flag of the new Republic. It is regarded as an omen of victory—as the "holy tree" of Carolina—and the passionate love of it is confined to no class of the people. As such it is peculiarly appropriate on the field as the flag of the Commonwealth.

QUEER LEGISLATIVE CEREMONIES.

Ceremony with South Carolinians seems to be almost a second nature. In all the departments of life an overweening courtesy manifests itself. The pulpit, the bench, the bar, the Legislature, all have their distinctive, unbending forms to be used on every occasion—and to this I assign the ceremonious politeness which is a characteristic of the people.

One of the ceremonies attendant upon the Legislature, which I have had frequent opportunity to witness during my sojourn here, is the ratification of acts of the Assembly. I do not remember having ever written anything to you concerning this novel and interesting procedure, and will therefore attempt to give you a description of it in this epistle.

Imagine yourself in the temporary Senate chamber of the Sovereign Republic—a chamber eminently suitable for the deliberations of such a body—in size about as large as Carroll Hall, and having very much the appearance of that room. Two rows of heavy pillars support the ceiling, above which is the hall occupied just now by the House of Representatives. The Senators' desks (all temporary) are ranged in two semi-circular rows about the President's rostrum. The seats are occupied by the members, all wearing their hats, and indulging in conversation. Messages are exchanged between the two branches of the Assembly proposing to ratify the acts passed during the session. All the acts, except those desired to go into operation immediately, are reserved for the last day of the session, when the ratification takes place, as on the occasion of which I speak.

In the House of Representatives, when everything is ready for the ratification, the doorkeeper and messenger of that body advance to the Speaker's desk, and signify their readiness to "clear the way." The Speaker and Clerk of the House, in their respective robes of dark blue and black silk, descend from their desks and proceed down the aisle, followed by the members, who fall into procession behind them. The doorkeeper and messenger in advance, strike heavily upon the floor with their long black staves of office, and cry out, "make way for the Speaker." In this way they proceed down stairs amid the clatter of the rapping batons and vociferations of the officials. If, perchance, any one should persist in standing in the road, his toes will surely catch it.

Arrived at the door of the Senate, the doorkeeper of that body, with the messenger, advanced and announced the Speaker and members of the House of Representatives.

The President of the Senate cries out, "members of the Senate will rise and be uncovered to receive the Speaker and members of the House." This they do, and afterward resume their seats, while the members of the lower branch sit wherever invited, or remain standing, in conversation, as it pleases them.

The Speaker mounts the rostrum of the President, and, standing side by side, the ratification commences. The Clerks of both Houses, alike robed in black silk, stand up at a desk in front of the President and Speaker. On the desk is a huge pile of acts written upon sheets of paper large enough to cover a dog-house, and having attached to each a large seal of the State as big as a ginger cake, and wondrously like that juvenile luxury.

The Clerk of the Senate reads the heading of the act, setting forth when and where passed; the Clerk of the House, holding on to the same paper, reads when and where the act was passed by his branch. The act is then passed to the hands of the President, who, after signing his name, says: "Mr. Speaker, I have the honor to present you with (for instance) an act to declare a certain portion of Four Hole Creek a navigable stream." The Speaker then signs his name to the act, and returns it to the President "with the honor of returning" it expressed in so many words. If the act is a House measure, the Speaker signs it first—if a measure of the Senate, by the President first. All the acts of the Carolina Legislature date in the "eighty-fifth year of the sovereignty of the State of South Carolina," instead of the eighty-fifth year of the Independence of the United States of America, as before the Ordinance of Secession.

In preparing the acts, every care is observed to prevent clerical errors. The presence of three or four Solicitors, i. e., State's Attorneys, is required by law in the engrossing-room; and every act that is engrossed must first be subjected to their scrutiny, and then to the Engrossing Committees.

EXTRA FORTIFICATIONS.

A letter to *The Providence Journal* says: "The extra fortifications here consist of four land batteries and one floating battery, with an available force of about 1,500 men. At the eastern extremity of Sullivan's Island is a small battery of 24-pound guns. It is constructed of barrels and bags of sand, and is intended to protect the north channel. On Morris Island there are three batteries. On the extreme east end of the island is a battery of 24-pound guns, intended to protect the main ship channel. This channel is also obstructed by four sunken vessels, so that ships drawing over 13 feet of water cannot enter the harbor. At the middle and west end of the island are two batteries of heavy guns and mortars, bearing directly on Fort Sumter. They are constructed of palmetto logs and bags of sand. I should suppose that bags of sand formed their chief material for construction, as one firm in the city has a contract for 30,000. The floating battery is to be built in the shape of a wedge, of palmetto timber one foot in thickness, and cased with iron, and also having an inner casing of iron, with three feet space between the casings, which is to be filled with sand. How it is to be armed, and how used, I am unable to learn, as it is kept as secret as possible. With all the armament and forces here which can be brought against Fort Sumter, I am told by the very best military authority that it will be impossible to take it, if Anderson is disposed to defend it."

THE RATES OF TAXATION FOR STATE AND LOCAL USES.

The Committee of Ways and Means, to whom was referred Message No. 2 of his Excellency the Governor, the report of the Comptroller-General, and the various subjects requiring the raising of supplies, report that, upon an examination of the report of the Comptroller-General, there appears to have been a deficiency in the supplies raised for the last fiscal year of $86,523, and that the following salaries, &c., were unprovided for, viz.: Salary of Commissioner of new State-House, $3,500; salary of Commissioner to codify Statute Law and assistants, $7,833; interest on $316,000 subscription to Blue Ridge Railroad Company, $18,600—$29,933; making a total deficiency for the last fiscal year of $118,456; the ordinary wants for the present fiscal year are estimated at about $615,000—$733,456. To which must be added for extraordinary wants, viz.: Military contingencies, $350,000; Convention expenses, $20,000; expenses of Commissioners to other Slave States, $7,500; expenses of collecting taxes, $50,000—$927,500; $1,660,956. From this amount should be deducted as follows, viz.: Dividends on South Carolina Railroad stock, $3,600; dividends on Charlotte and Columbia Railroad stock, $1,860; amount of bond of Tax Collector of Union District, $8,000—$13,460. Total amount wanted for the fiscal year, $1,647,496. To meet the amount thus wanted, it is estimated that the bill herewith reported will produce about $1,721,000.

CHARLESTON CITY TAXES.

By the following advertisement, from *The Charleston Courier*, our readers may see one of the sources of the city revenue at Charleston. Comparatively the rates of licenses are rather higher than those in New-York:

LICENSES FOR CARTS, DRAYS, &c.—Licenses for carts, drays, carriages, omnibuses, &c., will be issued from this office in the whole month of January, to continue in force for one year from the 1st of January:

Cart, dray, or wagon, drawn by one horse or mule	$12
Cart, dray, or wagon, drawn by two horses or mules	24
Hack or carriage, two wheels	15
Hack or carriage, four wheels	30
Omnibus (except line) two horses	40
Omnibus (except line) four horses	56
Bread cart or wagon	12
Private cart, dray, or wagon, exclusive of horse or mule	2

No person shall be taken by the Treasurer as surety to any bond under the ordinances concerning licenses for carts, drays, wagons, and other carriages, unless he or she be a freeholder or slave owner.—Section 2, ordinance ratified Dec 29, 1853.

Every person applying for license must be accompanied by a surety. A. CAMPBELL, City Treasurer.

OFFICE CITY TREASURER, Charleston, Dec. 29, 1860.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives now met and sitting in General Assembly, and by the authority of the same*, That a tax for the sums, and in the manner hereinafter mentioned, shall be raised and paid into the public Treasury of this State for the use and services thereof—that is to say, ad valorem on every hundred dollars of the value of:

Lands	$2 00
Slaves, each	1 60
Free negroes, mulattoes, and mestizoes	3 25
Building lots and buildings, per $100	27
Factorage, employments, faculties and professions (including dentistry), per $100	1 00
Commissions and vendues, per $100	1 00
Capital stock of banks, per $100	33
Capital stock of banks doing business by agents, per $100	75
Capital stock of gas companies, per $100	45
Premiums of insurance companies and underwriters, per cent	1¼
Sales of goods and merchandise, per $100	25
Sales by non-residents, per $100	1 00
Circuses, per day	100 00
Plays, or wax shows, per day	20 00
Interest on bonds	1 50
Private carriages	2 50
Private buggies	1 25
Hackney coaches, stages, &c	2 50
Gold watches	1 00
Silver watches	50
Playing cards sold	25
Billiard tables owned	15 00
Capital stock of shipping, per $100	35
Capital stock of marine railway and dry dock capital, per $100	35
Capital stock of manufacturing companies, per $100	20
Receipts of bridges and ferries, per cent	61
Receipts of turnpike roads, per cent	60½
Distilleries and breweries	15 00
Profits of savings institutions, per $100	75
Salaries and wages over $500, per $100	1 00
Commissions received, per $100	1 00

This bill is now before the Legislature, and will probably become a law.

NEWS FROM CHARLESTON.

The James Adger, of Spofford & Tileston's Charleston steamers, arrived at this port on Friday evening at 8 o'clock, bring a full cargo of cotton and rice. The weather during portions of the trip was rendered unfavorable by strong Northeasters. The Nashville was hailed and signals exchanged about eighty miles on this side of Cape Hatteras. The James Adger brought but few passengers and none of the families of soldiers from Fort Sumter, as was expected.

From Capt. Phillips we learn that the excitement at Charleston is on the increase, and that *affairs in that quarter look threatening*.

The channel in which the Columbia was grounded is narrow and very tortuous, and the current so strongly sets in at times from the sea, as to crowd on to the beach any vessel attempting to pass out.

A telegram from Charleston was received this morning, stating that the Columbia sailed at 10 o'clock yesterday. She is not much injured by the accident, except a slight straining and loosening of her coppers. She will be placed in dock upon her return.

[Commercial Advertiser of Saturday.

THE PALMETTO FLAG.

The first attempt of a vessel to enter a foreign port under the flag of the "Independent Republic of South Carolina" was made at Havana by a brigantine from Charleston. She sailed in past the Moro Castle with her "Palmetto" flying aloft. But immediately, by order of the officer in command of the fortress, she was brought to anchor under its guns, and kept there until the flag of the United States was displayed at her masthead, when she was permitted to proceed up the harbor. We wonder what they are going to do in Palmetto-dom about this outrage upon their flag in a foreign port. This insult ought to avenged forthwith. A newborn nationality cannot afford to permit its emblematic ensign to be thus dishonored. [Sun. Atlas.

MINOR ITEMS.

LOUISIANA OUT ONLY ON PAPER.

A New-Orleans letter in *The Boston Traveller*, says:

"With a large majority in the Convention, the Secessionists, though after a long and strong opposition from the Cooperationists, have finally carried through their secession ordinance. Louisiana—on paper, at least—is out of the Union. But thousands of her citizens, ridiculing the action of the Convention, openly and publicly call themselves still American citizens of the Confederacy of our forefathers. Grave and sober men to-day look graver and more sober—all deprecating the secession of their beloved State. Everywhere, without concealment on their part, our substantial citizens are heard to curse the traitors, who, without any just ground of complaint, have precipitated Louisiana into a revolution. And yet, notwithstanding all these marks of discontent, our papers still have the impudence to say that the people of this section of the Republic, on the secession question, were unanimous for its adoption.

ANOTHER PASSPORT PACT.

The Louisville Journal says that on Wednesday last a highly respectable citizen of Jefferson County, quite a ferocious fire-eater, came into this city to make arrangements for visiting the South on business. He applied to the Mayor and obtained from that functionary a *passport*, with a certificate that he lives in Jefferson, that he is a slaveowner, and that he is a friend of the South. As a reason why he wished such a passport and certificate, he stated that some of his neighbors, who have recently visited the South, were so annoyed and bedeviled with Vigilance Committees that he could not venture to go without first taking precautions against trouble.

FREIGHT RAISED BY THE CHARGE OF REPUBLICANISM.

The Boston Traveller tells a "story from New-Orleans," of one of the Maine ships at that port, the Wm. Singer. She is a fine large ship, and arrived at New-Orleans in November. She was understood to be owned by one of the most ultra Republicans in Maine, a member of the Legislature; and no broker in New-Orleans would procure a freight for her, no factor or planter would ship a bale of cotton in her, and no office in New-Orleans would insure a dollar on her cargo. The owner was not frightened, but sent word to the captain to haul her up and wait for more peaceful times. A few days ago, after every other ship in port had been taken up, her captain put her into the market, and obtained a full cargo of cotton for Liverpool, at the highest rate which has ever been paid at any time since the cotton trade became a regular business, equivalent with the conditions of dispatch and a selection of cotton to one and a quarter penny, or 2⅝ cents a pound.

EFFECT OF SECESSION UPON THE CARRYING TADE.

Secession is greatly benefiting the freighting-ships, and seems likely to enable the Northern manufactures to obtain their cotton much cheaper than it can be laid down in England and France. The rates of freight to Great Britain and the continent of Europe are now twice as high as usual, and paying great profits to those fortunate enough to have ships in the gulf ports. At the same time, the coastwise rate has risen only slightly, and this state of things is giving an advantage to the Northern manufacturer of about one cent a pound in the cost of cotton which he has never before possessed. *Thus secession is making the shipowners rich, and at the same time benefiting the Northern manufacturers.* Why can't Northern men leave the thing alone?

SEWING-MACHINE SPREE.

A company of volunteer soldiers, which was just being formed at Columbia, received notice that their services were required at Charleston immediately. Their uniforms had already been purchased, and were in the hands of the tailors who had contracted, to deliver them at a date just 24 hours after their services were required at Charleston. The same night upon which they received the notice from Charleston, the uniforms were taken in a half-finished condition from the tailors. The next morning the company embarked on the railroad train, and with them their half-completed uniforms, in the hands of 100 of the fairest of the ladies of Columbia. As fast as flew the wheels of the locomotive, they could not equal the speed of the ladies' fingers, and when the train stopped at the Charleston depot every uniform was ready.

[N. O Delta.

REPUBLICAN MEETING AT PATERSON—THE CRITTENDEN AMENDMENT REJECTED.—The Crittenden resolutions, which passed the New-Jersey Legislature, were sprung upon that body on Friday, when most of the Republican members had gone home, as is the custom at Trenton, during the early part of the session. Among the opposers of that measure were three of the four members from Passaic County.

Last evening a public meeting was held at Continental Hall, Paterson, to indorse the course of the delegation. The call was addressed to those only who had voted for Lincoln and Hamlin, but a few Democratic leaders, aided by the newspaper organ in the place, had made preparations for breaking up the meeting. There could scarcely be fewer than fifteen hundred persons present, including two or three hundred "roughs," some of whom had been well liquored, and were under the leadership of men who pass for being orderly citizens.

At 7½ o'clock the meeting organized by calling Gen. Thomas D. Hoxsey to the chair, who, on entering on his duties, proceeded to address the audience on the question before it. He referred to the traitorous conduct of Messrs. Floyd, Cobb, Thompson, and others, contrasting it with the gallant behavior of Maj. Anderson. Thereupon disturbances began. One man, who has hitherto passed for a respectable citizen, hissed Anderson, and called him a *traitor*. His conduct was denounced publicly, and his name given to the meeting by a bystander. A scene of great confusion followed. For five minutes it seemed as if chaos had come again, so incessant were the hissings and shoutings—none, however, coming to blows or breaking the furniture.

Order having been at length restored, the other officers were quietly elected, and the business of the meeting proceeded. Messrs. Buckley of the Senate and Tuttle of the Assembly explained and defended their course in opposing the amendment.

One of the resolutions condemned the John Brown raid and declared that he was justly hung, adding that those traitors who incited rebellion in South Carolina deserved to fare no better. Mr. Campbell, who is an abolitionist, objected to the resolution; but the meeting adopted it with the remainder, which protested against any compromise with rebels having arms in their hands, by an overwhelming majority. After listening to an address from Mr. Woodruff of Paterson, the meeting adjourned in good order. Border ruffianism has gained little by the display of last evening.

[N. Y. Com. Adv.

WHAT THE ENGLISH THINK OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S ORDINANCE OF SECESSION.

From The London Times, Jan. 19.

To examine a willing witness, to make a speech before an audience thoroughly prepossessed with the opinions which we advocate, to spur a willing horse, or to break a bruised reed, are exploits proverbially easy and inviting. There are few people so modest as not to believe themselves equal to the most arduous of these undertakings. But the facility of all these things sinks to nothing in comparison with the ease of preparing a Manifesto on the subject of Slavery and Disunion for such a community as that of South Carolina. The happy man to whom fortune has reserved so singular a felicity labors under no other difficulty than the necessity of avoiding whatever temptation necessity or education may throw in his way toward the smallest degree of modesty, candor, or fairness. If he can avoid these dangerous shoals, he has absolutely no other difficulties to fear. The wind is fair, the sea is smooth, the haven for which his soul longs is full in sight. We confess we are surprised that, strengthened by the possession of so many and such unquestionable advantages, the Separationists of South Carolina have not done more justice to the exciting thesis they have undertaken to handle. Whether it be that the declaration has long been written, and carried about like the redoubtable cane of the ever-to-be-regretted Brooks, ready to be put in requisition on the first convenient opportunity, we cannot tell; but certainly the declaration of the immediate causes which induce and justify the separation of South Carolina from the Federal Union is by no means so lively and spirit-stirring a composition as a little more literary skill might, perhaps, have made it. Of course, it would not be in human nature—that is, American human nature—to commence any great public document without a proper fling at the old mother country, from whose tyranny the States emancipated themselves in order to enjoy, from their mutual justice and forbearance, that perpetual concord and never-ending union and happiness which they sought for in vain from a society corrupted by the vices of monarchy, aristocracy, and feudality, and a decrepit civilization. At this time were established, we are told, the right of a State to govern itself, and the right of the people to abolish a Government when it ceases to accomplish the ends for which it was instituted. We know not what histories are allowed to pass through the charmed circle which girdles the domestic institutions of South Carolina, or how much a man is allowed to know of the history of the world in those fortunate regions without being constituted thereby an Abolitionist, exposed to the halter and the tar barrel. But we should have thought that the right of a nation to govern itself was fully established by the English Revolution, and the right of a people to get rid of a Government which did not accomplish the ends of its institution by the revolt of the United Netherlands and Spain.

However, we gladly hurry on to the 23d of May, 1788, when South Carolina found herself for the first time a member of the American Union. She applies to the Union the principles which she had learned in her quarrel with England. She finds that the Union does not exist for her own benefit; that it does not accomplish, as far as she is concerned, fully and entirely the ends of its institution—nay, that some articles of the contract have not been fully accomplished; and, strong in this conviction, she claims the same right against her sisters as she had before exercised against her parent. There is not much use in reasoning at the present time with South Carolina. Were she more amenable to reason, she would not be in the position in which she finds herself; but still, we may observe in passing, that it speaks well for the wisdom of the American Federation when we find its dissolution advocated on principles upon which no federation could permanently exist. If every State is to claim to be the judge of its own grievances, if it is to act without concert and without appeal, and if whenever it believes that Government does not do all that is required of it, or that its allies fall short of their obligations, it is at liberty to break up the Union, how is it possible that the Union can be otherwise than transitory? It is quite true, as South Carolina says, that fourteen States of the Union have, in violation of one article of the Constitution, passed laws, the legality of which is something more than doubtful, to prevent the recovery by their masters of fugitive slaves. But this could scarcely be regarded of itself as a sufficient ground for the dissolution of the Government of the United States, and that it is not sufficient is shown by the conduct of South Carolina herself, which has not thought it a sufficient ground heretofore for secession from the Union. With this single exception, nothing can be conceived more frivolous than the grounds of this manifesto. It may well be that the Northern States do regard the institution of Slavery as sinful, do permit the establishment of societies for the purpose of facilitating the escape of slaves, and have been by no means eager to employ a very imperfect police in hunting down and bringing to justice men who have labored in the cause of the Negro, and sought to teach him doctrines as to his duties in this life and his hopes in another inconsistent with the notion so self-evident to the mind of South Carolina, that by treating a fellow-creature as a chattel we can strip him of all personality and all responsibility. Whatever be the extent of these grievances, it is not by them that South Carolina has been driven from the Union. The last cause which she mentions, and the one which has at least served as the occasion for her secession, is the election of Mr. Lincoln—a man of opinions and purposes hostile to Slavery. What the opinions and purposes of Mr. Lincoln are we have learned from better authority than the South Carolina Manifesto—that is, from Mr. Lincoln himself—and every one may judge how far this is a true representation of his opinions. On his accession, says the Manifesto, it has been announced that the South shall be excluded from the common territory, that the judicial tribunal shall be made sectional, and that war shall be made against Slavery until it ceases from the United States. It is impossible to read the speeches and writings which circulate in the North, where the freedom of discussion still exists, which the South has exchanged for its favorite "domestic institution," without being aware of the utter falsehood of these statements. The South is not to be excluded from the Territories unless the Southrons consider themselves in the light, not of slaveholders, but of slaves. It is not sought to render the Supreme Court of the United States sectional, but to rescue it from the disgrace of being packed with judges placed there for the advocacy and promotion of Slavery, and we have not been able to discover a vestige even in the most excited speeches in an excited time of any intention, expressed or insinuated, to make war on the institution of Slavery.

But what matters all this? Not a single observation that we have ventured to make could be made in the Republic of South Carolina, thus auspiciously taking her place among the nations of the world. *Without law, without justice, without delay, she is treading in the path that leads to the downfall of nations and the misery of families. The helplessness of her cause is seen beneath all the pomp of her labored denunciation, and surely to her, if to any community of modern days, may be applied the words of the Hebrew Prophet, "a wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land. The Prophets prophesy falsely, and my people love to have it so."*

AN IRISH VIEW OF THE RIGHTS OF SLAVERY.

From The Galway Vindicator, Jan. 16.

The Revolution of '76 was fought by the American colonist for the rights of nations; that of France, in her first rising, for the rights of man. The question in the one was the power of self-taxation against British tyranny; that of the other, freedom from the most debauched kingly rule and aristocratic infamy with which the world was ever stricken. They were legitimate causes for war, and rebellion was consecrated under the circumstances. They simply meant a contest for human freedom, and an overthrow of monstrous abuses against industry, morality, religion, and the sacredest ties of humanity. Both revolutions have taught mankind a lesson, from the pupils in our schools to kings and statesmen. But neither America nor France has seemed the better of this teaching of history.

The nations of Europe are now armed to the teeth, in the name or under the pretence of liberty. But our brethren across the Atlantic Ocean are preparing their armaments in order to uphold the curse of Slavery! There never was an unholier cause than that of the Southern States, taken up for the purpose of a sanguinary civil war, and for lighting the fires of vengeance in a Republican Confederation, the greatest the world ever produced. In an age like this, it is one of the most extraordinary movements we know of. It is wrong in principle, inexpedient in action, and will be utterly unsuccessful. It will thus throw America back for fifty years to come, and so inflict a blow on a great commercial community that generations will feel to their remotest posterity.

The State of South Carolina has ignored its connection with the American Union. It has deliberately divorced itself from those federative ties which bound together a great nation. Two consequences must follow—either they will return to their proper position by some agreement or concession on both sides, or a civil war must follow in order to compel them. The Carolinians assert their right to this extreme step by laying before the country the fact that the States of Maine, New-Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New-York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Iowa, have enacted laws for the non-delivery up of escaped slaves, and thus have violated their constitutional obligations.

Viewing the question in the light they do, it is set down as a violation of the laws of property!—property in man, in woman, and in children!—property in men-stealers and in bloodhounds, which are the ferocious police to hunt escaping victims! They also deny the right of opinion, in morals or in practice, of the Northern States to encourage slaves to escape from chains and bondage! Why, this is an attempt to uproot the first principles of humanity, and to put the rights of flesh and blood, and Christianity, under the feet of a Cottonocracy more vile than the refined vultures of the French Revolution, who stirred up at last the stagnant puddle in the veins of the victims of the Court and aristocracy of that period.

The policy of the slaveowners is to compel the opponents of that fearful creed to a cooperation with them in making all America an immense field for Slavery!—or else—— This is a wild and preposterous fancy, and the attempt to enforce it by separation will only lead to results most disastrous to the States who shall proceed to that extremity. Under the present Anti-Slavery President, it could only end in compulsion, and perhaps the sweeping away of the whole internal system from the country, which has brought on it the scorn and derision of mankind. The entire public opinion of Europe is against American Slavery. It was whispered that England, for her own cupidity, might be inclined to favor the Cotton States, and that she was sounded on that head. But England, with all her faults, would be incapable of such a diabolical connection. The people of England detest Slavery; and the Parliament of England showed the animus of the country in the case of the West Indies.

The Daily News notices another event in American history, in connection with this point, of the secession of any one State, and it quotes M. de Tocqueville:

"Up to the present time the Federal Government, though it has been called upon to declare its right to stop Secession, has never acted upon the declaration. The question now is, whether it will act upon it at the present crisis, or, whether the predictions of M. de Tocqueville in his admirable work will be realized. 'It appears to me,' he says, 'unquestionable that if any portion of the United States seriously desired to separate itself from the other States, they would not be able—nor, indeed, would they attempt—to prevent it; and that the present Union will only last as long as the States which compose it choose to continue members of the Confederation. If this point be admitted the question becomes less difficult, and our object is not to inquire whether the States of the existing Union are capable of separating but whether they will choose to remain united.' It must not be imagined that this opinion of M. de Tocqueville implies any doubt as to the right of the Federal Government to interfere by force of arms in order to retain any of the States within the Union. The slightest consideration will show that the assertion of independence on the part of any one State can never be conceded; indeed, any such step must amount to revolution. But, admitting this, it may very well be that the non-Seceding States consider it more judicious to forego their strict rights, and so, practically, to acquiesce in the fact of Secession."

BY TELEGRAPH.

THE ULTIMATUM OF SOUTH CAROLINA SENT TO THE PRESIDENT.

WASHINGTON, Saturday, Feb. 2, 1861.

The President has received Col. Hayne's communication in regard to the public property in South Carolina, and demanding, in case he will not enter into negotiations for it, the surrender of Fort Sumter.

This letter has been prepared with great care, having been submitted to Messrs. Hunter and Mason, and also to Messrs. Benjamin and Slidell.

The President will reply to it as early as possible. His views are already well known to the people of South Carolina in regard to this matter. He has seen nothing in the events of the last few weeks to change them.

Lieut. Hall's departure for South Carolina, with official dispatches, has been postponed for the present. He expected to have gone to-night.

SEIZURE OF THE MINT AND PUBLIC MONEY AT NEW ORLEANS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2, 1861.

Some ten days ago Secretary Dix gave to Adams's Express Company a draft on the Assistant Treasurer at New-Orleans, for the purpose of transferring the coin and bullion in the Branch Mint in that city to the Mint in Philadelphia. The amount of the draft was three hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Three days ago he received a dispatch from Adams's agent in New-Orleans, stating that the amount would be delivered in two or three days, but that the Assistant Treasurer declined to deliver a part, assigning as a reason that he wished to pay the entire draft at once. The Secretary immediately telegraphed to the Treasurer to pay to the Express agent on that day as large an amount as the agent could transport. The coin and bullion are chiefly silver, weighing several tuns. To-day the Secretary has received a dispatch from the Express Company informing him that the Assistant Treasurer refused to pay any portion of the draft, and that the Branch Mint has been taken possession of by the authorities of the State of Louisiana.

The circumstances clearly indicate deliberate contrivance on the part of the State authorities to get possession of the money in the Mint. This action on their part is universally condemned, and is regarded by the Government as one of the most high-handed and outrageous transactions that has yet been perpetrated. Even South Carolina refused to take the money belonging to the Government, having accounted for and paid over every dollar to the United States.

On receipt of this news this morning the President called an extraordinary session of the Cabinet, and the whole subject was considered. It is understood that Senators Benjamin and Slidell were sent for to know if they were aware of this transaction. The Government, being without any official knowledge respecting this matter, immediately telegraphed the Collector and Treasurer to know the facts connected with this seizure. Up to a late hour this evening no reply had been received.

Col. John T. Magruder of the flying artillery, now on a tour of inspection in Europe, has been ordered home by the Government. His companies are now here.

One hundred guns were fired to-day by a detachment of United States artillery, in honor of the admission of Kansas. The first gun caused a thrill among the people, fearing it was the signal for something more serious.

LATER FROM PANAMA.

ARRIVAL OF THE NORTHERN LIGHT.

$1,516,154.

The steamship Northern Light left Aspinwall at 4½ p. m., Jan. 25, with 96 passengers in cabin, and 87 in steerage; $1,428,936 77 from San Francisco, and $85,218 from Aspinwall—total, $1,516,154 77. The schooner Louisa A. Thompson, with coal, arrived at Aspinwall Jan. 21, and the ship Lewis Coffin Jan. 23. The steamship Columbus, from Central America, arrived in Panama on the 20th. The Pacific Mail Steamship Company's steamer St. Louis, with Lady Franklin on board, arrived at Panama Jan. 21, 59 days 12 hours from New-York; all well. She sailed on the 24th for San Francisco. The steamship Lima, from South America, arrived at Panama Jan. 22, with news of the defeat of Mosquera, on the Plains of Coyote, near the City of Neiva, by Gen. Paris.

SPECIE LIST.

Order	$14,076	Treadwell & Co.	$15,000
Wm. Hoge & Co.	30,000	A. S. Rosenbaum & Co.	14,000
D. Ehrman & Co.	31,550	Eug. Kelly & Co.	77,000
Wm. Hoge & Co.	10,000	Cooney & O'Connor	11,000
Order	5,000	Richard Patrick	40,000
W. Heller & Co.	9,000	Stephen Tilton & Co.	9,000
Haffilin & Rosenstock	6,000	Baker & Morrill	1,552
Schell & Bros.	22,000	Metropolitan Bank	110,201
H. Cohn & Co.	14,000	Chas. D. Davis	2,274
Wm. Seligman & Co.	25,000	Jennings & Berry	9,000
Frank Baker	10,000	E. Naylor	12,000
J. Heller & Bro.	8,000	Aug. Belmont & Co.	180,000
Newstadler Bro.	15,000	C. W. Crosby	3,500
J. B. Weir	10,000	Alphens Hardy & Co.	1,500
Ballon & Sanders	22,000	W. F. Webb & Co.	14,000
J. Strauss, Bros. & Co.	32,000	J. A. Coghill	12,000
American Ex. Bank	15,000	Jas. Lee & Co.	1,000
W. T. Coleman & Co.	20,000	Duncan, Sherman & Co.	121,302
R. Meeder & O. Adams	11,000	Wells, Fargo & Co.	281,000
Jas. Patrick & Co.	20,000		

FROM ASPINWALL.

B. Blanco	$200	P. A. H. Lewis & Bros.	$200
S. Lanshugh & Bros.	4,150	E. H. Munoz & Co.	750
O. O. Hobson	72,421	Order	3,000
W. H. Huxsy	56	Pappan & Starbeck	3,307

MURDER OF THE HON. JOSEPH L. WHITE.

Letters from Nicaragua, which came by the last steamer, bring the following account of the death of the Hon. Joseph L. White:

"In the latter part of November, Mr. White left New-York for Nicaragua, in order to transact some business connected with the contract for gathering India-rubber in that country. A few hours after landing from the Guatemala, which reached Realejo in the early part of January, a man by the name of Gavett entered the hotel at which Mr. White was intending to spend the night, and began a most abusive attack upon him. The man, being evidently excited by drink, proceeded to the most insulting language, to which Mr. White replied with courtesy and gentlemanly forbearance.

"Suddenly, while Mr. White was standing about six feet from him, and totally unprepared, Gavett drew a Colt's revolver, and shot Mr. White a few inches below the left knee. A surgeon was sent for, but, owing to the entreaties of Mr. White, did not amputate the limb until mortification threatened to set in. The amputation took place while the patient was under the influence of chloroform, but, after the operation, Mr. White never rallied, and was only sensible for a few moments.

"All the Americans in that portion of the country attended his funeral, and a great excitement exists among them against his murderer, who was immediately arrested, and is now in prison.

"Gavett is a native of New-England, and has hitherto borne a good character. There is no accounting for the crime, except the fact that he was intoxicated when it was committed. This mournful news, which reached the family of Mr. White yesterday, has plunged them into the deepest affliction. Letters of condolence from the leading American citizens have been received, giving an account of the bravery and fortitude with which he endured his sufferings."

TWO SLAVERS CAPTURED.—Letters from Liberia to Dec. 15 have been received.

The schooner Quail, belonging to the Republic, had arrived at Monrovia from Gallinas, bringing with her two slave schooners as prizes to the Liberian Republic. The new mail steamer Seth Grosvenor, with the mails, left Monrovia on the 15th of December for Cape Palmas, where she would meet the British steamer bound home.

The Seth Grosvenor was doing a good business. She was under contract to take the Methodist Conference to Sinoe, and bring them back, and then was to take down the Baptist delegation to the Conference at Bassa or Sinoe, and bring them back.

FRANCE.

From Our Own Correspondent.

PARIS, Jan. 18, 1861.

The *Moniteur* at last states that the French squadron will leave the bay of Gaëta at the conclusion of the armistice. That ends to-morrow at sundown. It is probable that the Emperor has advised Francis II. to relinquish his obstinate defense of Gaëta; the advice not being taken, the Emperor leaves him to the care of the Piedmontese General, Cialdini and the Piedmontese Admiral by sea. There are indications of a good understanding between Napoleon and Emanuel's manager, Cavour. Neither of them wishes for war at present. To prevent Garibaldi from precipitating matters, his friend, the Hungarian Türr, who is also on good terms with Cavour and King Victor, has gone to Caprera on a mission from them. Cavour believes that circumstances will force Austria to yield up Venetia peacefully—if not, that time will be steadily weakening her and strengthening Italy for war. To distract Garibaldi's attention, from the French in Rome and the Austrians in Venice, he is to be urged to undertake a campaign against the Franciscans in the Abruzzi, who as yet defy the efforts at their defeat of the Sardinian General and his regular troops. It is strange, but true, that the European crowned heads are so largely dependent on felt-hatted Joseph of Caprera for the decision of the great question, Peace or War, in the Spring. If Joseph of Caprera will put off his expedition to the Dalmatian or other Adriatic coast, then is war put off. Unauthorized rumor says that the French ships released from Gaëta are to cruise in the Adriatic. It is not unlikely that Napoleon may have given up Francis on condition that Victor should give up Garibaldi. If war does break out between Austria and Italy Napoleon will not interfere, so long as the war is confined to those two parties. But as the chance is that after a very brief confinement of that sort this war will beget a larger one, France, like all other European nations, is making great preparations for it. Whenever Italy is in sore need of the military aid of France it is like to have it. For the last three or four days the prospect of war seems less near than it did ten days ago. Ten days hence it may close immediately up to the public mind again. Rouland, the Minister of Instruction, at the annual distribution of prizes last Sunday, to the most deserving pupils of the Philotechnique and Polytechnique Associations, (two admirable institutions for the gratuitous education in a high sort of adult Parisian mechanics and others, which must be further spoken of one of these days in this correspondence), added to his appropriate discourse to the pupils a political paragraph to the public. The purpose of this paragraph is to persuade the public that Government will strive to preserve peace among the nations, and meditates no encroachment on the rights of the Church. It has small effect to quiet the anxiety or damp the partisan zeal of the Ultramontane party, which were never more excited than now. Francis II. is really the standard-bearer of this political-church militant. The members are wofully worked up by Napoleon's desertion of him.

The Senate will meet next Tuesday to deliberate(?) on the measure of Constitutional reform recommended in the Imperial decree of Nov. 24. The object of the *Senatus consultum* therein proposed, is, you will recollect, to grant official publicity to full reports of the doings of the Senate and legislative body. After the special session of the Senate, both it and the Legislature (so-called) are convoked for the 4th of February, for their yearly session. To the Emperor's inaugural speech on that occasion, and to the responsive address of the legislative body, and the debates upon it, we are looking with great interest. Many hope, some go so far as to confidently expect, to find in them the beginnings of a parliamentary constitutional régime. It has long been rumored, and is getting to be confidently expected, that Napoleon will invite the Assembly, at least give it the opportunity, to share with him the responsibility of his treatment of the Roman and Syrian questions.

Qui vivra verra. Let us change the theme. Here is always the fruitful 5th of the weather, which is not a commonplace, for the weather has been highly uncommon for a year past. It has, as much as any top-loftiest Great European Power, to do with politics and finance, let alone smaller grave matters. Western Europe's short crops and American full crops, and the flow of European gold to the loosely United States, all came of last year's weather. Late inundations of Spanish rivers largely ruinous to property; rains and deep mud retarding besieging works against Gaëta; terrible inundations and cold drowning and freezing hundreds of poor Hollanders, washed out of house and home, all these are weather doings. Here in France, too, we have had inundations of a somewhat serious sort. In the up-river part of Paris, what used to be Bercy, the Seine ran along the streets, where boats took the office of carriages. That was ten days ago. Since then the river has sunk more than ten feet. It had not been so high since 1802. "*Est elle heureuse, La Seine?*" exclaimed Diane de Poitiers, who was a late riser, when some one told that beautiful, improper female that the river did leave its bed once in ten years.

"Weather, regarded from a French point of view," would be a fruitful theme for a good study of Paris manners and customs. For they do these weather things so differently (I do not say better—patriotism forbid!) in France. After the snow and rain, we have had cold of late, unusual in intensity, although, I think, 14 degrees above zero, Fahrenheit, marks the low