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Legislature on the 7th inst. Governor Denver's prospects for the United States Senatorship were considered the brightest.

The thirty-seventh anniversary of the New York Bible Society was celebrated at Dr. Spring's church last evening. Rev. Dr. Hoge presided, and addresses were delivered by Rev. Messrs. Van Dyke and Lees. The annual report set forth the encouraging prospects of the society, so far as its objects were concerned, but regretted that in a financial point of view it was not equal to what it had been in previous years. The total number of volumes distributed during the past year was 62,284, of which 18,000 were Bibles. The cash receipts and contributions during the same period amounted to \$15,396. The document, which was a very elaborate one, ascribed our present national troubles to the separation of church and State in the character of our constitutional government, and urged that the present difficulties were but the interposition of Divine Providence to bring the nation to a better appreciation of God's Word.

About fifty thousand people visited the Central Park yesterday, the majority of whom were on the ice. A large number of females were enjoying the cool breeze both on and off the pond. The prospect last evening for good skating to-day was very fair, and the ball is expected to be in its place on the pole.

Owing to some telegraph reports about the Gulf ports, regarding real or apprehended difficulties about clearing cargoes of cotton to foreign countries, combined with the advance in the market on Saturday advanced about 1/2 to 1 cent per pound, while the sales reached about 4,000 bales. Flour was firm and tolerably active, and closed about 6c better for some grades, while the demand for export and from the trade was good. Wheat was held above the views of purchasers, which tended to check sales, while the market closed at about the quotations of the previous day. Corn was held with more show of firmness, while prices were without change of importance. The sales included Western mixed, in store and delivered, at 70c a tic; Park was firmer, and closed at higher prices. The sales embraced new mess at \$17 50 at the opening, and closed at \$17 62 1/2 a \$17 75, and new prime at \$13 25 a \$13 50. Sugars were steady and tolerably active, with sales of 1,100 hhds. Cubas and a small lot of boxes. Coffee was steady; the sales comprised a cargo of 2,500 bags Rio at 12 1/2c, and 1,100 do. at 11c. Rice. Foreign was firmer, with shipments of what is Liverpool, in ship's bags, at 11 1/2c, with four at 12c, 64c, and to London which was taken at 12 1/4c, in ship's bags, and four at 12c. 7 1/2c, a 12c, 9d, and 600 bbls. do. at 4c.

The Crittenden Resolutions and Bigler Substitutes—Will Republicans in Congress Prevent an Appeal to the People?

The question transcending all others in importance to the country, at the present moment, is, whether the republican party in Congress will continue to interpose the screen of its authority between the popular voice throughout the Union, and a peaceful settlement of the difficulties by which the nation is convulsed, or whether it will aid in dissipating the dangers by which it is menaced? Will the Senate and House of Representatives rise to the dignity of their position as the faithful stewards of the people; will they clothe themselves with the discretion, judgment and patriotism of statesmen, or must they still show themselves to be utterly lost to every sense of uprightiness and independence? We are in the midst of a revolutionary period, when the wisest and most sagacious find it impossible to foretell what new disasters any hour may bring forth. Imagination cannot picture a more dreary, desolate future than awaits us, if the *vis inertia* of ignorant, malicious stupidity, which has thus far, during this session of Congress, characterized its proceedings, any longer prevails. The republican party hold well and woe, good and evil, the perpetuation of the integrity of the confederation or its dismemberment, in their own hands. They may decide, this very day, whether the States, united together, shall remain the example and pride of the universe, or whether the brightest light that the sun of liberty ever cast upon the earth shall be extinguished in darkness. On Friday last every republican member of the United States Senate voted against the reconsideration of Mr. Crittenden's resolutions. If they adhere to the same policy to-day, when his bill shall become the subject of debate; if they treat, with like contempt, the proposition of Mr. Bigler, to submit to the people the issues that under the country in twain, upon them alone will rest the responsibility of every evil that may grow out of their repudiation of the last pacific solution of our sectional troubles, that will perhaps be attempted, between now and the 4th of March next. If civil war comes, they will have brought it upon us. If a death blow is given to our national prosperity, theirs will be the blame. The guilt will lie at their door of the most stupendous act of national suicide that the world's history has ever known.

It has become evident that no remedy whatever can be applied to the political disease under which the Union is now laboring, excepting by the people of the United States themselves. The decay of parties has thrown leadership and actual power, as well in the different States as at Washington, into the hands of speculators, and the most venal corrupt class of individuals that ever held rule in any land. Incumbents of office at Washington live in mortal fear of the displeasure of their own party local constituencies, and would not dare to act rightly, even should they receive the affluents of genuine statesman-like inspiration. A desolate blank of every noble impulse is beheld at the very source whence sound and healthy legislation should proceed. Representatives from the North and South want, respectively, the moral courage to cast off the shackles of a clergy-betridden and a mobocrat fire-eating dominion, or else they are actuated by the reasonable motive of hastening the country into bloodshed, in order to complete the anarchy towards which it has progressed with gigantic footsteps. Yet the vast masses of our population, in all of the States, are unquestionably conservative. Five-sixths of those who are entitled to vote deplore the agitation by which the popular surface is tossed to and fro, and condemn the demagogues who have brought us to the present stage of a deplorable national crisis. The voice of the intelligence, worth, integrity and wealth in all of the States of the Union, excepting probably South Carolina and Massachusetts, is struggling to make its hoarse, public feeling demands precisely such an opportunity as the adoption of the Bigler substitute to Mr. Crittenden's bill would afford, to stamp sectional tyranny with condemnation, from whatever quarter it may be arrogated. Its adoption would be the signal for an universal cry to re-echo from New York to Louisiana, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, in favor of the preservation of the Union, at whatever sacrifice. It will be the exclusive act of the republican members of Congress if such an outburst of feeling is stifled.

The imperious necessity upon which the Bigler bill is framed is to be found in the limited interval between now and the 4th day of March,

which shall terminate the present administration, and in the immense advantages which would derive from a settlement of the questions before the country before the inauguration of Mr. Lincoln. Amendments to the constitution cannot be adopted, excepting by a vote of two-thirds of both houses of Congress, or on application of the Legislatures of two-thirds of the several States, to be valid only when ratified by three-fourths of the whole number of States, in either their Legislatures or in conventions. These conditions for amending the constitution cannot be complied with as Congress is now composed. As "legislative enactments are," therefore, "insufficient to meet and remove the cause of impending disaster," and as "the Union is in imminent danger of final dissolution, in consequence of protracted strife and agitation about the institution of African slavery," Mr. Bigler has wisely called upon Congress to "ask for the opinion and will of the people of the several States, on such proposed amendments to the constitution," as shall bring harmony to the republic, dispel the clouds which darken the horizon, and "restore our distracted country to its accustomed peace and prosperity." The first section of his substitute provides, "that the citizens of the several States qualified to vote for members of Congress, be requested to hold an election on Tuesday, the 12th day of February next, for the purpose of deciding for or against" the amendments enumerated in his bill. It is simply an attempt to obtain in an informal manner an expression of the will of the people, which shall guarantee future constitutional action, either on the part of the State Legislatures or of Congress, that shall be satisfactory to the South, and turn away attention from the alternative of civil war or a disruption of the confederacy. It is a proposition fair to all parties; and, if the profession of Mr. Seward, that "whatever sacrifice, private or public, shall be woful for the preservation of the Union shall be made," is consistently adhered to by himself and his friends, it will be supported by them. They can only oppose it from a fixed determination that the popular voice shall not be reached, and to perpetuate the ascendancy of those "impetuous passions" which they pretend to deprecate.

The greater number of republicans in the North are divisible into two classes—those who would reduce the South to submission by force of arms, and those who would coerce it by means of a "masterly inactivity." These latter witness with rejoicing the daily increasing storm at the South. They chuckle over excesses which are the natural consequence of civil strife—passed out of the hands of thinking, sober men who seek for the recovery of their pristine rights, into the power of a rude, uncontrollable mob—as though they were an abolition triumph. They desire an interarmistice war, as a means of stereotyping anti-slavery fanaticism in the Northern States. The events of the next day or two will demonstrate, beyond cavil, whether the republican ranks in Congress are completely filled with such men; whether there still exists any desire among them to restore order out of the chaos which their own sectionalism has created. If, as a sequel to their voting against the reconsideration of the Crittenden amendments to the constitution, they shall persevere in rejecting them, and maintain a firm stand against permission being given to the people to express "their judgment and opinion" in the present crisis, two things will be evident—that they are reasonable to the interests of their constituents, and that they know that their policy is reprobated by the popular heart. Nothing will then remain but to wait until the issue can be made at the State elections which are approaching; but the spectacle will be none the less mournful and sad, of representatives, elected under a bygone condition of things, refusing to allow those who voted for them to rescue a country from ruin, which they have determined to destroy.

CABINET MAKING UNDER DIFFICULTIES.—It would seem that "Old Abe" Lincoln finds Cabinet making a much more difficult business than rail splitting; for, notwithstanding that he has plenty of timber at hand, and any quantity of journeymen to help him, in the shape of advisers and counsellors from every part of the country, yet he has made but sorry progress in the construction of his Cabinet. For weeks past the railroad and telegraph lines of Illinois have been doing a thriving business on the strength of the Cabinet making trade—the former by the transmission of office seekers and the agents of office seekers, and the latter by the continual stream of despatches from the North, the South, the East and the West, flying like the dove of Noah, to the ark of black republican safety in the little village of Springfield. But all to no purpose; for up to this time there are only two members of the new Cabinet selected—Mr. Seward and Mr. Bates—and only one of these is a live statesman, for Bates has been dead and gone this many a day. Curious enough, too, they were both competitors of Lincoln in the race for the Presidency—Mr. Seward as the strong candidate of a strong wing of the party, and Bates as the candidate of the Blair family and the Greeley family, two very influential families in the republican party, it must be admitted.

There has been some talk of embodying in the new Cabinet one Gideon Welles, an old Connecticut fossil, who has been dead these twenty years—dead and buried, with the grass upon his grave grown so long that it almost hid his tombstone—but some Old Mortality, in his researches among the relics of past ages, appears to have dug him up, and, we believe, had considerable trouble in getting affidavits to prove that he is really alive. In his palmist days the fossil Welles was not much to boast of. We remember him in Jackson's time as a small editor down in Connecticut—great only in getting little offices for little people; and the wonder is how Mr. Lincoln could have dug up this fossil almost from the Silurian period—this very, very small politician of the hickory age—for the purpose of locating him in his Cabinet, except it is intended to be a cabinet of antique curiosities.

There are plenty of living statesmen around him. There is Banks, of Massachusetts; Chase, of Ohio, and Cameron, of Pennsylvania, who it seems was on the slate, but has been rubbed off again, but who will not be rubbed off, for he insists upon his right to a place among Lincoln's constitutional advisers. This vacillation in the choice of a Cabinet, all this backing and filling, looks badly for Mr. Lincoln's backbone. It appears that he cannot complete the list until he goes to Washington. Mr. Lincoln has length and height enough; he can dig as deep and reach as far towards the sky as any man; but we are afraid that he is rather weak about the haunches and stiff in the joints. However,

we will wait to see what will be done, and we hope that he may yet secure a conservative Cabinet composed of live men. The President who is about to retire from office has evidently played out his rôle, and can do no more towards pacifying the country. It remains now for the new President and his friends to decide whether the republic shall be plunged into civil war, or rescued from the present terrible calamity which threatens it, to continue its course of peace, prosperity and greatness.

The Chicago Platform or Civil War. Such is the alternative now presented to the country. The republican leaders and republican journals, with one or two exceptions, insist upon upholding the Chicago platform—the whole platform, and nothing but the platform—no matter what may be the consequences to the party, to the country or to the human race. They seem to regard the Chicago platform with a sort of religious adoration bordering on idolatry, as if it were something more sacred than the constitution or the existence of the government established by the sages and patriots of the first Revolution—more inviolate than even the Decalogue and the holy evangelists. They declare they will maintain it to the bitter end, though civil war should be the consequence, as it undoubtedly will be, and though this fair land of plenty and all its inhabitants should be reduced to "carcasses and ashes," which was once the fate of Ireland, as described by the British historian, after a long and bloody civil war in that unhappy country. But it becomes a grave question for both the leaders and the rank and file of the republican party, as well as for the rest of the Northern population, whether the Chicago platform is worth such a sacrifice, and whether they will instigate or even permit the perpetration of such a folly as might make the angels weep. What is the Chicago platform? Its essential principle is the assertion of a "higher law"—a law before and above the constitution. It is, in fact, an impudent and outrageous attempt by a sectional party, bounded by a geographical line, to abolish the constitution, which was not made for the North or for the South, but for the whole country, embracing and protecting alike the rights and the interests of both sections. The constitution guarantees equal rights to all the States. The Chicago platform goes behind that instrument and denies its right, or the right of any constitution, to protect the Southern States in the exercise of their guaranteed right of property in negro slaves.

The equality of all the States in the Union is one of its fundamental principles. The Chicago platform proclaims inequality as the basis of the republican creed. It proclaims that Northern men have a right to take their horses, their mules and other property into the common territory, and settle there, under theegis of the constitution, but that Southern men have not the same right to migrate to the Territories with their property, consisting of negro slaves, and enjoy equal protection, though the constitution has recognized property in the service of slaves as on the same basis with any other kind of property. Upon this issue in the Presidential election, by an accidental technical majority of the votes of the electoral colleges, the republican party, though in a small minority of the whole population, have been elevated to the control of the federal government, the possession of the public purse, the army and navy and the federal courts; and their chiefs, in the very face of the fearful consequences staring them in the face, declare their intention of carrying out every title of the Chicago platform. If they have thus proclaimed their resolve to overthrow the constitution in its great essential features, can it be wondered that the South, the section to be assailed, is preparing for resistance?

The Chicago platform is a declaration of war against the social institutions of fifteen States of the Union, and naturally rouses those States into an attitude of defence. Secession is as unconstitutional as the Chicago platform or the nullification Liberty bills of the North, and the designs of the seceding States cannot be carried out under the constitution any more than the designs of the republican leaders; but those States have, outside of the constitution, the right of revolution, the last reserved right of every oppressed people. It is upon this great right the Declaration of Independence is based, and it lies, therefore, at the very foundation of our government. Contrary to the letter and spirit of the political compact between the States, the Chicago platform interferes with the slave institution. To interfere with and denounce as a sin the social institutions of any State is a just cause for hostilities, and to the aggrieved State it is only a question of prudence and expediency how far it may exercise its right of war. That the people of the Southern States are preparing to exercise that right there is only too much reason to apprehend.

If, therefore, the Chicago platform is not abandoned there is every probability that there will be civil war, and that not merely at the South, but also at the North. It is high time, therefore, for Mr. Lincoln and the other republican leaders to pause at the edge of the abyss into which they have proposed to plunge themselves and the country, and consider whether it is not better for them to retrace their steps before it is too late. There is not a moment to be lost if they desire to rescue the government from utter wreck and ruin. The whole issue resolves itself into the question whether the Union or the Chicago platform is to be devoted to destruction? To save both is impossible.

A LESSON FOR THE ABOLITIONISTS.—The anti-slavery fanatics of Massachusetts are in the habit of quoting largely from the writings and speeches of the leading English abolitionists in support of their pestiferous doctrines. Will their organs have the honesty to give insertion to the recent letter of Lord Brougham in reply to the invitation to attend the John Brown anniversary in Boston? We apprehend not. Some of the sentiments in this letter are too strongly condemnatory of their course for it to prove palatable to them. The writer says—"No one will doubt my earnest desire to see slavery extinguished; but that desire can only be gratified by lawful means—a strict regard to the rights of property—of what the law declares to be property—and a constant repugnance to the shedding of blood." Here is the whole difficulty between the republicans and the secessionists resolved in a single sentence. And yet, in spite of such strong expressions of opinion from one of their favorite authorities, the former are determined to plunge the country into all the horrors of civil war rather than concede the protection which the South demands for its property.

THE POLITICAL JOURNALS AND THE STATE ELECTIONS.—While the political papers of the North are becoming more strongly divided on the proper line in their opinions in regard to the party mode of settling the difficulties after which the country is now laboring, those at the South have thrown away their partisan antipathies and are united on the one prevailing sentiment, that that section of the country must secure and maintain the rights which were guaranteed to them when they became parties to the confederation. The democratic journals of the North have wisely obliterated, at least for the present, the party division which was established by the Charleston Convention, and are now laboring to convince the people that if they could save the country some earnest measures must be adopted, or some well defined assurance given, to convince the South that their rights in the Union and their privileges under the constitution will not be ruthlessly trampled upon. On the other hand the republican papers are fomenting the excitement by ridiculous jests and more ridiculous false statements relating to the position of the Southern States. They cry out "No concessions," and urge upon their leaders and representatives in Congress to stand firm upon the Chicago platform, even though it becomes necessary to maintain its doctrines by the inauguration of intestine war and by the blood of thousands of our fellow countrymen.

There is no hope to be found in party leaders, and the country must look elsewhere for its salvation. We must leave the wrangling politicians in Washington to finish their fights in accordance with their tastes and inclinations, and direct our attention to the voice of the people, as it will soon be heard through the ballot box in three of the Eastern States, at elections which will be more important to the whole country than any that have been held since the government was formed. All that partisan traders and demagogues have at stake are the fat offices, present and prospective, while the great body of the people are the real stockholders of the country, and hold the peace, the prosperity and the salvation of the Union at a price far above the estimation of the men who are now occupying the halls of Congress. In these elections the issues which are to be decided are more momentous than any that have ever before been submitted to the judgment of the people. They are, on the one side, reconciliation and peace, and on the other black republicanism, the Chicago platform and civil war. If the latter succeed, then indeed is the country lost, because coercion would be sure to follow, and when that commences the border slave States, which are now hesitating, and evincing such strong attachment for the Union, will be forced to take one side or the other. They can then no longer occupy a neutral position, but must throw their sympathies and their power for or against their sister States of the South. The position they will take in the event of republican doctrines being pushed to extremes does not even admit of a question. Their strength will be added to the cause of the South, and then will commence the war, with sixteen States and two Territories, leaving out those bordering on the Pacific, on the one side, and fifteen States, with an equal number of Territories, on the other. We will ask the people of Connecticut, New Hampshire and Rhode Island, in which States elections are near at hand, whether they are prepared for an event like that—whether they are ready to assist in bringing upon their country the disastrous train of circumstances which is sure to follow civil war, or whether they will not at once tell the partisan jugglers who have brought about this trouble, that they have gone far enough? If the Union is to be saved, it must be done now by the people themselves in their sovereign capacity. And if those patriotic citizens in New York and other places who are talking Union so loudly and laboring to get up monster petitions, which when they reach the halls of legislation are tumbled into the dark vaults beneath the Capitols, would turn their attention to these popular elections, the ship of State may yet pass the rocks which now threaten her and proceed on her prosperous course before the close of the year.

THE DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE SAVING THE UNION.—The Democratic State Committee have issued a call for a convention of delegates from the party, to assemble at Albany on the 31st inst., for the purpose of saving the Union; and in their circular they prate about "the alarming condition of our country," "the exigencies of public affairs," about "saving the country from the evils of domestic wars," and so forth. What a humbug it is for men like the Democratic State Committee to talk in this way, just as if it was not politicians of their stamp on the one side, and fanatics like the anti-slavery parsons on the other, who reduced the country to its present calamitous condition. The object of this convention, it is plain to be seen, is simply to endeavor to reconstruct the broken down party, and take advantage of the exigencies of the times for mere political and personal motives. The democratic party is dead and rotten; it has fallen by its own corruption, and the republican party will soon follow it, the seeds of the same disease being sown in its system so deep that no art or skill can save it. No party nor any set of politicians can save the country at the present crisis, and it is an impudent scheme on the part of the Democratic State Committee to call a convention for any such pretended purpose.

The committee say in their circular that "conservative men of all classes call upon our time honored party to co-operate with patriotic citizens elsewhere," &c., &c. This is not so. Conservative men know perfectly well that it is not in the proud debris of a corrupt faction they are to look for safety in a crisis like this—a faction too "time honored" rather for the breach than the observance of honesty, decency and good faith—but to the sense of the people, to which Senator Bigler proposes to refer the question. It is the people, and not the politicians, who are to settle the difficulty, and we opine that this farce of a democratic convention for the purpose of saving the country will be repudiated by the people of this State.

THE STOLEN INDIAN BONDS.—When the Indian Trust Fund bonds were stolen from the Interior Department the government advertised that the interest would not be paid on the bonds thus abstracted. From all appearances it is not likely that this intention can be carried out. The Attorney General of North Carolina has given it as his opinion that if the coupons are presented to the State Treasury they must be paid. Thus the amount of these stolen bonds, \$800,000, promises to be a total loss to the government.

ARE WE TO HAVE PEACE OR WAR?—According to our Washington advices, the war party in the South will not proceed further in their operations until the expiration of Mr. Buchanan's term of office. This is a sign that the more sensible of the secessionists are getting the upper hand, and that the ardor of the mob is beginning to cool. For the next thirty days, then, we have an armistice and guaranty that the federal property will not be molested. Notwithstanding this action on the part of the authorities of South Carolina, it is still evident that we are on the verge of civil war, the most fearful calamity that can befall a nation. The South is already in arms. In the North Governors of States and militia generals are tendering the services of large bodies of troops "for any emergency;" the Legislature of this State is asked for an appropriation of half a million dollars, to be expended in munitions of war, and the new Governor of Massachusetts has ordered the militia to be put upon a war footing. People seem to have made up their minds that a collision is inevitable, and the country is rushing into deadly peril without stopping to count the cost. All this is done through the recklessness and stupidity of the politicians. We are, altogether, thirty-four millions of people, and we desire, more than anything else, to live together in peace and unity, if the latter is possible, but in peace at all events. There are a few thousands of crazy people in the North and the South who are seeking to pull down the government, with the hope that they may profit by the ruin of others. But if, at the bidding of this handful of maniacs, the several sections of the country are to take up arms against each other, no one can tell where the thing will stop. Feuds will be engendered, and they will rankle in the breasts of our children's children, long after the present generation shall have passed away. We have no right to entail such a heritage upon posterity, nor should we, as sensible men, permit the arbitrament of the sword to be brought into this quarrel. Whatever the final result may be, neither party will gain anything, and the distress, suffering and poverty which intestine war will create in the meantime should not be risked if they can possibly be avoided. Business men, merchants, master mechanics and others should unite in an appeal to the President elect and his Premier, Mr. Seward, and induce them if possible to counteract the effect of the military spirit which has been displayed both in the North and the South, by the publication of a pacific programme. We do not believe that Abraham Lincoln is anxious to open his administration with a civil war on his hands, and certainly Mr. Seward's late speech was a pacific one. Let them, then, restrain their over zealous partisans at the North, and all may yet be well.

IMMENSE INFUX OF SPECIE.—The Asia brought out a million and a half of specie, making up about ten millions received from Europe since the panic set in. The consequence of this drain has been that the Bank of England has been obliged to raise its rate of discount to six per cent, and the Bank of France to five and a half. These rates are far from having reached the maximum. Notwithstanding that the conclusion of peace with China has stopped the drain eastward, it will be more than counterbalanced in the spring by the commencement of hostilities against Austria and a general arming of the European governments. As regards its flow in this direction, there do not appear to be any probabilities of its proximate cessation. Altogether the position of the European governments and populations is no more reassuring than our own. The infatuation of political theorists and anarchists promises to plunge both the Old and New Worlds into a state of distress and confusion which it will take years to remedy.

THE NEW LOAN.—When the new Treasury loan was emitted it was with the greatest difficulty that bids could be obtained for the first five millions at twelve per cent. This want of confidence was occasioned by the fact that violent secessionists, such as Cobb and Thomas, were in possession of the department. By a judicious change of men a revolution of public sentiment has taken place in regard to the loan, and upwards of twelve millions have been bid for the remainder of it, at prices averaging from nine to eleven per cent, thus effecting a large saving to the country.

THE CITY POLITICIANS IN THE CRISIS.—In the present alarming condition of the country, while almost all classes of the community are casting about for hope and guidance, the city politicians appear to be nearly in a comatose state. They do not seem to take any interest in the revolutionary crisis through which we are passing. The republican politicians are absorbed in making out the slate for all the offices to be filled after the 4th of March in the Custom House and Post Office, while the democrats, who have no slate to fill up, are hanging around the City Hall—like vultures over a battle field—watching for the droppings of Corporation plunder.

INTERESTING LETTER OF POLAR EXPERIENCE.—The following correspondence has passed between Capt. Whiting and several prominent merchants in this city:—
New York, Jan. 20, 1861.