# The South-Western.

BY L. DILLARD & CO.

Office....Corner of Texas and Market Streets,
IN WATSON'S BUILDING—UP-STAIRS.

SHREVEPORT:

WEDNESDAY,.....APRIL 10, 1861.


The river opposite this place, has risen since our last publication, five or six feet, but is now receding. The steamers Sallie Robinson, T. W. Roberts, Starlight, Texas, Grand Duke, Countess, and B. L. Hodge, have arrived from New Orleans.

The Era No. 4, from upper Red River; the Fleta, Sallie Robinson and Homer, from Jefferson, have also arrived. The river above is reported falling fast.

Fair "L. L.," We are rather shy to touch your last. The allusions to the "caps, swords, knapsacks, uniforms so trim, with white kids," might be construed into satire. If you want to "lampoon" any body, just attack the old fogy "Home guards' or the "Home Sentinels," who "marched up the hill and down again."

Spring, flowers, the green forest, mixed with a little love, are excellent subjects for a young poet.

The steam boat B. L. Hodge arrived here yesterday morning, but did not give us a single paper. Hereafter we shall not apply on board.

On the arrival of the steamer yesterday morning, our city was placed in a great state of excitement, by some wag spreading the report that Fort Pickens had been attacked and 100 Floridians killed.—That an attack had been made at Charleston. The Picayune of Friday evening, make no mention of these rumors, we are therefore, inclined to believe the rumors false.—However, one thing is very certain, hostilities is about to commence, and we are sorry for it. We did fondly hope that the course recommended by the National Intelligencer, which will be found in another column, would be adopted, and the south be permitted to withdraw from the Union in peace and harmony, without the shedding of brotherly blood.

Judge McLean, of the supreme court, died at his residence near Cincinnati, on the 3d instant. He was universally respected.

THE STORM ON THURSDAY.—The weather up to last Wednesday night, was very fine, when torrents of rain descended from heaven, which continued during the whole of Thursday. About half-past 4 o'clock, the thunder roaring, we thought it would be prudent to "secede" from the office and endeavor to reach our residence on "Jordan hill." Staff in hand, cap on head, with feeble frame, we set out, thinking what a fine night it would be to be placed on piquet guard; but just as we descended the hill to the great gorge which divides the Texas road from the elevated position of "Jordan hill," the wind blew a hurricane from the west, with one of the most tremendous hail storms we have encountered for thirty years. After much difficulty in ascending the hill, occasionally grasping the limbs of the forest trees for aid, we reached the summit, but had no sooner done so, when the force of the wind suddenly carried us about twelve yards eastward. During our flight, we thought we were bound direct for heaven without the mockery of a funeral ceremony. Coming in contact with a large forest tree, we rebelled and refused to go farther, remembering some little things in this world yet to be done, we bracing our back to the trunk of the tree, rested to gain strength. But a few moments elapsed before the limbs of the tree began to fall, past experience had taught us it was no place of security, we "bolted" and reached our domicil in safety. A change of clothes, a blazing fire and hot coffee and "corn cakes," soon revived us.

The rain continued all Thursday night and Friday. It is much feared that the great quantity of rain and hail fallen, will do the crops more harm than good.—Plant more, it is full early.

THE $5,000,000 LOAN.—We call particular attention to the advertisement of Messrs. White, Williamson, Griswold, and Hodge, the commissioners appointed by the secretary of State, for this place, to negotiate a loan for the Southern Confederacy. If we must have a separate government, we must have money. The conditions of the loan, are certainly very liberal, and we doubt not but the public will subscribe for the stock with promptness.

We would call the attention of those suffering from consumption, bronchitis, &c., to an advertisement in another column of this paper, of an important discovery for the cure of those diseases, now introduced for the first time to the American public by Messrs. Leeds, Gilmore & Co., of New York.

The weather, since the hail storm, has been very cool, with high north-west winds, which, we fear, will injure much vegation and the cotton and corn seriously indeed.

We perceive by the New Orleans papers, that T. W. Collins, Esq., has been elected a district judge over judge Theodore Gaillard Hunt and several other candidates. We have known judge Collins for thirty-one years intimately. He is a creole by birth, was a member of the first secret native American association ever formed in the United States. The association pledged themselves not to vote for any person for office who was not a native-born Louisianian. Collins, like Rosellus and Martin, was brought up in a printing office. He was always moral and domesticated, and will, no doubt make an excellent judge.

We learn from New Orleans papers that a very large amount of counterfeit notes, on various banks, are in circulation in that city. A large number of counterfeiters had been arrested. We have always understood that music has "charms," we now know it. The headquarters of the counterfeiters was in a musical hall! It is said that a large number of counterfeit $10 and $20 notes are now circulating in our city.

The congressional districts of Louisiana have been re-districted. The fifth (our district) is now composed of the parishes of Caddo, Bossier, Claiborne, Bienville, Winn, Natchitoches, Rapides, Calcasieu, Sabine and DeSoto.

The editor of the Vicksburg Whig says that he understands a requisition was recently made on governor Pettus, by the governor of Tennessee, for the delivery of a fugitive from justice, and that governor Pettus of Mississippi refused to comply. This, we fear, is the commencement of serious troubles between two neighboring States, and may lead to sad results.

The number of persons who arrive at the age of 160 annually in France, is one hundred and forty-eight. We have a great mind to "secede" and go there to live. We should have ninety-three years to live out.

The Bowling Green (Kentucky) Gazette says that the wheat crop in that region never looked so well as this season. There is an unusually large quantity sown, and without some drawback, the yield of wheat in the Green river country will be larger this year than it has ever been before.

A large and influential meeting of London clergy of the established church of England has been recently held, to express their alarm and disapprobation of the infidel doctrines recently advocated by ministers in the church. An address to the bishop of London was agreed upon. For some time past, numbers of works of this tendency have made their appearance in England, written by episcopalian clergymen, and with marked ability.

It appears from recent Paris dates, that Louis Napoleon is about to get into serious domestic difficulties. He has now to contend with the greatest moral power in France that he has yet encountered. His policy in Italy has brought down on his head the anger of the clergy, whose denunciations are, as may be imagined, the reverse of flattering. The bishops have taken the lead in this work of vituperating the head of the State and one of them, the bishop of Poictiers, compares him to Pontius Pilate. The recent pamphlet of the bishop of Orleans, in reply to the government one, respecting the temporal power of the pope, abounds with strong passages condemnatory of the imperial policy. There is also a formidable clerical party in the representative chambers. The French want action, and we should not be the least surprised if a revolution was to break out before the 4th of July.

## "The Past—The Present—The Future."

The National Intelligencer is one of the oldest and most respectable papers on the continent of America, the editors of which are gentlemen, and never have condescended to bandy epithets with the low and vulgar. Whatever side they took, they supported with ability and dignity. The Intelligencer of the 21st ultimo, contains an editorial of six columns under the caption which heads this article. We condense from it the following, and recommend its perusal:

'Our readers do not need to be informed that we are entirely opposed to anything like "coercion" in order to retain the people of the seceding States within the orbit of the Union. We do not believe in any right of secession, but just as little do we believe in the doctrine of "coercion" as a remedy for the evils created by the exercise of that assumed right. According to the theory of our civil system the several States, if not voluntarily true to their federal obligations, may commit wrongs against the federal government, even while nominally within the Union, against which that government could not take up arms without precipitating a total change of political relations. It cannot be denied that our government, in its very genius, is essentially a government of consent, depending for its orderly and harmonious working on the support it finds in the hearts of the people. Local insurrections, or even general popular insubordination extending throughout a single State, as in the case of the "Dorr rebellelion" in Rhode Island, may be put down by the strong hand of the civil power.—But in the present instance the problem presented for solution involves elements of difficulty and danger which are much more wide-spread in their prevalence, and which are much more deeply seated in the body politic. In seven States of the Union the federal authority has been entirely abolished. The civil machinery essential to the execution of the laws has passed into the hands of men who no longer recognise that authority. The States renouncing their federal allegiance have had erected over them a confederate government which, in their name, assumes to exercise the functions formerly devolved on the government of the United States

Under such circumstances it is obvious that the theoretical obligation imposed on the president of the United States to execute the laws equally in Georgia and New York must, in practice, be modulated according to the altered circumstances of the case presented by the former. As nobody in the government or out of it proposes to institute a "coercive policy" for the "subjugation" of the seceded States, it remains to say that the only points of possible contact and hostility relate to the collection of the revenues and the occupation of the public property of the United States; which property, situated within the seceding States and still in our possession, is now reduced, or soon will be reduced, to the single fort of Pickens, on the coast of Florida.

With regard to the collection of the revenues by the United States on all goods imported into the seceding States, we have to say that, even if politic, it is, by the methods prescribed in the existing laws of the land, rendered impracticable. As has been well said, the president, who is sworn to enforce the law; and he can collect the revenue only at the places and in the manner prescribed by existing acts of congress. The ports of entry are established by congress; the president has no power to abolish them, or to transfer the place of collecting the duties. The only alternative open to adoption, under present circumstances, would seem to be to establish the customhouse on board a government vessel; but it does not appear that the executive has power to do this without special authorisation by congress. In 1833, when the collection of the federal revenue was likely to be resisted in South Carolina, president Jackson advised that an act should be passed authorising the president to alter or abolish such of the districts and ports of entry as should be necessary, and establish the customhouse at some secure place within a port or harbor, with various other modifications of the then existing laws. An act was passed in complyance with this recommendation, but its operation was limited to the close of the next session of congress.

Mr. Lincoln has no more power now than president Jackson had previous to the passage of "the force act;" and if the executive needed to be clothed with additional authority then, it would seem to be even more necessary under existing circumstances. Considered, therefore, purely as a question of power, we do not perceive that president Lincoln has any authority to collect the revenues in the seceding States, otherwise than in the way provided by the ordinary laws, which, as is known, are wholly inadequate for the purpose, since in those States the federal government is wholly without agents to administer or enforce the laws. It is plain, then, that without additional legislation the revenues cannot be collected at Charleston, Mobile or New Orleans. And, considering the question as one of policy, we are frank to avow our opposition to any attempt on the part of the federal government to supply this defect by further legislation at the hands of congress, which—we have seen it intimated in some of our cotemporaries—may possibly be summoned by the president for the purpose in extraordinary session. To collect the revenues on vessels of war stationed off all the ports of the seceded States, even if practicable, would, to use a homely phrase, be found "to cost more than it came to," and would not fail to bring about hostilities between the two governments, the end of which no man can foresee.

We all know that there are peculiar reasons of State policy which make the preservation of the public peace more incumbent on our government than on that of the seceding States—more incumbent, we mean, in point of moral duty, the obligation is equally binding on both. The seceding States see, or fancy they see, in the outbreak of hostilities between them and the federal government, a sure means of winning to their number the border slaveholding States. And it is the part of sound policy and of wise strategy on the part of the federal government to avoid all possible occasion of offence, as far as may be compatible with the national safety, which, in the present attitude of our civil relation, can better be subserved by conciliation and forbearance than by the summary processes of executive rigor.

And, as in the case of the public revenues, so also in the case of the public propery seized by the seceded States, we entirely disapprove the policy of attempting its recapture and occupation by military force. The wrong committed by such seizure would not be remedied by such a proceeding, or the remedy might prove worse than the wrong.

In regard to the retention of the forts occupied by the United States, that is a question which is now brought down to the simple point of holding or abandoning fort Pickens, for we assume that fort Sumter will be evacuated at an early day, and forts Jefferson, at Tortugas, and Taylor, at Key West, lying far out at sea, and being obviously of national importance, are not included in the number of the posts which the State of Florida is entitled to claim on the ground of any necessity for her local defence. Forts Jefferson and Taylor were built with paramount reference to the commerce of the United States, and should remain in the hands of the government which built them in the interest of its commerce. The Key West naval coal depot and wharf, the marine hospital, the army barracks, the admiralty courts and wrecking organisation, and the series of light houses—Loggerhead, Tortugas, Key West, Sand Key, Sombrero, Carysfort, cape Florida, Jupiter, and cape Canaveral—will not, we take it for granted, be abandoned to the State which has least interest in them and is least capable to hold and maintain them. Let Florida have fort Clinch to guard the approaches to Fernandina; let her have the Pensacola navy-yard and the triple fortifications there; let her have what concerns only local interests; but the commercial United States cannot be justly called to surrender to uncommercial Florida what belongs to and concerns only the commerce of the nation.

From first to last, as an intelligent writer has already said in our columns, all the appropriations made for the works at Key West and Tortugas have been asked officially, and by their advocates in congress, on the express ground of their national importance, and not at all because of any local value. The Florida senators and representatives are forever estopped from claiming them as local, by oft-recorded assertions of their nationality as the sole reason for appropriations in their behalf. Key West and the whole line of reefs and keys have only a commercial and naval significance. They are widely separate from the vocations. They should be considered and occupied as national, not local.

The question of military posts in dispute between the government of the United States and of the "confederate States" being thus narrowed down to the retention of fort Pickens by the former, or its occupation by the latter, it seems to us that the matter in controversy is so small that either government may waive its claim with entire propriety, and that in no event can it be made the occasion of hostilities. While it might be entirely prudent for our government to withdraw the garrison now holding it, and while this is the step which, under all the circumstances, we would advise, yet we are free to say that should the government of the confederate State initiate hostile proceedings for the summary capture of this single federal post, it would indicate an alacrity for war such as would do discredit to its repute for humanity throughout the civilised world. For what at present, is the admitted character of that government? The provisional creation of a body of men, appointed by State conventions whose members were elected without the least reference to the formation of any federal government, whether provisional or permanent, it has no sufficiently ascertained basis in the popular will to insure for its edicts an unquestioning and immediate assent at the hands of other governments, whose popular legitimacy admits of no question. If, then, while advising forbearance on both sides, we would have the federal government take preeminence in the way of conciliation, it is because by so doing it can best defeat the ulterior purposes which might be subserved by a different policy.

In view of the difficulties which surround an adjustment to the questions raised by the dismemberment of the Union, we have come to the conclusion that no authority less final and comprehensive than a general convention of the States still remaining loyal to their federal allegiance can be successfully invoked in the premises. We take it for granted that if the separation of the seceded States is to be permanent, the questions now outstanding between them and the federal government are to be settled in some authoritative manner, and we know of no way in which this can be done so appropriately and effectively as by the arbitration of a national conference. It would be the duty of such convention to revise the constitution of the United States, and this might be done in such a way as to bring about a reconstruction of the Union; or, if this should be found impracticable, provision might be made for contracting the limits of the Union so as to comprise only the State acceding to the project of a constitution submitted as the fruits of its labors. In the propositions of the late peace conference we have already the basis of constitutional amendments, which, in substance, if not in form, might be taken as the general rallying cry of conservative men in proceeding to the election of delegates to such convention from all the States. The work of the peace conference, so far from falling to the ground, might thus be made the means of assuring the return of a majority of the delegates committed to its general principles, and thus the proceedings of the national convention would be restrained within just limits without diverging into the contrarieties of opinion springing from the predominance of sectional antagonisms over the spirit of concession and compromise.

As no one proposes the subjugation of the seceded States, it follows that the adjustment of their relations to the federal government can be arranged only by their voluntary return to the Union, or by the definite recognition of their independence out of it. As soon as it shall be made apparent that the people of the seded States desire a permanent separation from their former confederates, it would seem to be the part of wisdom and sound policy for the people of the United States to acquiesce in that desire. Nothing can be gained in the interest of peace and dignity, or good neighborhood or reciprocal trade, by a persistent refusal to ascertain and fix disputed relations which must be adjusted in the end, and which can be more satisfactorily adjusted by negotiating before war than negotiations after war.

And this leads us to remark that the people of the loyal States have an interest in the adjustment of this question at an early day, so soon as it shall be satisfactorily ascertained (if it should be so ascertained) that the secession of the confederate States is definitive; for, in the interval, a vacancy exists in the representation of the seceded States in congress, but as the new apportionment of federal representation, consequent on the late census, proceeds on the assumption that these States still form a part of the Union, it follows that the people of the adhering States are pro tanta deprived of the additional representation they would receive in case the ratio of representation should be fixed with exclusive reference to the population which acknowledges fealty to the constitution and laws of the United States.

There is also another consideration which pleads strongly in favor of adjusting this question according to the accomplished facts of our political situations as soon as all the indications shall infallibly point to a permanent dissolution of the Union. We alluded to the adoption of amendments to the constitution of the United States. One such, having been proposed by congress at its late session, is already pending before the several States, and if a national convention is called others will be admitted. By the terms of the constitution it is required that such amendments shall be ratified by three-fourths of all the States. The secession of seven States has reduced to twenty-seven the number of States still adhering to the constitution, and if the former are to be regarded, in spite of their alleged secession, as integral members of the Union, it will be in the power of any two States to defeat the ratification of amendments to the constitution, for the ratification of twenty-six out of the thirty-four States will be necessary to procure the requisite majority of three-fourths. In the presence of such facts it is obvious that there is a point beyond which it would be absurd to push the exactions of theory in opposition to the dictates of political prudence.

If, then, the developments of the ensuing year, shall leave no doubt respecting the determination of the people in the seceded States to maintain their present attitude towards the United States, we shall advocate the policy of their recognition by our government, and this, among other questions, might be referred to the arbitrament of a national convention, which would be called to make arrangements with special reference to this matter. In the meantime, and equally in behalf of both governments, we shall not cease to inculcate the duty of patience and the arts of peace.

"AN IRREPRESIBLE CONFLICTON."—An ingenious citizen of Des Are, Ark., has invented a "thing" which he calls a water craft; and yet it is that and something else also; a steamboat, a war-vessel, a spitfire of smoke and thunder; a battering ram, or rather a battering pike; a vessel-sinker or destroyer; an irrepressible conflictor; something intended to meet the present crisis. The Citizen says of the "irrepressible conflictor:"

It is to be used in our harbors, which is expected to run thirty or forty miles per hour, so as to overtake any navy vessel even under headway; bore an eighteen inch hole in the side or stern of a copper or iron-fastened vessel, two or three feet under water; discharge three cannon balls at the water's edge of the enemy's ship at about sixty feet distance, throwing any sized balls or shell into her, knocking out a broadside or producing four holes; or blowing her up, as the operator pleases. We say operator, for the steersman is the only man aboard that is exposed at all to the enemy's cannon ball—and he is almost entirely protected by a boiler-iron sheild in the shape of a half funnel—who fires the cannons the moment his vessel strikes the enemy's ship, which causes his vessel to rebound and loosen itself from the injured or sinking vessel; when the two engineers reverse their engines, and the machine runs back as fast as forward, and gets out of danger in a few minutes; but in fact, it is never in danger from the enemy's cannon balls, as it is ball-proof, made painted at each end, near the shape of a cigar—of heavy boiler iron, with a screw propeller and pulley at each and entirely submerged. Every part of the machine is ball or bomb proof, and so small that it would take a good shot to hit it; and if it did it would glance off harmless. The whole plan, or nearly everything or part about it, is something new. We understand the same thing has been forwarded to the secretary of war, for the southern confederacy; if this is adopted, let any power try blockading ports; two or three of such machines would protect all of our southern coast with ten or fifteen men; as two engineers, two firemen and one steersman could manage one machine, which ought to sink ten or fifteen vessels per day. If the southern republic wishes an infernal machine which will certainly protect the greatest interest of the south at small cost, let them address the editor of this paper; with three such machines we can keep enough of our people at home to make bread, meat and cotton to supply our home wants, and supply foreign demand with our "king cotton," war or no war.

AN ACT to fix the duties on the articles named therein.

Section 1. The congress of the confederate States of America do enact, That an ad valorem duty of fifteen per cent. shall be imposed on the following named articles imported from abroad into the confederate States of America, in lieu of the duties now imposed by law, to-wit: coal, cheese, iron in blooms, pigs, bars, bolts and slabs, and on all iron in a less manufactured State; also on railroad rails, spikes, fishing plates and chairs used in the construction of railroads; paper of all sorts and all manufactures of; wood manufactured, of all sorts. HOWELL COBB, president of the congress.

Approved March 15, 1861.

JEFFERSON DAVIS, president.

## Important from the Rio Grande.

By the arrival of the Texas steamer we have late and important news from the valley of the Rio Grande. Affairs seem to be approaching a crisis down there. It is stated upon what is considered most reliable authority that Gen. Ampudia, at the head of some three thousand Mexican troops, was marching upon Brownsville, and when the messenger who conveyed this intelligence to Galveston left, the forces were within miles of fort Brown. Col. Ford had given orders to have all the large guns then at Brazos island removed immediately to the scene of anticipated difficulties, as he was determined to give the enemy a warm reception, should they show themselves, as it was confidently believed they would. [Galveston News.

SATURDAY, March 30.—The steam-tug Union, Capt. Healy, chartered by the Texas commissioners to assist in bringing up the ordnance, ordnance stores, etc., at Brazos Santiago, left the latter place on the 27th inst., and arrived here this afternoon, after our tri-weekly was published. Capt. Healy furnishes us with a variety of interesting intelligence.

The schooner Shark arrived at Brazos on the 23d inst., taking orders from Gen. Nichols to Sergt. Greer, ordnance sergeant in charge at Brazos, to load the schooner with as full a cargo as he could put aboard, of cannon, shell, shot, etc., and dispatch her to Galveston.

Sergt. Greer left the same day for Brownsville to communicate this order to Col. Ford.

On the 24th inst., the steamship Star of the West, from New York, arrived off Brazos Santiago and anchored. The sea was too rough all next day for her to communicate with the shore.

The steamship Empire City, from New York, arrived off the island on the 25th inst., communicated with the Star of the West, and left immediately.

On the 26th inst., the Star of the West sent a surf-boat ashore to the island, but had no communication with the main land where, at the mouth of the river, 200 U. S. infantry were camped waiting to embark.

On the 27th inst., the steamship Coatzacoalcos, from New York, arrived off the island, communicated with the Star of the West, and left at once. The pilot at the mouth of the river then went off with the Star of the West—the pilot asking the captain of the latter steamer if he (the pilot) should carry his dispatches ashore for him, to which the captain replied that he would take them back. Shortly after the Star of the West got up steam and left.

On the 25th inst., Sergeant Greer returned from Brownsville. Col. Ford gave him orders to prepare all the heavy guns and ordnance stores, to be shipped at once for Brownsville on a steamboat that the colonel would charter and send down for them.

Col. Ford stated that he had received reliable information from merchants and other responsible citizens in Matamoros, that Gen. Ampudia, at the head of 3000 Mexicans, was sixty miles off, marching on Brownsville. Ampudia had sent out expresses far and wide with placards and handbills announcing that Texas of right belonged to Mexico; that she had no longer the support of the U. S. government and army; that now was the time to take her back, and he called on all good patriots and soldiers to come to his standard for this purpose. He was receiving reinforcements in large numbers and rapidly.

The Union had some difficulty in making her trip from lack of fuel. There is none at Brazos, at least no coal. Yesterday morning, about one o'clock, she passed, in twelve fathoms water off the pass Cavallo light, and nothing could be seen of the three steamers from New York, which should have been anchored there, if Indianola were their destination. The Union arrived off our bar early this morning, but anchored, the fog being so dense. She fell in with the Gen. Rusk, and, after awhile the latter steamer towed her in.

Col. Ford intended at once to place his Texas troops some 400 in number, in old fort Brown, which he would arm with the heaviest artillery. The steamboat he said he would charter for Brazos, to bring up the guns and munitions there, had not arrived when captain Healy left.

Serj't. Greer told the latter he had sent an official report of the whole affair to Gen. Nichols, at colonel Ford's desire, by the lighthouse schooner, which also left Brazos on the 27th inst. He requested Capt. Healy to communicate the intelligence to Gen. Nichols. The general is in Austin, and the captain has handed over quartermaster Reynold's papers to Gen. Sherman, also giving him the above news.

Capt. Powers, of Beaumont, with 60 six months Texas troops, was in command at Brazos Santiago, with some fifteen heavy guns and mortars, mounted in the entrenchments the Rio Grande regiment had made.

Major Waller was at Ringgold barracks, and had sent word down to detain the Shark, to receive the stores, etc., he had collected at fort Duncan and at Ringgold, for transportation there.

Captains Donnelly and Edwards were on the road to Ringgold with their companies.

Our own opinion is, that Ampudia would like to make a raid on Matamoros, and perhaps Brownsville, seize all the valuables he could, and then leave.

By the arrival of the Texas from Indianola, we learn that the U. S. war-steamer Mohawk, arrived off pass Cavallo. The Coatzacoalcos left last night with 600 troops. The Empire City and the Star of the West were lying at the pass.

## Heavy Storm in the West.

On the 28th ultimo, Cincinnati and its surroundings was visited by a heavy equinoctial storm of wind and rain that bid fair, at one time, to rival the terrible tornado of last year, the fearful reality of which is no doubt still fresh in the minds of many of our readers. But still the damage was considerable, and in one or two instances quite heavy. From the Enquirer's account we extract the following:

The extensive planing-mill of Wesley M. Cameron, Sixth street, just east of the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton railroad depot, was partially unroofed. With the roof about eight or ten feet of the upper part of the west wall gave way, falling to the ground with a tremendous crash. At the time a lady was prostrated to the ground insensible; her skull was found to be fractured. The physicians gave it as their opinion that she could not survive her injuries. The damage to Mr. Cameron's establishment can not be less than $600 or $800.

A barge moored near the mouth of Mill creek, loaded with ice, was swept from its fastenings, and, after swinging around from the shore, parted and sunk, destroying the cargo, which was valued at $2000.

An outhouse attached to the factory of Royer & Simonton, Third street, between Mill and Park, was demolished, involving a loss of $200.

The north tower of the new masonic temple, Walnut street, above Third, was unroofed.

The second intermediate school house on Clinton st., between Baymiller and Freeman, was partially unroofed. It was a lucky circumstance that the children had been dismissed before the storm began. Frightened by the appalling circumstances that occurred in the same house last year, it would have been impossible to have controlled their impetuosity.

A building on Baymiller street, between Court and Clark, tenanted as a ropewalk, was blown down. One of the hands employed about the premises was buried beneath a mass of falling timbers, and extricated with much difficulty. He was very severely injured about the head and shoulders, but it is thought he will survive.

The church of the Immaculate Conception, standing on an extremely exposed eminence of mount Adams, was unroofed. Several frame houses in the vicinity of the church, occupied by parties whose names we were unable to ascertain, were damaged, but not to any very great extent.

The huge doors of the railroad stable at the corner of Baymiller and Ninth streets, were ripped from their hinges and carried some distance into the street.

The rear part of a brick house on Freeman street, between Eighth and Ninth, was forced out.

An unoccupied saw-mill, near the mouth of Millcreek, was blown down, causing a loss of one thousand dollars.

A lumber yard, at the western terminus of Third street, furnished excellent food for the maddened element. Boards were caught up and sent sailing through the air for half a square, and when the proprietors, after the storm, came to overlook their stock, they found that nearly a hundred dollars worth of the raw material had contributed to the confusion.

The Spring Grove and Cumminsville cemeteries have undoubtedly come in for a share of the destruction. The trotting park and other places environing the city, could not well have escaped.

STORM AT NEWPORT.—Of the effects of the storm at Newport, Ky., immediately opposite Cincinnati, the Enquirer says:

The wind tornado, which came up last evening about half-past six o'clock, struck the printing office which surmounts the "Arts palace" at the ferry landing, and sent it whirling to the ground. In its descent, we understand, it alighted on the head of a man named Sam Barbour, crushing him to death. Fences were blown down in various parts of the city, and signs met the same fate.

The presbyterian church, on Madison street, near York, was considerably damaged, its walls being crushed in. It is, in fact, almost a wreck.

The gable end of the new building of Col. Smalley, on York street, was blown in, as was also the gable end of Dr. Tyler's drug store, on the corner of York and Bellevue streets.

The catholic church on the Licking, we believe, was also a good deal damaged.

Captain Robert Air, while walking down to the landing was struck with some of the flying timbers of the Arts palace and severely bruised.

The ferry-boat Cincinnati Belle had some of her stanchions blown in, and was otherwise seriously damaged.

We have no doubt that much other damage was done that did not reach us last evening.

At Covington, Ky., also, opposite Cincinnati, the roof of a large rolling mill was lifted from its fastenings and carried more than a square. Fortunately no one was injured in its fall.

TOBACCO FOR THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.—The Richmond (Va.) Dispatch states that Jas. Gray Sons, merchants of that city, have been awarded the contract for buying tobacco in the Richmond market for the French government. The firm named are the sub-agents for parties in New York, who have the whole contract for the United States. The tobacco trade is a monopoly with the French government, to which it yields yearly a revenue of about thirty-five millions of dollars. The profit on the Richmond contract must be in the neighborhood of $200,000.

## Mississippi Convention.

JACKSON, March 25.—Pursuant to call, the State convention reassembled at 12 o'clock to-day.

A letter was read from the Hon. Howell Cobb, president of southern congress, transmitting to the convention the permanent constitution for ratification, &c.

On motion, the constitution was referred to a special committee, consisting of Messrs. Glenn, Yerger, George, Jones and O. Davis, with instructions to report on the 27th inst. The constitution was ordered to be printed for use of members.

Mr. Smart offered a resolution, which gave rise to an animated discussion, authorising the military board to transfer to the government of the confederate States such of the volunteer companies of this State as may be willing and consent to volunteer and enlist in the service of that government on the terms prescribed by it, &c.

The resolution was referred to the committee on military affairs, who will to-morrow, doubtless, report an amendatory ordinance, authorising the governor to comply with the requisition for fifteen hundred troops from this State.

Mr. Rogers offered a resolution, which was adopted, authorising the auditor to issue warrants for the several companies, officers, &c., lately at Pensacola, for one month's services, at the rates provided in existing ordinance. Quartermaster Barksdale will pay the several captains the cash this evening.

Various resolutions and ordinances were introduced and referred to the special committee on constitution; some with a view to its ratification by this convention; others referring it to the people through another convention.

Mr. Clayton of Lowndes, Mr. Yerger and Mr. Brooke offered resolutions looking to the adoption of the latter policy. Messrs. George and Glenn favoring the former.

As Mr. Brooke is your immediate representative, I append the resolution offered by him to test the sense of the convention, and to bring the matter—the only matter properly before the convention—to an issue:

Resolved, That the committee to which was referred the permanent constitution adopted at Montgomery, be instructed to report an ordinance referring said constitution directly to the people, at the ballot box, for ratification or rejection.

The convention at Montgomery, he said, had been charged with an usurpation of legislative power, and there was an underlying impression in the public mind to that effect. He wanted the question forever settled. He regarded its ratification a fixed fact, and didn't care a straw how that might be accomplished; but in deference to the wishes of his constituents, he should vote for its reference to the people for their approval or rejection.

Only about sixty members are present to-day. The convention adjourned till to-morrow.

JACKSON, March 26, 1861.

DEAR WHIG—The convention has already gone earnestly to work upon the business which has re-convoked it. There is no opposition to the constitution just adopted at Montgomery. There is, however, quite a diversity of opinion on the question of submitting it to the people. One proposition submits it to a new convention; another, to a direct vote of the people; while still another proposes to ratify it unconditionally by this convention. Upon a test vote, this morning, the proposition for a new convention was laid on the table by 45 to 30.

Mr. Glenn, who is the champion, certainly the talking champion, of the usurpers, who proposes to ratify the constitution without consulting the people, moved to lay on the table. Mr. Brooke's resolution, introduced yesterday, instructing the select committee of five, to whom the constitution had been referred, to report in favor of submitting the constitution to a vote of the people. The motion to lay on the table was lost.

Mr. Glenn made a report from the committee of five, ratifying the constitution by the convention. He then proceeded to address the convention in favor of the report.

He was replied to by judge Yerger, who delivered a powerful and able argument in favor of the right of the people to pass upon their fundamental law.

Mr. Wood, of Attala, also made an excellent speech, concluding by offering a substitute for the report of the committee of five, providing for taking a vote of the people upon the constitution.

In the afternoon, Mr. Barry, the president of the convention, took the floor, and delivered a speech against submitting the constitution to a vote of the people, and in favor of its ratification by the State convention.

The further consideration of the subject was then postponed.

Mr. Brooke offered an ordinance repealing the army bill and the tax imposed by said bill. Considerable debate was elicited, in which Messrs. Brooke, George, Clapp, Gholson, King, and others participated, the feeling being evidently in favor of repealing the bill and suspending the tax as early as possible after the liabilities incurred under the bill shall have been liquidated.

THE MORRILL TARIFF IN ENGLAND.—The London Times, of the 5th, has the following comments on the new tariff of the United States:

At the moment when the destinies of the great American Union and trembling in the balance, and the republic is menaced with the worst calastrophes of civil war, its legislature is engaged upon a measure which seems calculated at once to alienate foreign nations, to embitter domestic strife, and to provide an inexhaustible aliment for the antagonism unhappily subsisting between the two sections of the confederacy. The bill called the Morrill tariff bill is an act for the establishment of protective duties on a most extravagant scale. If it were designed to condemn the very principles of free trade, and to introduce those of protection, as forming the only true theory of international commerce, it could not be more strongly framed. The duties imposed by the bill are not only immoderately high, but they are levied upon imports of the first necessity. The articles taxed are not mere luxuries, or commodities entering into the consumption of the opulent alone. It is upon cotton goods, woolen goods and hardware that the imposts will fall, and so enormous are the duties proposed that the result can be little short of absolute prohibition.—Cutlery is to be taked upwards of 50 per cent, in the lowest instance, in the highest nearly 250. In addition to this, the bill enacts so many complicated arrangements, and throws such interminable obstructions in way of business, that commerce will be next to impossible under conditions so difficult. We need not enter into the particulars of the act which is said to be scarcely intelligible even to Americans themselves. But we can convey a very good idea of its character and purpose by observing that if it should be passed it will almost prohibit all imports into the United States from England, France and Germany. That, and no less, is the effect anticipated from the measure in New York itself.

It is rather an extraordinary reflection that what we have just been endeavoring to do at some cost as regards France, America should be proposing to undo as regards us. If friendship follows in the wake of trade, it must needs be exposed to decay when trade is prohibited.—The Americans at present are not only our nearest kinsfolk, but our best customers, and whenever there has been a difference between us, we have always remembered with a peculiar gratification that a commercial interest bound us indissolubly together. We should be very sory to lose this bond. We do not suppose, indeed, but what we can be as good friends as before; but unless the principles accepted on this subject are altogether false, the connection between the two countries must be weakened, and the interchange of opinions, as well as commodities, be somewhat disturbed. That, in fact, is the most disagreeable aspect of the whole case. As to the loss of custom, we can soon make that up. Our trade has now attained to such prodigious dimensions, that no single nation, however important, can materially affect it by tariffs or legislation. We had a striking illustration of the fact in last year's returns. Out of a national business of £130,000,000, upwards of £50,000,000 is transacted with three principal customers—the United States, the East Indies and Australia. Now, in 1860, these customers all rather fell off together, inasmuch that in place of £51,000,000, our deliveries to them represented only £46,000,000. For all this, however, when the balance came to be struck, it was found that the aggregate trade of the year had been better than that of its predecessor, and that our £130,000,000 had risen to £135,000,000. South America bought largely of us—to the extent, in fact, of nearly £12,000,000; Italy increased her demands, as did Turkey also, and it is obvious enough that the first two, at any rate, of these may advance rapidly in the path of progress and trade.

OUACHITA COAL AND MINING COMPANY.—We are glad to perceive that this company is beginning to surmount the difficulties which met them in the incipiency of their undertaking, and that now they are exhibiting the practical evidences of vitality. On the fine steamer Twilight, which is to leave this evening, they have shipped a steam-engine, saw-mill, brick machine, and other machinery necessary for the construction of a coal oil and paraffine candle manufactory, on their lands in Union county, Arkansas. The recent discovery of the extraordinary value of coal taken from the lands of this company, together with the fact that the company, after a careful geological survey of the place, purchased all the coal lands which were considered valuable in that neighborhood, extending for miles along the river, gives to the company a position of great importance, and has induced them to offer to the public a limited portion of their stock to complete the the works they are now commencing and build a short railroad to the river. The development of these valuable coal mines is one of the legitimate results of southern independence, and we are glad to learn that the success of the company in disposing of their stock has enabled them to commence the undertaking with the fullest assurance of a speedy and profitable issue. [N. O. Mirror.

TERRIBLE CONFLAGRATION.—Mr. A. W. Weeks, who carries the mail from Madisonville to this city, informs us that about half the town Madinsonville was burned to the ground on Saturday 16th ult. The postoffice was consumed with all its contents. Mr. James Aikens, wife, and two children were burned to death. The father and wife at first escaped, but; returning into their burning dwelling to save their children, perished with them. The fire was discovered about 10 o'clock P. M. It appears that on Saturday afternoon three men, incited by bad whisky got into a fight; a fourth party desirous to stop the fracas, interferred, when, to save himself, he found it necessary to knock one of the belligerents down. The man who received the blow then threatened to burn the house of the one who inflicted it, and aided by two men, carried out his threat. The wind being high, the flames spread with great speed.

Two men, one named Dick Mitchell, are now in jail; the third was still a large when our informant left.

Owensboro (Ky.,) Democrat.

## Central America.

RUATAN, March 20.—Considerable excitement was caused here a few days ago by a report that a schooner had landed 100 filibusters at the harbor of Port Royal, situated about the middle of the island, but it turned out to be the schooner Taylor, Capt. Lombert, from your port, with emigrants for Great river, on the Mosquito shore. The Taylor had been cruising about the Mosquito shore for some days, but could not find Great river, so came to Port Royal for a pilot, and after getting one started for Great river again. This news, when it reaches Truxillo, will scare the Hondurans awfully, for they would sooner see the devil than hear the name of filibuster.

The island at present is in a very unsettled state on account of the treaty with Honduras. The inhabitants do not want to be under the Honduras government, and many of the principal ones are thinking of leaving as soon as the British flag is hauled down, and the Honduras flag hoisted. But it is still the hope of all here that the British will not give up the island.

The island is in a flourishing state at present. Five fruit vessels have loaded, within these last ten days for your port; the value of their cargoes being about $100.0 each vessel. But good-bye to all these good times, if Honduras ever gets possession of these beautiful little islands. Their port charges, and other impositions, will stop all trade. But perhaps they (the Hondurans) will think twice before receiving the islands.

A few days past, a schooner arrived here from Belize, for part of the British troops stationed among us. It appears the Indians are fighting again on the frontiers of the British settlements, near Belize. There were seventy soldiers on the island under the command of Lt. Dunn, a gentleman who has won the heart of every one here by his kind and courteous manners.

BELIZE, HON. March 11.—The news of the trouble in the United States, and the secession of seven States from the Union, has created a very lively interest in the minds of all reflecting men in