THE NEW YORK HERALD.

LE NO. 8879. SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 30, 1860. PRICE TWO CENTS.

THE REVOLUTION.

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

Resignation of the Secretary of War.

Extraordinary Ultimatum of the South Carolina Commissioners.

The Action of the House Crisis Committee.

The Admission of New Mexico, with or Without Slavery, Recommended.

Seizure of a Revenue Cutter by the South Carolinians.

The Captain of the Slaver Bonita Rescued by a Charleston Mob.

The Attitude of the Non-Slaveholding States.

Preparations for War in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Forthcoming Special Message of the President,

&c., &c., &c.

OUR WASHINGTON DESPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28, 1860.

The Cabinet have just adjourned, after a protracted session of six hours. The affairs at Charleston was the subject under consideration. Secretary Floyd stated to the President, in writing, that unless Major Anderson was withdrawn from Fort Sumpter he could not remain in the Cabinet. Secretaries Thompson and Thomas were understood to entertain the same view, but the events of to-day changed their minds somewhat. The President determined, after full deliberation, not to withdraw Major Anderson, and Mr. Floyd's resignation was therefore accepted.

Secretary Floyd's resignation is explained as follows.—The South Carolina Commissioners demanded, as an ultimatum, the withdrawal of all the federal forces from the Charleston forts. The President was willing to restore the *status quo*, besides disclaiming Major Anderson's course, but would not concede the demand to withdraw all the forces. The issue in Cabinet was upon this point, Mr. Floyd taking sides with the Commissioners' demand, and the Executive opposing it, and hence Mr. Floyd resigned.

Among the persons named as Mr. Floyd's successor is Gen. Benjamin F. Butler, of Massachusetts, who has been in confidential consultation with the President for several days.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28, 1860.

The federal capital was in a state of unwonted quiet all day until five this afternoon. The movements of the South Carolina Commissioners ceased to attract much attention, a visit to the Capitol, and paying their respects to Speaker Pennington and other dignitaries, being all that they did of a public character. They were all day without a despatch from the seat of trouble, which fact they attributed to an interruption of the wires. They made no further call upon the President, nor is it likely they will from present appearances.

That the Cabinet was holding a protracted session was all of public interest that was occurring. In short, there was nothing exciting or alarming going on, on the street or in private councils, when suddenly the town, at the hour above mentioned, was set into another blaze of excitement by a report, coming through trustworthy channels, that Mr. Floyd, Secretary of War; Mr. Thomas, Secretary of the Treasury, and Mr. Thompson, Secretary of the Interior, had all resigned, on the ground, as was alleged, that the President had refused to order Major Anderson to return with his force to Fort Moultrie.

So current and apparently reliable was the rumor, that Senators, representatives, the South Carolina Commissioners, and many others having access to well informed circles, reiterated it, and generally expressed a belief that it was the fact.

After investigation, however, at headquarters, the report was found to be true only so far as Secretary Floyd was concerned, and that Messrs. Thompson and Thomas still retained their places.

It is known, however, that a serious division exists in the Cabinet, and a break up may at almost any hour be anticipated. Recent and highly important intelligence from the South, received by the government, may precipitate the event. The people, government, officials and non-officials, are all at sea, and, as it were, in a whirlwind, in the federal capital at this moment, and no one can foretell what astounding events may transpire from hour to hour.

The President is engaged in preparing a special message, which will be communicated to Congress on Monday, setting forth all the facts connected with the affairs now transpiring at Charleston, and also the facts in regard to the South Carolina Commissioners, for Congress to take such action in the premises as they may deem proper. Monday will be an eventful day in our history. Look out for an explosion.

The Secretary of the Treasury has just received a despatch from Charleston, stating that the revenue cutter in the port of Charleston had been seized by the authorities, and that the captain, who is a native of Charleston, has resigned. This intelligence was immediately communicated to the Cabinet.

The Navy Department at two o'clock received a despatch from Lieut. James P. Foster, commanding the slaver Bonita, which was carried into Charleston, stating that his prisoner, the captain of the slaver, had been taken before a State Judge by writ of habeas corpus, that the Judge remanded the prisoner to his custody on the ground that he had no jurisdiction, and that on his way to the Bonita with his prisoner he had been taken by force from his custody by a mob.

Every hour complicates affairs in Charleston more and more. The people of that city seem determined to precipitate an issue with the government.

The policy to be pursued by the administration in regard to the military movements in Charleston harbor, and the further measures to be adopted in reference to the South Carolina Commissioners, are still subjects of Cabinet discussion, which now hold daily and protracted sessions. It is understood that not only the Commissioners, but the entire Southern delegations here, demand the withdrawal of Major Anderson from Fort Sumpter. A portion of the Cabinet are inclined to the same view.

I have good reason to believe, however, that the President will not accede to this demand. While he admits that Major Anderson, in his recent movement, was acting without special instructions to that effect, he feels that the subsequent events preclude the possibility of restoring the troops to the *status quo*. The President is determined to do everything in his power to avoid collision.

The House Committee of Thirty-three to-day voted to recommend an enabling act to admit New Mexico as a State, with or without slavery, as she may elect. The proposition received the votes of all the republicans present except Washburne, Tappan, Kellogg, Morrill and Robinson. Mr. Washburne declared that it was an offering of a new slave State and two United States Senators to appease Southern wrath; a proposition to create a State without people to strengthen slavery; that the Territory had not to exceed seven hundred white people who were natives of the United States; that it would be unjust to the old States to admit her as a State though she came as a free State, and that the only merit the measure could possibly have to pacificate the South would arise from the consideration that a new slave State was conceded to them, and that if they did not believe that it was such a concession it would only aggravate the difficulty. Extreme Southern men opposed it because it did not reach the root of the difficulty, which they frankly declared could only be settled by providing for the protection of slavery in future acquisitions of territory. It is proper to state that the rest of the republicans, and the Union men of the border States, voted for these propositions of Mr. Adams from a desire to make all concessions they could consistent with honor, that there may be no question as to their position as earnest friends of the Union.

Senator Bigler now proposes, every other proposition having failed in the Senate Committee, that the people in each Congressional district vote directly upon the question whether there shall be a division line between the North and South as regards slavery. The proposition receives democratic support, but the republicans are shy. Senator Dixon, republican, of Connecticut, says he will sustain it if a respectable number of his party will consent to do so.

Mr. Seward's Astor House speech has been and still is variously commented upon, the Southern men regarding it as a declaration in favor of coercion, while the ultra republicans consider it too conciliatory in its tone. The latter are opposed to concessions of any character, and seem to regard the breaking up of the government with as much indifference as the most extreme Southern man.

It is well known here among the leading republicans that several of the Governors of the great non-slaveholding States have agreed to recommend a firm and determined resistance to the secession movement of the Southern States. The first States that will proclaim this policy in their forthcoming messages to their respective Legislatures are New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio, to be followed by the other Northwestern States. The South are beginning to understand that they will have no sympathy or strength in the North, except from those who are opposed to the republican party. These facts, just developed, are doing much harm in the South, and accelerating the secession movement.

The Pennsylvania Legislature will meet on Tuesday next. I learn from a well informed gentleman, just arrived from Harrisburg, who saw and conversed with the State officers and legislators elect, that one of the first acts of that government will be an appropriation of from one to five millions of dollars, and one hundred thousand men, armed and equipped, to aid the federal government in the preservation of the Union. It is believed by Governor Curtin that nearly all the other Northern States will follow this example.

The conduct of Major Anderson is universally commended by Northern men of all parties, and by all Union men from the border States.

Postmaster General Holt to-day ordered warrants to be drawn in favor of the mail contractors in South Carolina for about thirty-six thousand dollars, being the balance to the credit of the department deposited with the Assistant Treasurer at Charleston, thus securing to the postal service all accrued funds to that seceding State.

The report about a servile insurrection near Macon, Georgia, published with such a great flourish in this morning's *Tribune*, is pronounced by gentlemen just from that section to be unqualifiedly false. All letters received here from Georgia concur in stating that the slaves were never more obedient and so willing to work as at this time.

General Cushing is confined to his bed by a severe rheumatic affection of the muscles of his chest.

OUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28, 1860.

The Movement of Major Anderson—The Policy of the President.

The excitement produced by the news from Charleston in respect to the forts has quite subsided.

The public judgment in regard to Major Anderson's movement ought to be suspended until that gallant and in every way meritorious officer's report is heard.

Military men differ as to the question of expediency. Politicians agree in condemning the procedure, because it would be certainly misinterpreted by the Charlestonians, and be likely to excite a suspicion that it was a coercion-like movement. This was in reality the first effect there.

The disturbance of the *status quo* position, which the administration had resolved to preserve, constituted the chief ground of objection entertained by the President and Secretary of War. The report of Major Anderson will show whether there was such a necessity as would justify a movement so momentous and so pregnant with consequences upon the relations of the State of South Carolina to the federal government without specific orders. This document is anxiously expected. The movement from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumpter was admirably planned and executed. The whole thing was done without the slightest suspicion on the part of any inhabitant of Charleston. The intelligence came on the Commissioners here, and other Carolinians, like a thunder clap in a clear sky. At first they would not believe it.

The enemies of the President accuse him of want of firmness. No topic of reproach against a public man, in any age or nation, was ever farther from the truth. He has had, from first to last, through all these difficulties and complications, his own programme, maturely considered and resolutely decided upon. No one, either in civil, military or naval service, has a right to disturb the execution of that plan; nor is there any propriety, good taste, or good sense, in journalists admitting to their columns strictures upon a policy of which they know nothing at all, and about which they cannot judge until its character for wisdom and beneficence is tested by its ultimate results. Major Anderson, by his unexpected and unauthorized movement, deviated from the arrangements of the President, and, it is understood, has been ordered forthwith to restore matters in Charleston harbor to their *statu quo*.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28, 1860.

The Interview of the South Carolina Commissioners and the President.

The Commissioners of South Carolina called on the President to-day at one o'clock.

There was no formal reception. The President was in his library, and when the servant announced their arrival he was directed to conduct them thither at once.

The interview was not concluded until after three o'clock.

It is understood that the Commissioners presented in writing their credentials from the State of South Carolina, empowering them to treat with the general government in regard to the forts, arsenals and other property, &c., &c. But it is further said that, in consequence of the news received here within the last forty-eight hours, they expressed an unwillingness to enter upon any negotiations until the movements of Major Anderson were fully explained.

The Major's despatch fully explains his conduct. He wished to save the effusion of blood. He determined to prevent the sacrifice of lives of American citizens. This was his sole motive.

The Commissioners ask now that the troops of the government should be withdrawn, as their presence, pending negotiations, is a menace.

The President, it is understood, listened to their representations respectfully and courteously, but gave no recognition to their authority to address him, except as citizens of the United States. While the Cabinet was in session on this, the regular day, news came of the occupation of Fort Moultrie and Castle Pinckney by the Carolinians. The determination of the Cabinet (already, I presume, communicated by telegraph) was that everything should be placed *in statu quo ante bellum*—*i. e.*, that the Carolinians should give up Fort Moultrie and Castle Pinckney, to the former of which Major Anderson should promptly return.

This plan for a pacific solution of the latest element in complications already mischievous enough, has given much composure throughout the political circles to-night.

PREPARATIONS FOR WAR IN MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW HAMPSHIRE.

BOSTON, Dec. 29, 1860.

There is no disguising the fact that Massachusetts is ready to respond promptly to any demand made upon her for troops to sustain the Union and the laws. I learn to-day, from the highest authority, that seven thousand troops can be put in marching order on twenty-four hours' notice, and that one hundred and forty-five thousand men are enrolled in the militia of this State. Of this number twenty thousand could be easily mustered.

The financial resources of Massachusetts were never in better condition for such an emergency, and the people are enthusiastic to be enrolled.

Adjutant General Abbott, of New Hampshire, arrived here this afternoon from Washington, and left immediately for Concord, with the intention of recommending to Governor Goodwin that the Granite State be immediately put upon a war footing.

Considerable excitement exists in consequence of the reports that the muskets removed from the Springfield Armory have been distributed over the South. Mr. Whitney, Collector of this Port, late Superintendent of the Armory at Springfield, returned from there to-night, having been there, it is supposed, with reference to the report from Washington to the HERALD that twenty thousand muskets have recently been taken from the armory and sold to Virginia.

The feeling is deep and not to be misinterpreted. There is no mistaking the fact that Massachusetts is in earnest in this crisis. The merchants are plucky, and the name of Anderson is uppermost in every conversation.

INTERESTING FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONVENTION.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Dec. 29, 1860.

The Convention reassembled this morning.

The proceedings were opened with prayer.

The PRESIDENT then read a communication from W. F. Colcock, Collector of the Port at Charleston, informing the Convention that all the officers of the customs had entered the service of the State, and that he had commenced receiving duties and transacting other business.

Mr. DUNKIN said there was an act of Congress in relation to special duties. The Legislature had recently permitted the banks of the State to suspend specie payments. Specie is now four per cent premium, and it is unfair to ask payment of duties in specie when taxes are payable in bank notes.

Mr. DUNKIN offered a resolution that the collectors of the State receive the payment of duties in any bills of any bank of the State.

Mr. MASSEYCK—If necessary, the banks can increase their circulation, and embarrassment will then be impossible.

The motion in reference to commercial relations was then lost.

The PRESIDENT here received a communication from the Governor, through T. Watts, in relation to the Charleston harbor.

The Convention then went into secret session. It is understood the Military bill is under consideration.

The Convention this morning passed the ordinance authorizing the reception of bills of the banks of the State by Collectors of the ports, provided none of them be below the par value of the Bank of South Carolina.

The Convention then adjourned till ten o'clock on Sunday morning.

The Committee on Constitution have prepared an ordinance concerning the powers lately vested in Congress, transferring them to the General Assembly, except during the existence of the Convention. These powers are not to extend without the direction of the Convention to duties on imports, the Post Office, declaration of war, treaties, confederacy, &c.

The ordinance concerning the judicial powers of the United States Courts revests those powers into the Courts of South Carolina as the General Assembly may direct. The Charleston City Court is to have jurisdiction in admiralty and maratime cases, and also in cases of appeal when the amount exceeds two thousand dollars. In cases affecting the public ministers the powers are continued nearly the same as in the United States Courts. The General Assembly is to appoint the judicial officers. The act of Congress "to provide more effectually for the punishment of certain crimes, approved March 3, 1825," is substituted by the State for all offences which are subject to the jurisdiction of the Courts of the State.

The Convention will take the subject of treason under consideration.

DISCHARGE OF THE MECHANICS AT FORT SUMPTER.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 29, 1860

The *Sun*, of this city, has on its bulletin a special despatch from Charleston, saying that the carpenters and bricklayers from Baltimore, employed on Fort Sumpter, having refused to bear arms against South Carolina, were discharged by Major Anderson this morning.

THE SECESSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

THE TWENTIETH DAY OF DECEMBER, IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD, 1860.

[From the Charleston Mercury, Dec. 21.]

Inscribed among the calendars of the world—memorable in time to come—the 20th day of December, in the year of our Lord 1860, has become an epoch in the history of the human race. A great confederated republic, overwrought with arrogant and tyrannous oppressions, has fallen from its high estate amongst the nations of the earth. Conservative liberty has been vindicated. Mobocratic license has been stricken down. Order has conquered, yet liberty has survived. Right has raised his banner aloft and bidden defiance to might. The problem of self-government under the check balance of slavery, has secured itself from threatened destruction.

South Carolina has resumed her entire sovereign powers, and, unshackled, has become one of the nations of the earth.

On yesterday, the 20th December, 1860, just before one o'clock P. M., the ordinance of secession was presented by the Committee on the Ordinance, to the Convention of the people of South Carolina. Precisely at seven minutes after one o'clock, the vote was taken upon the ordinance—each man's name being called in order. As name by name fell upon the ear of the silent assembly, the brief sound was echoed back, without one solitary exception in that whole grave body, "aye."

At a quarter past one o'clock P. M. the last name was called, the ordinance of secession was announced to have been passed, and the last fetter had fallen from the limbs of a brave, but too long oppressed people.

The Convention sat with closed doors. But upon the announcement outside, and upon the *Mercury* bulletin board, that South Carolina was no longer a member of the federal Union, loud shouts of joy rent the air. The enthusiasm was unsurpassed. Old men went shouting down the streets. Cannon were fired, and bright triumph was depicted on every countenance.

But before the great seal of the State was affixed to the ordinance of secession, and the names of the delegates to the Convention were signed, it was proposed that this ceremony should be postponed until seven o'clock that evening, when the Convention should reassemble and move in procession from the St. Andrew's Hall, where they then sat, to the great Secession Hall, and that there, before the assembled citizens of the State, the great seal of the State should be set, and each signature made. The proposition was favorably received.

At half-past six o'clock P. M. the Convention reassembled at St. Andrew's Hall. At a quarter to seven o'clock P. M. they formed in procession and moved forward in silence to Secession Hall.

The building was filled to overflowing, and they were received by some three thousand people in the Hall.

The Convention was called to order. The scene was one profoundly grand and impressive. There were a people assembled through their highest representatives—men most of them upon whose heads the snows of sixty winters had been shed—patriarchs in age—the dignitaries of the land—the high priests of the Church of Christ—reverend statesmen—and the wise judges of the law. In the midst of deep silence, an old man, with bowed form, and hair as white as snow, the Rev. Dr. Bachman, advanced forward, with upraised hands, in prayer to Almighty God, for His blessing and favor in this great act of his people, about to be consummated. The whole assembly at once rose to its feet, and with hats off, listened to the touching and eloquent appeal to the All Wise Dispenser of events. At the close of the prayer the President advanced with the consecrated parchment upon which was inscribed the decision of the State, with the great seal attached. Slowly and solemnly it was read unto the last word—"dissolved," when men could contain themselves no longer, and a shout that shook the very building, reverberating, long continued, rose to heaven, and ceased only with the loss of breath. In proud, grave silence, the Convention itself waited the end with beating hearts.

The President then requested the delegates (by previous decision) to step forward as they were called in the alphabetical order of the districts which they represented, and sign the ordinance. Two hours were occupied in this solemn ceremony, the crowd waiting patiently the end. As the delegation from St. Philip's and St. Michael's came forward, again the hall was filled with applause; and as the Hon. R. B. Rhett advanced to the parchment the shouts became deafening, long continued, until he had seated himself, signed and retired. It was a proud and worthy tribute, gracefully paid and appreciated. The same special compliment was paid to our ex-Governor Gist, who recommended in his message to the extra session the immediate secession of South Carolina from the Union.

At the close of the signatures the President, advancing to the front of the platform, announced that the seal of the State had been set, the signatures of the Convention put to the ordinance, and he thereby proclaimed the State of South Carolina a separate, independent nationality.

To describe the enthusiasm with which this announcement was greeted is beyond the power of the pen. The high, burning, bursting heart alone can realize it. A mighty voice of great thoughts and great emotions spoke from the mighty throat of one people as a unit.

The State of South Carolina has recorded herself before the universe. In reverence before God, fearless of man, unawed by power, unterrified by clamor, she has cut the Gordian knot of colonial dependence upon the North—cast her fortunes upon her right and her own right arm, and stands ready to uphold alike her independence and her dignity before the world. Prescribing to none, she will be dictated to by none; willing for peace, she is ready for war. Deprecating blood, she is willing to shed it. Valuing her liberties, she will maintain them. Neither swerved by frowns of foes, nor swayed by timorous solicitations of friends, she will pursue her direct path, and establish for herself and for her posterity, her rights, her liberties and her institutions. Though friends may fail her in her need, though the cannon of her enemies may belch destruction among her people, South Carolina, unawed, unconquerable, will still hold aloft her flag, "*Animis Opibusque Parati.*"

VIRGINIA.

EXCITEMENT IN PETERSBURG.

The sawing down on Sunday morning last, at Petersburg, of a secession pole and flag which had been erected the previous day, is creating much feeling in that city. The pole and its appurtenances cost over $200, and the parties by whom it was erected expressed a determination of rearing a new one, and of defending it, if necessary, against attack; but the Mayor of the city, fearing some disturbance, ordered a Union pole already erected to be taken down, and interdicted by proclamation the erection of poles in the public streets. The parties owning the demolished pole have published a card, in which they denounce the proceedings as outrageous, and intimate that it was accomplished with the connivance of the police. On Wednesday a man named Owen Riley, a Baltimorean, though for the last nine years a resident of Richmond, was arrested upon the charge of sawing down the pole and carrying off the flag which adorned it. So proud was he of his complicity in the affair, that on Tuesday he mounted the stump of the pole, and then and there openly and boldly declared himself the author of the deed, and defied any man to resent it. It is also stated that he pinned the "lone star" which had adorned the flag to his back, and thus decorated paraded several prominent streets. He was released on $500 bail.

RESIGNATION OF A UNITED STATES MARSHAL.

Deputy United States Marshal Captain Charles Haine has sent in his resignation to the United States Marshal of Western Virginia. He says he will not serve under Lincoln.

GEORGIA.

THE GEORGE LAW MUSKETS AGAIN.

The Savannah *Republican*, speaking upon the recent arrival of the George Law muskets in that city, says—Upon examination we find the new arms just arrived for the State to be the old style of flint and steel muskets, altered into a percussion by closing the old touch hole and screwing a tube into the top of the barrel. They are all, however, in good order; seem never to have been used, and, perhaps, would do execution on a pinch—as well in the rear as in front.

MISSISSIPPI.

The elections in Mississippi, says the New Orleans *Delta*, appear to have resulted overwhelmingly in favor of the separate secessionists. With the exception of Vicksburg and Natchez, the co-operationists have made but a feeble resistance to the all-pervading sentiment of the gallant, intelligent and truly Southern people of that great and wealthy State. In counties which gave large majorities for Bell and Everett, and which have heretofore stood firmly by the Union, the proposition for separate secession has obtained large majorities. Mississippi has expressed in unmistakeble language her purpose. She will follow closely upon South Carolina. Louisiana must not linger behind her neighbor and sister, with whose interest her own are indissolubly blended.

LOUISIANA.

PIERRE SOULE ON THE CRISIS.

My name having been mentioned among those that may be proposed to represent this city in the State Convention to be held on the 23d of January next, I deem it my duty, before any definitive choice is made, to publish the following declaration, that there may be no misunderstanding as to the position which I occupy with reference to our present difficulties, and to the course which it behooves this State to pursue, in view of the crisis which those difficulties have brought forth.

I am no submissionist. I hold that resistance to actual wrong is a paramount duty with States, as well as with individuals.

Conceiving that the Union which the constitution of the United States had for its object to establish, is a Union of sovereigns in a confederacy of equals, I cannot admit that the power exists anywhere to coerce any of the confederates to remain in it longer than his interest, or even his pleasure, will admit.

That no State would ever withdraw from the Union without just and sufficient cause must have been, as it actually was, in the contemplation of those who framed our national government; but it cannot have entered the mind of any that while one portion of the confederates might with impunity violate the common compact, the other portion could be coerced to endure the transgression, and submit to bear alone its burthens and obligations.

None of the associates have any rights which the others do not equally and individually possess.

As long as the respective rights of each remain uninfringed, it may be conceded that none has a good ground for absolving himself from the obligations which the compact imposes.

But as soon as the compact ceases to be respected the bond is broken, and the associates are at liberty to return to their individual and separate political existence. In the impressive language of Daniel Webster, "A bargain broken on one side is broken on all sides."

It were too late now, and utterly unprofitable, to dwell on the immediate causes which have brought about the present crisis, though it may not be out of place to remark that if this national government of ours, which has stood so many storms and perils, and which, in its majestic workings, was vindicating so triumphantly the genius and wisdom of the sages who erected it—if this government is to be overthrown, and the South to organize itself into a distinct and separate confederacy, it were hardly an act of discretion on our part to commit the trust of erecting the latter to the very men who, with all the federal power at their bidding, with the purse and the sword in their hands to sustain themselves, have, in less than four years, not only destroyed the most powerful party that was ever organized in any government, but subverted that noble structure, of which John C. Calhoun has said that "it exceeded in sublimity any work that ever emanated from the hands of man."

These are, however, the men who now urge the expediency of separate action on the part of the States, and who advocate openly the policy of precipitating Louisiana, of herself, and without seeking concert with other States, into the vortex of revolution!

That the present distracted condition of the country—the complexion so full of meaning and significancy of the late Presidential canvass—the attitude, perhaps too precipitate, of a majority of the Southern States—the crisis so hurriedly brought about by the wily manœuvres and the reckless aspirations of unprincipled politicians—have placed the South in the unavoidable dilemma of abject submission or open resistance, is but too obvious.

Having therefore to choose between ignominy or revolution, I am for revolution—but not for an inconsiderate and disheveled revolution, like that which so miserably transformed the great and potent empire once possessed by Spain on this continent, into those innumerable petty sovereignties constantly at war with each other, which have sunk in desolation and ruin the brightest spot on which the sun of God ever shed its light.

I am for keeping Louisiana in concert and Union with her sister States of the South. It were not too much of the united wisdom of them all, to consider and decide how the contemplated separation is to be effected; and, when effected, on what principle a new confederacy should be organized and instituted. In other words, I am in favor of the State Convention sending discreet and experienced commissioners to commune with the other States, and adopt, in concert with them, such measures as may palliate, if not avert, the dangers which I see ahead of us in a proximate future. PIERRE SOULE.

NEW ORLEANS, Saturday, December 22, 1860.

PUBLIC MEETING IN PITTSBURG, PA.

THE BIG GUN CONTROVERSY.

[From the Pittsburg Journal, Dec. 28.]

The most demonstrative public meeting that we have had in our midst in a long time transpired at the Court House yesterday afternoon. There seemed to have been a misunderstanding at the time of the meeting, and a large number adjourned to the Diamond Market House, but there being no meeting there they returned to the Court House, and there they organized, and in an assemblage of some five or six thousand the following proceedings were had. The following letter was read at the meeting:—

ALLEGHENY ARSENAL, Dec. 27, 1860.

To his Honor G. WILSON, Mayor of Pittsburg:—SIR—It is perceived that some of the city papers, in their morning issues, persist in publishing statements in regard to the operations of the United States Arsenal that should be corrected. I therefore respectfully request that at the public meeting of the citizens, to take place this afternoon, they will have this paper read. The statement of the *Dispatch* that I informed the reporter last evening that there were no more cedes to be filled, in reference to his inquiry respecting the heavy guns. There are orders yet to fill of six months' standing and more. The stores referred to in the despatch as "boxes of Muskets that left the Arsenal that afternoon," were fifty sets of horse equipments (in part of an order for five hundred sets) destined for Texas Arsenal, for the United States troops serving on that frontier. So likewise another issue will be made in a day or two of ninety other sets, made by Messrs. Hartly & Co., contractors of Pittsburg, and now in their workshops, who can state how long they have had the order. These are destined for Leavenworth Arsenal, for the troops in that vicinity. Furthermore there is to be issued to the State of Tennessee, under the act of 1808, for arming the militia, 500 rifle muskets, to replace which 1,000 have been ordered from Harper's Ferry Armory. And, finally, of unfulfilled orders, 500 muskets belonging to and sent here by the State of Kentucky, to be altered to percussion, are now being altered and refitted, the expense of which to be charged to that State, under the same act of Congress of 1808.

JOHN SYMINGTON, Major of Ordnance.

After which the following resolutions were presented and passed:—

Whereas, as citizens of the United States, attached to the Union, the constitution and the laws, we have learned with surprise and indignation that large quantities of heavy ordnance have been ordered from the Allegheny Arsenal to points where no apparent immediate necessity for them exists, while other points where the necessity does exist are left undefended, and where they will be exposed to seizure at the hands of those who are now in a state of actual or threatened revolt against the government; and, whereas, our remonstrances against this act have received no notice from the proper authorities at Washington City; therefore, be it

Resolved, That notwithstanding the notorious fact that our rulers are disarming the friends and arming the enemies of the Union, we feel that its friends are strong enough, even without other arms than their own, to sustain the constitution and the laws, and to follow and retake the guns thus ordered to be removed, in case they shall be traitorously employed against them.

Resolved, That we therefore deprecate any interference with the shipment of the said arms under government orders, however inopportune or impolitic the same may be, believing it would give color to the imputation that we have more respect for federal law than our fellow citizens of the seceding States of South Carolina, and decrease our moral much more than it could increase our material power.

3. That we profess to be loyal to the Union of these States; that we regard the people of the South as much our fellow citizens as those of the Northern States; that we regret that demagogues and traitors should have been able to deceive them into a contrary belief; and that, knowing no party here, and no North or South, we intend to observe our part of the compact, and shall expect and insist that all others shall do the same.

4. That we greatly deplore the existence of such a state of things in connection with the administration of important departments of the public service at Washington as to have so shaken the confidence of the people of the Free States therein, as to minister occasion for the disturbance which has prevailed amongst us.

5. That to restore that confidence which every administration ought to enjoy in a crisis like the present, it behooves the President of the United States to purge his Cabinet of every man who is known to have been giving aid and comfort, or in any wise countenancing and abetting the actual or apprehended revolt of any of the States against the authority of the constitution and the laws of this Union.

6. That while Pennsylvania is on guard at the federal Capitol, it is her especial duty to look to the fidelity of her sons, and in that view we call upon the President of the United States, as a citizen of this commonwealth, to see that the republic receives no detriment while it continues in his hands.

General William Robinson, Jr., presided, and Hon. Thomas Williams and General J. K. Moorhead, M. C., were the principal spokesmen. General Moorhead spoke in perfect consonance with the tone of the resolutions, and Hon. Thomas Williams urged the passage of the resolutions, the vote for which was unanimous, with a very few exceptions. Hon. Charles Shaler made a speech inside of the Court House to a large audience, which set forth that resistance to the federal authority at the Arsenal would be treasonable, but opposition to transportation through our streets would only be in violation of State laws, and resistance to their actual shipment would be as justifiable as the acts of South Carolina.

The resolutions above given, as adopted at the meeting, have the support of a majority of our community, and are eminently worthy of the endorsement of all.

Our telegraphic despatches give the latest news from headquarters of secession. Our people are determined to secure justice, and nothing short of it will satisfy them.

THE NEW YORK MUSKETS SENT TO THE SOUTH.

[From the Troy Arena, Dec. 28.]

We learn from undoubted authority that ten thousand muskets, old pattern, were sold by order of the Secretary of War, on the 9th of the present month, to S. B. Lamar, of Savannah, Georgia, at $2 50 each, and shipped to New York about the 14th inst. These are the muskets referred to by the *Evening Post*. The implied intimation that General Wool has any control over the sale or transfer of these guns, does injustice to a veteran soldier who is most thoroughly devoted to the Union of these United States. Whoever else may prove treacherous and recreant to the Union and the constitution, we venture to say, on behalf of General Wool, that he will be found faithful among the faithless, and never, either by thought, deed or act, will he be found giving aid and comfort to the enemies of the Union. The Watervliet Arsenal is under the control of the Ordnance Bureau, the supreme control being vested, next to the President, in the hands of the Secretary of War. There are in store at the Arsenal 28,000 muskets, altered from flint locks, and an immense quantity of balls, bullets, shrapnel, grape and canister shot.

In reply to certain queries we have received the following:—

LETTER FROM GEN. WOOL.

TROY, Dec. 27, 1860.

DEAR SIR—The *Evening Post* in relation to the rumor that five hundred cases of muskets had been removed from the Arsenal at Watervliet to New York and put on board of the steamer Florida, for Savannah, asks, "Where is General Wool?" I answer that he is at his headquarters and attending to the duties assigned to his position. He, however, has no control over the Arsenal of Watervliet, which is reserved under the direction of the Secretary of War. Very respectfully your obedient servant, JOHN E. WOOL.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE TROY DAILY ARENA.

In a recent despatch from Pittsburg it is stated that the cannon which the government had ordered sent down to Savannah, and which the citizens protested ought not to be removed, were to be furnished with their wagons and other complete fixtures which were made at the Watervliet Arsenal, and which were about to be removed from thence to Savannah. We learn that none of these gun carriages have yet been removed from the Watervliet Arsenal.

THE JEWS AND THE CRISIS.

The Jewish *Messenger* of December 28 makes a strong editorial appeal to the Jews in the United States to observe the 4th proximo as a day of prayer for the preservation of the Union. We regret that our space forbids us to give the article referred to in full, but the following paragraph will afford the reader a good idea of the whole:—

As Israelites, we have still weightier inducements to join with our fellow citizens in observing this day of prayer. The Union, for whose prosperity we ask Divine aid, has been the source of happiness for our ancestors and ourselves. Under the protection of the freedom guaranteed to us by the constitution, we have lived in the enjoyment of full and perfect equality with our fellow citizens, we are enabled to worship the Supreme according to the dictates of conscience, we can maintain the position to which our abilities entitle us, without our religious opinions being an impediment to advancement. This republic was the first to recognise our claims to absolute equality with men of whatever religious denomination. Here we can sit, each under his vine and fig tree, with none to make him afraid. The perpetuity of the national existence of this republic being imperilled, let us, then, right heartily join with our fellow citizens in observing Friday next as a day of prayer and humiliation. Let us assemble in our respective synagogues, and pour forth in unison our heartfelt supplications, that the Almighty may restore harmony and good will among all the people of this land, and so govern the intellects of those in authority that they may be inspired with wisdom to secure a pacific settlement of whatever difficulties may exist in any section of the country.

SECESSION AND COERCION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

The withdrawal of the State of South Carolina from the federal Union brings us face to face with grave issues, fraught with results of the most momentous importance. The unavoidable duty now devolves upon every true patriot and friend of self-government of examining with care the great questions presented, and informing himself as to the proper course to be pursued in this trying emergency.

It is worse than idle for bodies of men, whether they be representatives in Congress or leaders among the people, to pass resolutions declaring "that the laws must and shall be executed." This is a truism which no sane man will pretend to deny. That it is the duty of the President of the United States to execute the laws of the Union is beyond the shadow of a doubt; but where are they to be executed? Not in England, certainly, nor in France, nor in any other territory not included in the Union. It is in these United States alone that his duty requires him to enforce them; and the real and only question now before us is not whether he should execute the laws, but what are the territorial limits of his authority, and what people does his oath of office require him to coerce into submission to these laws?

In other words, is South Carolina to-day a member of the federal Union, notwithstanding her ordinance of secession, or is she not? If the former, it is unquestionably the duty of the President to enforce the laws within

(CONTINUED ON EIGHTH PAGE.)

SOMETHING ABOUT SOUTH CAROLINA.

The City of Columbia---Its Educational Institutions, its State House and its Gardens.

POPULATION OF THE STATE.

The Military Organization of the Commonwealth.

FINANC AL STATISTICS.

THE RAILROADS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT.

A GLANCE AT THE MOUNTAIN SCENERY.

INTENSE ANTIPATHY TO NORTHERN MEN.

A Northern Correspondent Put Through a Course of Sprouts.

Amusing Examination of the Special Correspondent of the New York Herald by South Carolina Vigilant Committees,

&c., &c., &c.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 14, 1860.

You perceive that I write from Columbia, the capital of South Carolina. I have been here for several days, and have also visited other portions of the State, in complying with your instructions to obtain accurate information respecting the real condition of South Carolina, and subsequently of the other Southern States, in the various departments of industry, in order that the North might fully comprehend the crisis in the present alarming aspect of our national affairs. The rabid abolitionists of the North and the ultra pro-slavery men of the South, by their wholesale denunciations of each other, and their widely different statements of the economy and resources of the South, have each contributed much to create the unfriendly feelings now existing between the people in the Northern and Southern portions of the confederacy. A more intimate acquaintance would have led to the establishment of more fraternal relations, and I am persuaded that if the masses of the strong anti-slavery people of the North could only come to the South and see things for themselves, instead of forming their views from misrepresentations concerning the treatment of slaves, they would soon modify their views on the subject of slavery.

THE CITY OF COLUMBIA—ITS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, ITS STATE HOUSE AND ITS GARDENS.

Without intending to disparage the elegant society and refinement of Charleston, which metropolis commands important consideration as the commercial culminating point, this beautiful little city of Columbia may be said to be the social centre of the State. And it is a fact full of significance—for the principle should be established and carried out in every seat of government—that the capital, where the laws are made and the public business is transacted, is also a favorable representative of the sociality and taste, the refinement and prosperity of the Commonwealth. Columbia is not a large city. Within the corporate limits and the immediate suburbs there are only about nine thousand inhabitants, including, of course, both white and colored. But it is said to be the most delightful city of its size and character on the American continent. It is what might be termed a country city. Its chief attractions, especially apparent to the stranger, arise from the healthfulness of its situation, the great regularity and width of its streets, which are lined with shade trees, the comfort of its houses and the beauty of its private gardens. It is situated on an elevated plateau about the middle of the State, near the banks of the Congaree, which at this point is not a navigable river. The city is laid out with perfect regularity, and occupies a space of ground about two miles square. Exactly in the centre is seen rising, in fine architectural proportions, the new State House, which divides the only business street in the city. On ordinary occasions Richardson street does not present a very busy appearance, and yet there is considerable business transacted there, for there is scarcely a department of familiar mechanical industry or manufacturing interest but is represented in Columbia. The other streets are all unusually wide, none less than one hundred and twenty feet, and are lined on the sides with large water oak shade trees, some of the streets having in addition a row of trees planted all along the centre, still leaving on either side an avenue as wide as many of the dwelling streets in other cities. Some of these streets rejoice in such pretty and appropriate names as Lady, Divine, Blossom, Wheat, Rice, Tobacco, Indigo, and even Lincoln street. If any should suppose that the last is not an appropriate name for a street in the capital of South Carolina, and that all the republicans in town would be certain to reside there, they may know that it was long since named after Colonel Lincoln, of Revolutionary memory, and, further, that there is not a single abolitionist within the borders of Columbia.

There are plenty of secessionists, however; everybody here is a secessionist, even to the young ladies of the Methodist Female College, who have