THE PRO-SLAVERY REBELLION.

FROM WASHINGTON.

FRAUD AND TREASON.

EXECUTIVE IMBECILITY—GOLDEN CIRCLE—OLD MEN'S CONVOCATION — OBSTRUCTION TO LEGISLATION—THE PROPOSED TARIFF AND LOAN.

From Our Special Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Feb. 14, 1861.

The experience of the country is showing that it is very necessary to have a President who is something more than a bag of straw. Gen. Jackson advised Mr. Polk not to take Mr. Buchanan into his Cabinet, as he was unfit for any such position. He little thought the Pennsylvanian would reach the Executive Chair itself. But he has done so, and we see the consequences. The Union broken, the authority of the Government defied, the Treasury bankrupt, the public securities plundered, the Mints and Sub-Treasury robbed by the very officials who were set to guard them, the forts and arsenals left to fall into the hands of traitors, treason stalking in the departments, and demoralization and disentegration penetrating the whole structure of the Government. Never was a more deplorable spectacle presented to the public gaze in any country.

Last of all we have this exposition of the sublime robbery and fraud in the War Department, and the very men implicated in it still retained in service. For it is understood that Floyd's Assistant Secretary still officiates in that capacity. The great question in official circles is, what has become of these millions raised on Floyd's acceptances? Nobody pretends that Russell had them all. There must be an immense sum which has been drained off into other channels. Floyd has been the chief agent in arming the Revolutionists, and in furnishing ammunition and military stores to them in enormous quantities. He organized his bureaus in the Department so as to permit full swing to the traitors. Honest men were displaced to give room to agents specially deputed to carry out the monstrous scheme of breaking up the Government, and surrendering its fortresses and arsenals, its troops and its ships, into the hands of the Slave-holding Rebels.

Can there be doubt that he furnished money also? Cobb and Thomas left a million in New-Orleans to be stolen by the traitors, and hundreds and thousands at other points which has shared the same fate. But Floyd has been the chief agent of all the rascality of the Administration, and though exposed time after time before now, poor Mr. Buchanan has never, up to this time, paid the least attention to a single villainy that has been brought to light.

It is known that there has been some time on foot a secret political society called the Knights of the Golden Circle, whose operations have been mostly in the South, and whose objects are known to be to dissolve the Union, break up the Government, capture Washington, and invade and occupy all Northern Mexico. The managers of this secret society have been actively at work all the season, traveling over the country, laying out their plans, perfecting their organization, and preparing for the revolution now in progress in the Gulf States. An extensive military organizatian of this order exists on the frontier of Texas to-day, ready for duty. Where has the money come from to sustain this organization?

Is it a strained inference that it has come from the stolen bonds of the United States, and the proceeds of Floyd's acceptances? Wherever the treason has come to light, it has been traced directly back to the departments, and to the confidential advisers of the President, Floyd being the chief. *Is it too much to assume that where the plot is not yet exposed its ramifications can be all traced back to the same center?*

The amazing weakness and imbecility of a President that could allow a gigantic scheme of treason, permeating one half the country, to go on for years directly under his nose, may well teach a lesson to the American people in regard to their duties in the election of a Chief Magistrate.

The old men's conference seem gradually coming to the approval of Crittenden's proposition to establish Slavery throughout the Territories south of 36° 30′. Sometimes we hear it is Guthrie's proposition, and sometimes Reverdy Johnson's, that is in favor, but they are all the same in substance, while differing a little in terms and details. But nothing of the sort can get the two-thirds of Congress, necessary to give them the first lift into the Constitution. A *Congressional* compromise is always within reach, at any kind of a crisis, got up by the politicians, but the rascals are this time after something of a more enduring character. We shall know when they get it. It is to be hoped the old gentlemen will find it convenient to go home soon, and leave the Government to the hands of those who are elected to administer it.

Steps ought to be taken to declare the seats of the seceding members vacant in both Houses. The first thing we are likely to know is, when the steps are initiated to execute the laws in the South, and put a blockade force, the runaway members with Toombs at their head, will rush back into Congress and interpose legislative obstructions. Such conduct would not be one whit more audacious than the thousand other features of this astounding rebellion.

Mr. Simmons has given a full and intelligent explanation of the new tariff satisfactory to everybody but those who do not want to be satisfied. The traitors are against it, as they are against everything necessary to strengthen the military arm or the finances of the nation. It is lucky one batch of the seceders are out. If they had all remained, they would have brought the Government to a dead-lock in every branch of the service. Who would wish the scoundrels back again?

It was only after great opposition that the Naval Appropriation bill, providing for some much needed iron steamers, was got through the Senate. It was fiercely opposed by Mason, as it was by Hunter and others, and voted against by the Southern Senators in a body. It is a palpable fact that this Government cannot get through the difficulties before it, except by securing the vacation of the seats of the members of the Seceding States. It is just as much as can be done now, with the small remainders of Secessionists left. Our Constitution does not contemplate organized treason in the Government, and is very poorly shielded against it.

The Treasury is ashore hard and fast. It has not even market money. The money-lenders talk like fools, in saying the Government must compromise before they will unbutton. Peabody's letter should open their eyes. Mr. Sherman proposes that the Secretary of the Treasury should issue notes of $50 and upward to creditors, drawing 6 per cent interest, in preference to accepting bids for a loan at less than par. This is true ground. The time has come for the Government to show at least a little self-respect. Mr. Simmons justly ridiculed the proposition of Secretary Dix, to get the indorsement of the States to a United States Loan. The proposition is, although Mr. Simmons did not say it, just calculated to cast discredit on Government stocks. Why should our own Cashier propose to get an indorser for the notes he proposes to emit? What would be thought of the credit of a bank that should propose to issue a circulation on such a basis? Mr. Dix has made a mistake, and a very gross one.

J. S. P.

FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.

PROGRESS, PROGRESS.

From Our Own Correspondent.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Feb. 12, 1861.

There would seem to be no intention on the part of the rebels to relinquish the control of the question of besieging Fort Sumter; on the contrary, they have at no time been so active as at present in preparing for that formidable undertaking. Instead of diminishing their army, they are daily increasing the number of men under arms. On Sullivan's, Morris, and James Islands, there are rising 3,000 soldiers, while in and around the city there are probably not less than 1,500 more, that could be called into the field within a few hours' notice. It is a boast heard on all hands that in the event of an extreme emergency the entire male population of Charleston capable of bearing arms, and some portion of the female also, would rush to the scene of conflict without regard to consequences. My observation teaches me that there is a good deal of ground for the boast.

The Rebel leaders assert that they have twelve points from which the attack on Fort Sumter will be opened, although, after a tolerably close inspection, I cannot count so many. The light-house and most of the other batteries on Morris Island, except the one at Cumming's Point, will be of but little service in the siege, their distance from the Fort being too great. They are mainly serviceable in defending the mouth of the harbor. As I have before stated, the battery at Cumming's Point will prove the ugliest customer to Fort Sumter, more, however, from the fact that it is located so as to bear directly on the weak point of the Fort, than from any remarkable peculiarities of its own. There is no disguising the fact, however, that it is a formidable fortress, the work of nearly a thousand men for a month. In providing against the heavy guns brought to bear on it from Fort Sumter, a large quantity of railroad iron has been used, besides cotton bales, Palmetto logs, and mountains of sand. The Rebels are persuading themselves that this work has been constructed so as to be secure from the shots that Sumter will pour into or against it. The distance is three-fourths of a mile.

Although it seems to be expected now that the Southern Confederacy will assume control of the question, if I were to judge from the movements which I see on all hands, and from what I hear spoken from all mouths, I should say that everybody expected the attack which has been so long contemplated would soon be made. It is only the supposition now current that the confederated authorities will have another policy, that has given rise to the idea; the siege will be continued in no manner different from what it has been kept up for upward of a month. If there is to be a change of policy, and the siege abandoned, there certainly is no outward evidence of it. The reverse is the fact. Nor is it entirely certain, as I have before remarked, that should the command to abandon the siege, or rather to stay more active operations, be given, it would be obeyed by the South Carolinians encamped around Fort Sumter. I think it admits of much doubt whether they would yield assent to a policy so utterly at variance with their every idea and impulse. I may not be able to give a reason, satisfactory even to myself, nevertheless I am unable to relinquish the belief that Fort Sumter will be attacked after the manner of the formidable preparations of the rebels. It may be postponed some days, possibly even till Lincoln has been inaugurated, and a demand for its surrender made of his Administration by the Confederated authorities, though it is the well-known policy of Carolina to make the attack at the earliest day possible after they are ready; for they believe that the policy of the incoming Administration will be vigorous and positive, not only in defense of the fort, but to regain possession of those now in the hands of the rebels.

The impression has obtained here within the last few days—since the return of Col. Hayne—that it is the policy at Washington, inspired by Gen. Scott and Secretary Holt, to concentrate reënforcements, in ships of war and other transport vessels, at some favorable point—probably Hampton Roads—to leave for Charleston on the instant that it is known that the siege has been commenced. It seems to be understood that, while the Government will do nothing to produce collision, even by undertaking to reënforce Major Anderson, there will not be a single moment's longer forbearance after the rebels have opened on Fort Sumter. Therefore it is believed, and apparently on good authority, that reënforcements will be introduced the earliest moment possible after Carolina shall have fired her first gun on the Fort, and that, too, with an array of strength that will render improbable the repetition of the Star of the West sham.

The scheme doubtless embraces a full realization of the difficulties and hazards that must attend its execution. It must be known to the Government that no ship can enter Charleston Harbor without encountering the fire from several batteries located on both sides of the harbor. It would seem that the expedition should be prepared to engage those batteries with heavily-armed vessels of light draft. It is entirely certain that the Star of the West reached within from three to five minutes of Fort Sumter, and then occupied nearly that length of time in turning and backing out, all of which time she was under the fire of the Light-House Battery. By sinking vessels in the old ship channel, the rebels intended to prevent a repetition of the undertaking through that channel, and compel the entrance of all ships by the Maffit's channel, which is guarded by several batteries on Sullivan's Island. An entrance through that channel would, therefore, be attended by many more adverse chances than by the channel taken by the Star of the West. I am quite firm in the belief that that channel is now open as it was then, for I am inclined to credit the report that the sunken vessels have been washed out, leaving the channel even better than it was before. The Government should be able to know for a certainty, for it is a point of prime importance in the matter of reënforcing Fort Sumter.

The reassembling of the Convention will probably take place within the next two weeks, the action of the Montgomery Congress having made it necessary.

The work on the floating battery goes forward as rapidly as possible. I do not relinquish my doubts as to its practicability; and, judging from remarks I occasionally hear dropped, some doubts exist on the subject among the rebels themselves.

The Mercury this morning enters its "protest" to the doings of the Montgomery meeting generally, but more especially for adopting the Federal Constitution and laws—and therefore the tariff and anti-slave-trade laws. I have from the first insisted that with South Carolina the darling idea of this rebellion was the slave-trade. We have the fact now cropping out at all points. I desire to call attention to a single paragraph of *The Mercury's* article, which I quote:

"We deem it also unfortunate and *mal apropos* that the stigma of illegitimacy and illegality should be placed upon the institution of Slavery by a fundamental law against the slave trade. In our opinion it is a matter of policy, and not of principle, to be decided now and hereafter, from sound views of the necessities and safety of our peoples. We think it a proper subject of legislation. We are willing to prohibit it by legal enactment like any other topic of legislation. But while England imports her thousands of Coolie slaves, and France here, under the farcical appellation of 'apprentices'—while they are striving by these means to compete with us and supersede us, in producing the tropical productions of slave labor—while we have within our reach a large scope of fertile territory uncultivated in Texas, and may have long the silver mines of Arizona, and the teeming States of Mexico, to populate and reduce to agricultural productiveness—it seems to us shortsighted, weak and sentimental to preclude forever, by fundamental enactment, the adoption of a policy that may become essential to our appropriate growth and expansion, and to our successful competition with the hypocritical nations of Europe."

Defeated in her darling idea, Secession, revolution, and rebellion will soon cease to have any charms in the eyes of the fire-eaters, particularly should the Jeff. Davis dynasty veto the attack on Fort Sumter. Indeed, we begin to feel ourselves quite out of the ring here. On this particular point *The Courier* makes the following demand:

"South Carolina being fully prepared, and her citizens being eager to make good the demand for the surrender of Fort Sumter, Congress will, we trust, see the necessity of prompt action with regard to the possession of that important fortification. Our troops are ready to move in solid phalanx when the word march shall be given. The position that South Carolina has taken, renders it necessary that immediate measures be adopted for the secure possession, by her citizens, of all the fortinications in her limits."

A number of huge mortars, shipped from Richmond, have arrived within the last few days. They are destined for the Sullivan's Island battery. Ammunition in large quantities is transported to the various fortresses, all within pistol-shot of Fort Sumter.

It is now well understood that the officers and others among the Rebels who have had actual military experience have little or no faith in the projected attack on Fort Sumter. They declare that in no light can it be justified by any known rules of warfare or military science. Even if the fort should finally be captured, the cost of life would be wholly disproportioned to the value of the acquisition. The attack, if made, will prove a murderous folly.

FROM GEORGIA.

A LOOKING-FOR OF JUDGMENT.

From Our Special Correspondent.

SAVANNAH, Feb. 7, 1860.

The Montgomery Convention, has, as yet, done nothing to satisfy either the curiosity or the suspense of the public mind. Perhaps we should except from the first part of our statement the election of Howell Cobb, ex-Secretary of the United States Treasury, and demolisher of the same, as President of the Convention. This gentleman, we have heard remarked, has "won the love" of his fellow countrymen "by managing that treasury business" so well. Others remark of him that he has a genius for "wire-pulling," but is quite undeserving of great confidence. The ballance of the account we cheerfully leave posterity to strike. "A tub to this whale," the convention has evidently thought best to throw; whether the act is also a gentle intimation that the higher honors are reserved for those who have shrank instinctively from breach of trust even as a revolutionary measure, the future may tell us. But as we have said, the suspense of the public mind remains unsatisfied, and it is growing painful, especially to all business men. Business cannot prosper, or even progress in such an unsettled state of affairs. President Buchanan, by his vascilating course, has only succeeded in convincing all parties that he has neither the nerve nor the ability for the crisis; and that it is his intention to simply postpone emergencies till he can shuffle out of the responsibilities of his office. This leaves the future to the decision of a President as yet untried, and, in this section, comparatively unknown. The general impression however, is that the Jacksonian qualities found so effectual in the crisis of a former time, are possessed in good degree by Mr. Lincoln. While this lends confirmation to the hope that his installation into office will at once put an end to the present uncertainties, it also serves to deepen the seriousness with which all classes are beginning to regard the probability of civil war. The adherance of the Federal Government to its sworn duties, oblivious of the changes which the South assumes to have taken place, will evidently seriously interfere with the prosperity of the Southern people. They are, therefore, now reminded by their leaders of the necessity of devoting their coming year's labor to the production of the necessaries of life, at the expense of the cotton crop. To one cognizant of the real condition of the Southern country, the advice seems very appropriate. "A crop and a half will be necessary to carry us through to another year." This is true in Georgia, which can easily raise all, and does raise the principal part of her corn and pork. Yet she too must sacrifice on her cotton crop the coming year to satisfy the maniac maw of Secession. How much greater must be the derangement of business in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, accustomed to rely almost exclusively upon the products of the North-West?

The Convention, then, is looked to with anxiety to provide some effective scheme of Union, some feasible plans for the common defense and welfare. Verily, are they not launched upon a sea of troubles? Who so wise as to foresee the future; who so prudent as to prepare for it; who so all-powerful as to fuse the discordant elements, and to wield their composed power effectively? Unfortunately, the new Confederacy cannot avoid the onus of rebellion, and of offensive measures against "the old Federal Government" as the National Government is irreverently termed, probably from the fact of its having fallen into the hands of an O. P. F., rather than because of its having reached the Scriptural limit of three-score and ten. However pleasant and glorious it may be for the father of a family to stand up in a great passion and swear by all the gods that he will defend his "home, his altar, and his fireside," to the last drop of his blood, it becomes slightly ridiculous to strike the "defensive" attitude around said home, altar, and fireside, when not the slightest prospect opens for the appearance of the said enemy. When, on the contrary, Uncle Samuel, about to be ousted from his favorite seats, demurs to such dispossession, and remarks, in some heat, that "by the eternal," he will defend *his* home, *his* altar, and *his* fireside, somehow the tables seem to be turned around all at once, and an involuntary respect, as well as fear, arise to stay the impious hand of violence. All sensible and sober-minded men, here as well as elsewhere, desire to avoid bloodshed. They desire also to escape the responsibility of occasioning it. But how can that be effected? Forts Sumter and Pickens are the centers about which gather the destinies of the future. That blood is soon to flow there, seems not unlikely. Those who would fain prevent it, may not have the power to do so in certain periods of excitement likely to soon arise. The Provisional Government of the South, if one is formed, can do nothing to escape the responsibility of attack upon the National Government. If it permits, or promotes the assault of United States forts, it is equally responsible for the opening of treasonable war. With the dawning of this consciousness of a really offensive and rebellious attitude, begins to disappear all that bosh about "coercion;" and the fuming passion of a man preparing to resist oppression, is forced to give way to the serious consideration of consequences for which no one is responsible but himself.

Such, then, is the anxious and troubled aspect of Southern affairs. The first jubilant frenzy of Secession abated, leaves a dreary consciousness of the deep incertitude hanging over the future. Even those who augur peaceable separation from the North express but little hope of union at home. Peace with the North in fact dissolves the only real bond of union among the seceding States. Seceders themselves say, "The Confederacy will not last ten years." This want of faith in the permanence of a condition which they seemed so anxious to secure, arises in part, perhaps mostly, from their knowledge of the passionate, impatient and self-willed character of their politicians. "I was in hopes," says one, "that these old politicians would have been left out of the Convention altogether." Yet they are all there. And they have a right to be. The people allowed these men to mislead them into their present quagmire; theirs should be the effort and the responsibility of rescuing their victims. Should their efforts prove unavailing, as most assuredly they will; should they prove unable to show the occasion for the ills the future has surely in store, and to provide a better condition of things than the much-abused past has offered, then the reflux of this popular wave is not far off, which will overwhelm them past resurrection.

There is a considerable number of foolish and rum-inspired men who desire war, who would welcome bloodshed, and who for a time would riot in the horrors which peaceable men shrink from. But the mass of the Southern people, as of all others, have one dominant desire, and that is for *peace*. They are willing to let well enough alone. They have no desire to realize the condition of that simpleton who having dosed himself with drugs, reflected upon his folly in this wise: "I was well; wished to be better—and here am I."

SEIZING THE SHIPS—LYNCHING AN ENGLISHMAN.

From Our Special Correspondent.

SAVANNAH, Feb. 9, 1861.

Two exciting events have recently transpired in this city, of which you will have heard ere this can reach you. The seizure of the New-York vessels, by way of reprisal, despite the general approval, occasions a very general anxiety for the result. It may occasion counter-seizures in New-York. It must, at all events, have the effect to increase the present timidity of commerce, and thus to subserve very effectually the purpose of a self-blockading measure. It would seem, indeed, that the seizure at New-York can be legally justified only as a Federal act; that the interference of the State or local authorities cannot be excused unless by the revolutionary character of the times, and by the miserable inefficiency of the General Government. Nevertheless, the present *denouement* indicates in advance what the future has in store sooner or later. To this complexion the strife must come at last; the unlawful and unconstitutional measures of the seceding States must be assented to in toto, or resisted with all the power of the Federal Government. Such events as these, therefore, only serve to hasten the crisis, and to prepare men's minds for it. And it is probably true that the Southern people have been allowed so long to drift down the current of Secession without resistance, almost without remonstrance, on the part of the General Government, that their act has come to be regarded by them as a foregone conclusion; they see no way of return now; they can recognize but one course open for them, and that is out into the open, unknown sea. They have grown, indeed, really contemptuous of the Government which has demurred so little to their violence. The cautious and respectful regard for existing laws which once prevailed is now the subject of mockery and scorn. Uncle Sam is dethroned. Yankee Doodle is dead. The souvenirs of the past are trampled under foot. Such is the state of things in the hot-beds of Secession. Success has made men contumacious of all past restraints. The leaders have grown bold in their past security. They now feel strong in the disarmament of the Federal Government which they have, with its own active coöperation, succeeded in effecting. They feel assured in the Union which they believe they have made necessary among the Southern States, and the Southern people; but they feel doubly assured in the disunion and division of feeling and purpose which they believe to prevail at the North.

From the beginning it was evident to all but the willfully blind that "compromises" offered nothing but encouragement to the proposed secession of the Gulf States; that the surety of conflict with the Federal Government was the only thing which could restrain them by bringing out the vote against Secession which has now remained unexpressed, or has been gradually swept away by the imbecile weakness of the Executive at Washington. The process of Secession has hitherto been undisturbed except by its own inevitable home effects, and even these are not yet appreciated or experienced in full. The people at large have no realization of the change. In fact it may be said that a very large portion of the people of the South are essentially, if not absolutely, ignorant of the important events of the last four months. In these sparse settlements, news travels slowly. It is in cities, festering with corruption, and debased by intoxication, that political as well as other fevers have their sudden rise, their extravagant progress, and their deplorable results. Here the mob, to whose passions politicians play the pander, now and then take it into their heads to lead their leaders, and to put a period to their extravagance by some act of overgrown insolence and presumption, from which even the most unscrupulous shrink. Such is now the case in Savannah. All through the past Summer and Fall, the political associations, secret and others, have been hotbeds of violence. One of these was the "Rattlesnake Club," a secret association in the interest of Secession. Under the pretense of protecting the peace of the city from incendiaries and slave insurrections, such associations as this have taken upon them to crush all freedom of speech, to empty the vials of drunken wrath upon whomsoever aroused suspicion of the least affiliation with Republicanism, or upon any whom public or private prejudice saw fit to denounce as fit subjects for their attentions. It may be that these organizations included many persons of respectability, and of good intentions. But, as usually results with secret societies founded upon prejudice and passion, the control of them speedily passed into the hands of the most unprincipled and violent. Their course before election was such as to prompt the remonstrance and resistance of the city authorities; for no one could help seeing that, if things went on thus, the end would be that no citizen, however worthy, could have the least security against outrage. Recently this ruffian spirit has culminated in an act which, it may be hoped, will put an end to such associations altogether. An English captain, for some trivial cause, having aroused the passions or prejudice of some member or members of the "Rattlesnake Club," has been recently seized upon, whipped, tarred and feathered, and brutally maltreated. The news of the act came like a thunder-clap upon the city. It is plain to every one who knows the spirit of the English nation that they would rise as one man to resent and summarily punish at any cost such an outrage upon one of their citizens. Even for an offense against the laws of the State, the English people would insist upon the application of legal punishment and no other. But for an unauthorized and unmitigated outrage upon the rights and person of a British subject, the English nation would not hesitate a moment to declare and wage war to the bitter end, unless reparation were made. In this case the British Consul instantly offered a reward of $1,000 for the conviction of the guilty parties. The Governor follows with an Executive offer of the same amount; and the City Government followed suit. So much to appease the wrath of the British Lion! The reflection cannot fail to be suggested to every mind, that it is full time that the United States Government had manifested a similar sense of its obligations to its citizens. Truly, for the past decade, it has utterly disowned all its responsibilities of this sort in the Southern States. Had it recognized them sooner, and shown itself to be really and truly a Government, it would not now be thrown off and discarded with such contempt by the Southern people themselves.

To be sure, the Southern State Governments themselves have been equally regardless of the rights of their own citizens. They have allowed the mob spirit to have its way in all cases of partisan prejudice and passion: and it is only when this spirit threatens to culminate in utter anarchy, or to bring down the vengeance of one of the real "powers of the earth," that Southern authorities awaken to a sense of duty. This is, indeed, the great characteristic fault of Southern society—*its want of respect for the law.* This will show itself yet more plainly in the future of the South, if it become a purely slaveholding confederacy. The more complex the relations of a society, the greater its need of law. Simplify the structure of Southern society to that of a mere slaveholding agricultural community, and the law of private redress for wrongs, and private vengeance for injuries, gradually and completely supplants the arm of constituted authorities. Compare the present state of Southern sentiment on this subject of law, with the public sentiment of England with its nicely arranged network of interests, and the contrast is very great indeed. In the one case, it may be said that the public voice demands the rigid execution of the laws for the sake of the community, at whatever expense to the individual; while in the other, the public sentiment approves the exercise of sudden passion and revenge on the part of the individual at whatever expense to the public security or well-being. In the one society, the humblest individual feels assured against personal violence by the broad shield which the law holds over him; in the other, protection is sought in one's self, or in social connections—in reputation for courage, or in "popularity." However much this necessary dependence upon self for protection may tend to promote respectful and conciliatory intercourse in Southern society, it as evidently tends to educate the people to disrespect for law, and to develop in them prematurely and excessively the passions of pride and revenge. Disunion will serve to aggravate all this; for intercourse with the North, with its diversity of interests protected by law, as well as its necessary contact with a public sentiment more reverent of public authority, has tended to moderate and restrain the natural tendencies of Southern society. May it not safely be predicted that the same causes which have made Northern intercourse distasteful to the South will continue to operate till they have alienated them from the whole world? The same super-sensitiveness to difference of opinion on the subject of Slavery which forces every Northern man dealing with the South to play the hypocrite or submit to violence will have to encounter in the English people a far more unyielding and uncompromising sentiment of opposition. To play the tyrant over English free thought and free speech is already recognized as not quite so pleasant and safe an undertaking as has been that of violating the plainest obligations of the Constitution of "the late United States of America."

The heavy rains of the past month have not served to feed the military passion of the "defenders of the South." Fevers and influenzas have afflicted the occupants of our forts to a considerable degree. The Jackson Artillery sent from Macon to St. Simon's Island, on rumor of a fillibustering expedition proposed by John Brown, jr., and James Redpath, must have had a pleasant time with their "penitentiary" wheelbarrows, during the late storms. At Fort Pulaski, the volunteers so prompt to offer in "defense of their country" found war to assume a very forbidding aspect at first. It came to them, also, in the shape of spades and wheelbarrows—important auxiliaries in the art of fortification. It did *not* come in the shape of luxurious fare and downy couches, but in fare "too poor for niggers." One or two revolted from the "digging in the ground," and were accommodated with imprisonment instead. Sore and blistered hands rapidly increased, till at last the "everlasting nigger" had to be "brought in" again. The Southern soldiery came to fight, not to work; and, if it could be managed so, conveniently, they would like very well to be all officers, and to have their own way.

FROM MARYLAND.

A PEEP IN UPON THE UNION-SAVING CONGRESS.

From Our Own Correspondent.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 13, 1861.

I ran over to the Federal capital yesterday to see how the Union-Saving Congress was getting on, and to take a hand, if possible, in the patriotic work of assuaging the grief of our opponents, who find it so difficult a task to keep themselves from carrying the Border Slave States into the gulf of perdition, simply because Lincoln and Hamlin have beaten them; for this is the real cause of discontent, gloss it over as you may, with all the palaver about Southern rights, &c. Besides, there are some baker's dozen of old and valued friends in that Congress, all of them Ex's, and I wanted to shake them by the hands once more this side of the grave.

It was a May day of the first water, and every body seemed satisfied with each other. I mean, every body who had not been bitten by the Palmetto Rattlesnake; and even many of them were rapidly convalesing, and actually had a smile for their pitying neighbors and former friends. The very atmosphere seemed to be buoyant with fidelity to the Federal Government, and the soldiers, usually so distasteful to Americans, actually imparted a sense of security such as we never used to realize. They were there to defend the capital from traitors, and people fraternized with them with great unction.

Of course, secrecy is the order of the day in the Amateur Congress, and so I could not get at any facts from that source; but somehow or other, outsiders were not ignorant of what was going on inside, and the various plans of adjustment were freely discussed among the knowing ones.

The result of my observations may be summed up in a few words. The elections in Virginia and Tennessee have cooled the ardor of the Compromisers down to freezing point, Fahrenheit, and the prospect was, last evening, that no serious effort would be made to arrest the progress of the natural current that is rapidly drifting us toward and past the 4th of March. The attempt of the six rebellious States to dam up that current has resulted so disastrously to the Canutes engaged in it, that I found very little disposition to try it in the Border Slave States. As one said to me, yesterday, the attempt to stop the onward course of the United States Government, is very much like trying to stop the downward current of the Father of Waters with a shingle!

A Virginia Delegate, about whose patriotism and love of the Government no one would doubt, if I could repeat his name, expressed himself to me perfectly ready to accept the result of last November's election as the law of the land, and to obey it cheerfully, nay, to lend a hearty support to Mr. Lincoln, holding him responsible for the execution of his office; but the difficulty he had was to get the notion out of the heads of the people of Virginia that the Republicans intended to interfere with Slavery in the States. "An error sowed broadcast by your own orators and presses." "True," said he. "Will not the unanimous vote of the House, indorsing Mr. Sherman's resolution, or rather the plank in the Chicago platform, that neither the Federal Government nor the States, nor the people of the States, have a right to do any such thing, tend to open the eyes of the people of Virginia on this subject?" "I think so," said he.

The efforts on the part of certain of the Compromisers, who are fighting the battle for the Secedant States, to keep up the flame of excitement, are evidently losing effect. Every day that abridges the gulf between now and the 4th of March, tends to put out the Secession fire. The course of the Montgomery cabal, itself tends to the same result, for there is no longer any danger from an attack upon Forts Sumter and Pickens. "Tennessee has done for us," said a fire-eater to-day. "And Maryland will doubly do for you," I replied, "if Gov. Hicks will give the people a chance to vote on the question." "You are right," said he despondently. "North Carolina's voice will seal the fate of Secession, beyond the hope of resurrection, in my judgment," I remarked. "Not a doubt of it," said my interlocutor, who, ten days ago, wanted to fight me for opposing him.

Gov. Hicks, whose firmness prevented our fillibusters from precipitating the State of Maryland into the foolish expense incident upon calling the Legislature together, and harrassing our people with the question of a Convention, I am sorry to say, is giving out in Washington, that unless a Compromise is speedily effected, he cannot hold out much longer, but must yield to the clamor of Ex-Gov. Lowe & Co. Now Gov. Hicks knows perfectly well, that the people of Maryland will vote down any call for a Convention, intended to disturb our existing relations to the Federal Government, seven to two, at least, if not nine to one. It was this knowledge of the temper of Maryland, that justified him in refusing to assemble the Legislature at all. And he knows, too, that he is not going to call that body together, for the simple reason, that it will speedily terminate his official life, by an impeachment!

This threat, or rather intimation, will have no effect upon the deliberations of the Conference, because they are just as correctly advised of the true state of things in Maryland as the Governor is. And so, too, the threat that Virginia will secede unless a Compromise is effected, will be treated by the Conference as a *brutum fulmen.*

Ex-Member of Congress Ricaud heads the Union men of Kent County, and declares for the Union under all circumstances, but will be satisfied with a Compromise that shall give us new advantages. S. Teakle Wallis, esq., of this city, is out in to-day's *American*, declaring that he is not for Secession under any aspect of the case. Secessionism is becoming as scarce in this State