on the Sabbath. Justice Duncan imposed a fine of $20 and costs on Barnes and $15 and costs on Patterson.

DIED FROM HER INJURIES.—The young lady, Miss Ruth A. Allen, who was so severely burned at the residence of her brother-in-law, Thos. B. Davis, on Holliday street, on the 7th inst., died of her injuries on Saturday morning.

EASTER SUNDAY.—Yesterday was observed with the usual services in the Episcopal and Catholic churches of this city. In the latter the emblems of mourning, which for two days previous had been observable, were supplanted by the evergreen.

DEPOSING THE GOVERNOR OF TEXAS.—It has already been stated that the Convention of Texas had declared vacant the office of Governor, held by Gen. Houston, and that of Secretary of State, held by E. W. Cave, because those two officials declined to take the oath of office prescribed by the Convention after the adoption of the ordinance of secession. The following is the bill declaring the two vacancies to exist:

SEC. 1. *Be it ordained by the people of Texas in Convention assembled*, That the office of Governor of the State of Texas, by reason of the refusal of the late Governor, Sam Houston, to take the official oath, is vacant, and that the Lieutenant Governor, Edward Clark, is hereby required and authorized to exercise the powers and authority appertaining to the office of Governor until another be chosen at the periodical election and be duly qualified.

SEC. 2. *Be it further ordained*, That the office of Secretary of State, by reason of the said E. W. Cave having failed and refused to take the oath of office at the time appointed, is hereby declared vacant, and that the said E. W. Cave be and he is hereby required to turn over and deliver to his successor in office the great seal of the State, all papers, archives, or other property belonging or in anywise appertaining to the said Department of State, upon demand made by said officer.

The Rev. Dr. Pyne, rector of St. John's (Episcopal) Church, Washington city, has given notice of his intended resignation of that charge.

THE SLAVERY QUESTION IN THE METHODIST CHURCH.

ACTION OF THE PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE.

In the Philadelphia Annual Conference of the M. E. Church, in session at Philadelphia, on Friday, the following proceedings took place:

Rev. T. J. Thompson, from the Committee on the State of the Church, then arose and said: The Committee appointed by the Conference on the State of the Church, to review the memorial and resolutions which have been sent them by the General Conference, have carefully and prayerfully considered the subject submitted to them. While there has not been in every point entire agreement on the questions considered, each has felt the importance of coming to the right conclusion upon the whole, and each has felt a disposition to concede some little point, on which they might differ, for the purpose of reaching an unanimous conclusion. They have felt the importance of the questions committed to them, and have agreed upon a report, which they have all signed, without a single exception. The Committee would most earnestly hope that the conclusion they have reached may meet the approval of their brethren of the Conference; and if their concurrence in it may be taken without any extended or excited debate, the Committee would feel themselves much gratified. That, of course, we leave to the Conference.

The following report was then read.

Your Committee appointed to consider the state of the Church within our bounds, having examined the papers referred to them, and availed themselves of all other means of information within their reach, concluded to present the result of their deliberations as follows:

1. On the subject of the New Chapter of Slavery.

Whereas, It is indispensably necessary, for allaying the excitement and restoring peace and harmony in the Southern borders of our Conference, that the new Chapter on Slavery inserted in our Discipline by the last General Conference, be repealed, and that the Annual Conferences be left to make their own regulations on this subject; therefore.

Resolved, That we concur in the resolutions of the East Baltimore Conference, requesting the General Conference, at its next session, to repeal the Chapter on Slavery; and instead thereof, empower each Annual Conference, within whose bounds the institution exists, to make such regulations upon this subject as in their judgment may best subserve the interests of the Redeemer's Kingdom among them.

II. In the judgment of this body concerning the New Chapter. This they would embody in the following

ADDRESS.

To the Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in the State of Delaware, and on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia.

Dearly Beloved Brethren:—The memorials, petitions and communications laid before this body have not only disclosed the dissatisfaction, agitation and embarrassment so fatal to the interests of religion among you, which have grown out of the action of the late General Conference on the subject of slavery, but also called for an expression of our opinion on the nature of that action, with which call we deem it but just and right to comply.

We assure you that you have our profoundest sympathies in your present disturbed and painful condition, and having the fullest confidence in your fidelity and loyalty to the interests of Methodism, no exertions shall be wanting on our part to secure redress for your grievances, and to maintain all your constitutional rights, in and under the Constitution of the Church.

Though it is our deliberate judgment—a judgment which mature reflection only confirms—that the new chapter does not embody in any form a new condition of membership; though it is our conviction that it possesses in no degree the character of legislation or law, affords no basis whatever for administrative discipline or church action on the subject of slavery. And, therefore, there can be no such action under it. Nevertheless, this change in the discipline was entirely unnecessary, highly offensive to our brethren on the border, and lamentable injurious to the welfare of the church, among them; and therefore, in justice to those who suffer so much from its effects, it ought to be repealed. At the time we have concurred with the resolution of the East Baltimore Conference, requesting the General Conference, at its next session, to repeal the chapter on slavery, and instead thereof, empower each Annual Conference, within whose bounds the institution exists, to make such regulation upon the subject as may best subserve the interests of the Redeemer's Kingdom among them.

In the meantime, dear brethren, let us possess our souls in patience, and carry our grievances to the throne of heavenly grace, confidently relying on Him who is able to deliver us out of all our troubles; who promises to work all things together for the good of those who love Him; and who will not suffer us to be wounded in the house of our friends, nor to be scattered by our enemies.

THE DIVISION OF THE CONFERENCE.

On this subject there were before your Committee from the various charges on Peninsula, memorials, petitions and resolutions from some Quarterly Conferences and Church meetings, asking for the formation of a Peninsula Conference, by dividing the Philadelphia Conference by the State line between Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland, while other charges and church meetings declared against such a division at the present time as inexpedient. After due deliberation your Committee agree on the following resolution:

Resolved, In view of our present national difficulties and embarrassments, and the consequent disturbed condition of the public mind on the one hand, and the conflicting opinion of our churches in Delaware and Maryland on this subject, we deem it inexpedient to divide the Philadelphia Conference by State lines at this time. But we recommend all the Quarterly Conferences of the Peninsula, during the coming year, to consider this matter, and give such expression of their wishes as may aid in determining the action of this body at its next annual session.

(Signed)

J. J. THOMPSON,
JAMES A. MASSEY,
J. J. QUIGLEY,
JOHN RUTH,
J. M. LEAKIN,
WILLIAM COOPER,
WM. H. BRISBANE,
J. C. COOPER,
WM. E. ENGLAND,
W. HILEY,
R. TODD,
J. THOMPSON,
F. PRICE.

Rev. Wm. Cooper was the first one heard to speak in the excitement of the moment. He said that there was nothing new in the report that every member of the Conference was not acquainted with, and therefore, there was no need of more than the question on the adoption of the whole report be taken without debate.

Rev. Mr. Colclazer asked whether the previous question was moved on the whole report, or on a specific question?

The Bishop replied that he understood that when the question upon the whole report was called, the previous question would be put upon the resolution, that then a motion was made to adopt the first resolution, which was then seconded; then the previous question was moved. I doubt whether the previous question moved on a question to adopt—whether the previous question does not preclude the adoption of the resolution.

Rev. Mr. Cooper said that there was no motion made until he made one.

Rev. Mr. Ayres said that he was about to make a motion, but gave way to Mr. Cooper.

Dr. Durbin said that the entire report was presented in three parts, and therefore it was impracticable to vote upon it as a whole.

Rev. Mr. Cooper then said, that out of honor to Dr. Durbin——

Dr. Durbin—Out of a sense of right, Brother Cooper.

Rev. Mr. Cooper—No, I prefer to put it on the other ground. I move to take the vote upon the first part of the report without debate.

Bishop—Brother Cooper moves, and Brother Ayres and others second the motion, to adopt the first part of the report, and that without debate. [This refers to the article on slavery.]

The vote resulted as follows: Yeas 99, nays 72.

Rev. Dr. Flannery then called for a division of the first resolution, which was agreed to.

The vote was then taken on the resolution, which relates to the action of the East Baltimore Conference on the subject of slavery, and resulted as follows: Yeas 174; nays 15.

The vote on the second part of the resolution resulted, yeas 153, nays 43. Mr. Colclazer calling for the names, which was not agreed to.

The vote on the preamble was adopted by a vote of yeas 151, nays 52.

Rev. Mr. Cooper then moved the vote on the second item of the report, and that the same be taken without debate. Agreed to, yeas 134, nays 54.

Rev. J. M. McCarter called for the yeas and nays, seconded by Rev. Mr. Colclazer. The vote being taken on this motion, resulted, yeas 28, nays 138.

This portion of the report being read by the Secretary, Dr. Hodgson said that he should like to have it so divided as to leave for a separate vote that portion which affirms that the new chapter is not according to law.

The Bishop, after deliberation, said that the item could not be divided without destroying the sense. Therefore he would be obliged to ask them to adopt it as a whole.

On motion the time was extended.

The vote was then taken and resulted—yeas 148, nays 29.

Rev. Wm. Cooper then moved that the vote on the third part be taken without debate. The portion relating to the division of the Conference was then read by the Secretary. The vote was then taken on motion of Mr. Cooper, resulting—yeas 143, nays 31.

The vote was then taken on the previous question, with the following result—yeas 181, nays 5.

The result of this vote produced great laughter.

Rev. Wm. Cooper then said—I move that we adopt the report as a whole without debate.—[Laughter.] Agreed to.

Rev. James Neill—I move that a vote of thanks be tendered to Brother Cooper for his perseverance. [Laughter.]

A resolution tendering the sympathy and condolence of the Conference to the family of Rev. B. Waugh, deceased, was adopted.

The Bishop then said that he would make the statement to the Conference that he knew not that they would be unable to announce the appointments until to-morrow. If the Conference would call an evening session, he then might be able to inform them at what time to-morrow morning they would be prepared to read them.

A motion for an evening session was called for half-past seven o'clock.

Adjourned with the benediction by Bishop Scott.

During the discussion of the report of the Committee on the State of the Church, the scene was a most exciting one. The floor of the house and the galleries were crowded to their utmost limits, while around the Bar of the Conference and in the aisles appropriated to them knots of members were gathered here and there, earnestly arguing upon the different items of the report. Notwithstanding the exciting character of the debate, the members exhibited the greatest coolness and self-possession, so that no actual contact took place between any of the opposing factions of which the Conference is composed.

CHINA.—Late advices from China intimate that, as the Taeping or rebel forces in China are now, in all probability, the dominant power in the Empire—since the defeat of the Imperialists near Shanghai—policy might dictate a recognition by foreign powers of a new dynasty. What view England might take of this proposition, became, therefore, a subject of some interest. An opportunity occurred in the British Parliament, a few days ago, for an expression of views, when one of the members said England could not afford to engage in a war with a party that held six of the finest provinces in China, and had three armies of 100,000 men each. Lord John Russell said, in reply: "With regard to our policy, the only course we can take is that of perfect neutrality, at the same time not allowing the towns where our merchants are congregated to be destroyed, simply because some persons in this country have a false notion that they are a national party and that we ought