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NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

The Evacuation of Fort Sumter Agreed Upon.

The Question of Abandoning Fort Pickens.

THE PEACE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The Administration Preparing for a Peaceful Separation of the Confederacy.

FIERCE FIGHT OF THE FACTIONS OVER THE SPOILS, &c., &c., &c.

THE EVACUATION OF FORT SUMTER.

WASHINGTON, March 29, 1861.

The President summoned the Cabinet to meet at ten o'clock, and they remained in session three hours. The principal question discussed and decided was the evacuation of Fort Sumter. It appears that Colonel Lamon did not care to exercise the discretionary power given him by the President, but returned and reported the facts to the President. The latter, to whom the whole matter was once left by the Cabinet, preferred to consult with them again, after hearing the report of Colonel Lamon, which, it is said, shows that it is utterly impossible to reinforce Fort Sumter, and if it is not done within four days he will be compelled to march his troops out to prevent them from starving.

It then becomes a great military necessity, in the face of which the President and the Cabinet have again decided to issue the order to Major Anderson to evacuate.

The order will be issued as soon as the Secretaries of War and Navy can perfect the necessary arrangements.

THE QUESTION OF THE REINFORCEMENT OF FORT PICKENS.

WASHINGTON, March 29, 1861.

It is positively denied that any order has been issued by the government for the reinforcement of Fort Pickens. If the administration has issued such an order, after the assurance given to the contrary to the Southern Commissioners, and other distinguished gentlemen from Virginia and Tennessee, it is guilty of the grossest deception.

The understanding has been all along that the present military *status* should remain, and that no reinforcements should be sent to any of the forts in the seceding States. Supplies in abundance have been sent, not only to the troops in Texas, but to vessels off the harbor of Pensacola.

The impression is very general that this story of reinforcements was started for the purpose of effecting the New England elections. They were informed that the abolition wing were threatening to go against the republican nominees, in the event that the administration abandoned Forts Sumter and Pickens, and hence this new species of political tactics.

THE POLICY OF THE ADMINISTRATION TOWARDS THE SECEDED STATES.

WASHINGTON, March 29, 1861.

There is no real ground for any apprehensions of civil war, at least not as far as the agency of the administration will go. Fort Sumter is about being evacuated. High authorities assert that no order has been issued to reinforce Fort Pickens, notwithstanding the statements of the New York organ. No attempt will be immediately made to collect the revenue in the seceded States by men-of-war. In fine, nothing will be done likely to precipitate a conflict.

The belief in a voluntary return of the seditious States to the Union has been abandoned, and the impracticability of forcing them back recognized by the administration. The Executive and his constitutional advisers well know that the assertion of the supremacy of the federal laws, *vi et armis*, within the rebellious States, would inevitably involve the federal authorities in a war of subjugation, in which they have no desire to engage. They are anxious not to place any obstruction in the way or what they now consider the only bloodless solution of the Southern imbroglio—peaceable separation. I can state positively that such a denouement is not considered unavoidable by all the administration, and that it will afford a key to all the executive acts bearing upon the Southern question. The very sectionalism exhibited in the selection of Northern material exclusively for the leading diplomatic, Territorial and other offices, means nothing less than preparing for the impending formal disintegration of the Union, and the fact that even the border slave States were all but overlooked in dispensing the federal patronage, only goes to prove that the possibility of retaining them in the Union is not by any means firmly believed in by the administration.

A bloody internal strife can only be brought on by direct aggression of the revolutionists, or by demands, the fulfilment of which the constitutional obligations of the administration will not allow. If the revolutionary authorities abstain from either until the proposed National Convention, or Congress will have opened the way to a separation, no blood will be shed, unless unreasonable terms should be insisted by the South upon the final settlement.

THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

WASHINGTON, March 29, 1861.

Mr. Seward is busily engaged in preparing instructions for the newly appointed representatives of the government abroad, all of whom are expected to repair to their respective posts at the earliest possible moment. Those of the Ministers to Europe and Central America will embrace the question of the recognition of the Confederate States by foreign Powers, which will be protested against until the legal status of the Confederate States will be acknowledged by the parent government.

THE SECESSION FEELING IN VIRGINIA.

WASHINGTON, March 29, 1861.

The news from Richmond to-day is very discouraging to the conservatives. The secessionists are gaining strength every day, and the belief is general that they will ultimately triumph. It appears that the conservatives have assurances from the administration that everything would be done that could be to strengthen their hands, but as yet there has been no act on the part of the administration indicating a disposition to aid them. On the contrary, the administration is concentrating troops within their borders and strengthening their fortifications.

Recently the arrival of ordnance in Richmond from the Bellona Foundry caused intense excitement, many of the citizens being apprehensive that they were to be sent to Fort Monroe, and that this movement was considerated by the present condition of Southern affairs. The truth is, as ascertained at the Ordnance Bureau, that the cannon were contracted for three years ago, and that the contractor merely delivered them at the place agreed upon in order to receive his pay.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS.

WASHINGTON, March 29, 1861.

OUR RELATIONS WITH PERU.

It is understood that the Peruvian question is to be taken up and disposed of by the new administration very shortly, and it is confidently hoped and believed that Mr. Seward will take good care of the interests of our citizens, notwithstanding the efforts of Peru to bias the government and defeat our claims by means of the press and paid attorneys. It is known here that the President of Peru says he will defeat them if money will do it.

THE MAIL SERVICE.

The Post Office Department, under the provisions of the recently enacted law, has restored the mail service between Georgetown and Lexington, Missouri. The service is to be six times a week.

THE ARMSTRONG COURT MARTIAL.

The trial of Captain Armstrong for the surrender of the Pensacola Navy Yard is still progressing. The government has sent to Florida for witnesses.

THE NEW SLOOPS-OF-WAR, ETC.

Much anxiety is expressed respecting the distribution of the building of the seven steam sloops-of-war ordered by the last Congress. No official action has been taken on the subject; besides, the appropriation for that purpose will not be available until after the 1st of July.

The receipts into the Treasury the last week were nearly $600 000. The net balance on hand is $1,680,000.

Lieut. Horace H. Harrison, of the United States Navy, died here to-day.

G. W. Lane, recently confirmed as Judge for the Northern and Southern district of Alabama, will, it is said, endeavor to hold his Court at Athens, in the Union part of that State.

FIERCE STRUGGLE FOR THE PUBLIC PLUNDER.

WASHINGTON, March 29, 1861.

The Cabinet were in session to-day upon the California appointments. As soon as these are disposed of, the New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore appointments will be made. In regard to the latter, there is a fierce struggle between the radical republicans and the old conservative whig element.

The political cauldron is bubbling here worse than the witches' hell broth in "Macbeth." The President is kept in the dark as to the true merits of candidates for office, from the utter impossibility that exists of his getting at the facts in each case.

During the late executive session of the Senate about four hundred nominations were confirmed, nearly fifty of which were sent in by the President yesterday.

The President and the heads of the Departments have reason to be gratified at the adjournment of the Senate, as the Senators claimed most of their time, by virtue of their positions, for the benefit of needy friends. The departure of Congressional backers will compel office seekers to rely on their resources henceforth. Swarms of them are still filling the ante-rooms at the White House and the Departments, the chances growing beautifully less every day the are growing desperate.

The determination of the different Secretaries not to be in a hurry with clerical appointments proves a source of great distress. Many have entire exhausted their funds and are pestering friends for loans.

Secretary Cameron left here for Pennsylvania this afternoon, to return on Wednesday next.

The officers of the lately organized Territories will be required to assume their functions without delay. The inhabitants of Colorado, Nevada and Dacotah, have greatly suffered from the anarchy under which they have heretofore been compelled to live, and are very solicitous to see law and order established in their midst.

General Wm. Hickey was elected Assistant Secretary of the Senate, and not Secretary, as erroneously stated in the newspapers. Asbury Dickens retains the latter position.

NEW YORK APPOINTMENTS.

The New York managers thus far have had it all their own way. The mighty struggle is for the possession of the New York appointments, to be used in building up and tearing down parties in that State prior to 1865. Greeley is determined to head off Seward and Weed. Unfortunately for him, a resolution has been passed in the Cabinet to refer all appointments to the members from each State, consequently Seward secures all the important offices save the Collectorship, which was given as a "barren sceptre," to Greeley. The strife over the Marshalship and District Attorneyship is so deadly and bitter that Rynders and the other officers may hold on for some time yet.

THE BOSTON APPOINTMENTS.

The subject of the Boston Postmaster was also considered in Cabinet. The recommendation was left entirely to Senator Sumner, ignoring not only the Congressional delegation generally, but even the Boston members. This has not been the case heretofore. Mr. Hayden was appointed Postmaster of Boston by representative Winthrop, against the protest of Senator Webster. To-day Mr. Sumner recommended his personal friend, John G. Palfrey, of Cambridge, against the law cited by Postmaster Blair, and the voice of the great business interests and people of Boston, and the Cabinet and President have sanctioned the act, and the latter has appointed Mr. Palfrey. Despatches received here this afternoon say that great indignation exists in Boston at this continued evidence of an intention to ignore Boston entirely for all the offices within her limits, and a public meeting is contemplated to protest against such a course.

THE FIRST COMPTROLLERSHIP OF THE TREASURY.

Secretary Chase received a letter this morning from Mr. Whittlesey, accepting the position of First Comptroller of the Treasury. This is rather unwelcome news to the sharks hereabouts, who expect to batten off this administration.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR NEW JERSEY.

The correct name of the person appointed to fill the above office is Anthony Q. Keasbey, not Anthony T. Keasy, as mentioned in the HERALD of Thursday—the error occurring during the passage of the name over the wires.

RESIGNATION OF MAJOR HAWKINS.

The report that Major Edgar S. Hawkins, of the Second regiment of infantry, had resigned his commission, is not correct. We have been assured that he has not resigned.

THE VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION.

RICHMOND, March 29, 1861.

In the Convention to-day resolutions were introduced for terminating debate in the Committee of the Whole after Tuesday next.

The resolutions were violently opposed by Messrs. Morton, Ambler and Staples.

The matter, it is thought, will be compromised.

Thos. Rives spoke to-day seven hours in favor of the Union.

No action was taken on the resolutions, and the Convention adjourned.

Personal Intelligence.

Captain Ohman, of Russia; H. Whittemore, of Antwerp; Mrs. S. M. Davis, of Syracuse; Mrs. Tilman and Mrs. Montgomery, of Philadelphia, are stopping at the Clarendon Hotel.

Barton Hill and wife, of Baltimore; Senor De Alva, of Cuba; E. W. Corner, of New York; F. Correros and J. Castano, of Havana, are stopping at the Lafarge House.

Bradford R. Wood, United States Minister to Denmark; W. S. Pennington, Secretary of Legation to Paris; F. Woodruff and family, and F. N. Lawrence, of Flushing; E. E. Barnum, of Danbury, and J. F. Kimball, of Schenectady, are stopping at the St. Denis Hotel.

H. S. Sanford, United States Minister to Belgium; Judge Lane, of Ohio; Capt. W. F. Smith, and Charles H. Trumbull, of the United States Army; George Dwight of Springfield, and M. B. Jenkins, of Providence, are stopping at the Brevoort House.

Rev. Dr. Rogers and wife, of Albany; Capt. McGuigan, of the steamship Vigo; Dr. Chiles and wife, of Mississippi; Mr. Bowes and wife, of Boston; Mr. Bowes, of Liverpool, and E. S. Brayton, of Utica, are stopping at the Everett House.

Hon. S. L. Clingman, of North Carolina; Dr. B. Lorino, of Maryland; F. Foster, of Calcutta; Dr. A. H. Smith, and Alfred Gilmore, of Philadelphia; Lieut. W. C. Paine and wife, of Fort Schuyler; George Barrett, of New York; D. S. Emery, of Portland, Me.; W. C. N. Swift and family, of New Bedford; Waldo S. Maynard, W. J. Reynolds, and J. H. White, of Boston, and D. P. Ramsey, of Buffalo, are stopping at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

General L. M. Todd, Mark Sheldon, E. W. Leonard and J. S. Hensley, of California; Captain Field, of the United States Army; N. L. O'Brien, of Baltimore; L. S. Williams, of North Carolina; J. Lincoln of Boston; J. G. Meem, of Virginia; L. C. Stebbins, of Texas; S. B. Henry, of Philadelphia; Dr. T. F. Berton, of England, and J. W. Whitman, of Delaware, are stopping at the Metropolitan Hotel.

L. Tremain, S. B. Hammond and family, and H. R. Rathbone, of Albany; W. F. Romaine, of Toronto; S. C. Barney, of the United States Navy; R. W. H. Jarvis, of Hartford; Owen Jones and J. C. Cox, of Pennsylvania; E. D. Tiffany and N. Case, of Hartford; C. T. Barnes, of Washington; D. Currie and E. C. Lindsay, of Virginia, are stopping at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

Gen. Sumner and Capt. Callender, of the United States Army; Judge Balcom, Binghamton; Capt. Jas. Lawless, New Orleans; H. S. Gee year, New Haven; Hon. D. Clark and wife, New Hampshire; S. Harlan, Jr., Wilmington; Philip Justice, J. B. A. Allen and F. Biddle, of Philadelphia; T. J. Yorke and M. Bayard, of New Jersey; L. E. Chittenden, of Vermont; Asher Tyler, of Elmira; S. W. Bitts and A. and J. McCrea, of Ohio; B. F. Rexford, of New York, and Charles Pierson, of Buffalo, are stopping at the Astor House.

John B. Floyd and Senator Wigfall were serenaded in Richmond on the 27th inst. They both responded in speeches on secession.

Ex-Governor Banks will soon visit Boston.

Money Affairs at Pittsburg.

PITTSBURG, March 29, 1861.

The merchants and business men here generally are standing firmly against receiving depreciated currency except at brokers' rates, Virginia and Missouri bills being received at four per cent discount. The farmers will not receive it at all, as it is worthless to purchase produce from first hands. Indications are that this city will hereafter be a par point. Many manufacturers now pay their hands par money.

Failures and Suspensions.

BOSTON, March 29, 1861.

The Boston *Commercial Bulletin's* list of the changes in business of the United States gives seven failures and suspensions in Boston, seven in New York, six in Baltimore and twenty-three in other places—a total of forty-seven for the week.

THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

What They May Do—Reminiscences of Meeting of the South Carolina State Convention—A Glance at the Members—St. Andrew's Hall—The Last Democratic Convention—The New York Hard Shells—The State of South Carolina, and Her Military and Financial Resources—Temper of the People About the Non-Evacuation of Fort Sumter—Parade of Cadets—Important Commercial and Military Intelligence, &c.

OUR CHARLESTON CORRESPONDENCE.

CHARLESTON, S. C., March 26, 1861.

The State Convention met pursuant to adjournment, in St. Andrew's Hall, this day at noon—Hon. David F. Jamison in the chair. Prior to the body being called to order, greetings among members were interchanged, and they were most enthusiastic and cordial. Every member of the Convention—and the hall was crowded, but few spectators being present—seemed animated by a common purpose, and ready to accede to almost any proposition that would aid in the great movement initiated by South Carolina and adopted by six others of the late federal Union. The idea of a reconstruction of the old Union was not for a moment entertained by one of the members present. They were all actuated by a common purpose, and that was the success of the new confederacy. Your correspondent has attended many public assemblages, has seen the collected wisdom of the nation in the Senate Chamber of the United States, in the Hall of the House of Representatives, in the Legislatures of a number of the Eastern, Middle and Western States. He has performed official duty in the United States Senate, in the House, in the Legislatures of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois, and in innumerable public conventions; and candor compels him to say he never beheld a body of men in either of these assemblages that could surpass, collectively, in personal appearance, in dignity, in that solid and distinctive attribute of the American character—independence—the body he has this day beheld assembled for the purpose of adopting the constitution of the Confederate States of America. There was not a mean looking man among them. The physiognomies of the miser, the spendthrift, the braggart, the thoughtless, the dolt, the demagogue, could nowhere be seen. It was, in short, a body of men who were born, who were educated and who were designed by Providence to achieve great things. They were not all statesmen, although there were many; they were not all politicians, although there were many of that class; they were not all planters, although many of that class; they were not all lawyers, or merchants, or soldiers, or manufacturers, or mechanics, or doctors, although there were several of each class; but, as a body, they presented as fine a combination of the true American character as was ever congregated within four walls on the American continent. The deliberations of such men must be attended with triumphant results, and South Carolina, with the members of this Convention as her representatives, may well rank among the first in mind, as she has been the first in fact, in the revolution which has secured the second independence of her own and sister States.

There are some pleasant reminiscences connected with St. Andrew's Hall with which your readers are doubtless familiar. It was, you remember, the headquarters of one of the wings of the New York democracy—the hard shells, the Dickinson, the out-and-out go aheads, no compromise wing of the democracy of New York—when the fatal Democratic National Convention of 1860 met in Charleston. Here were the caucuses and the coteries, the devilries and the dovetrics of that sublime political failure held and hatched, and the plans of the enemy thwarted. The delegation were all strong friends of the South, and, apropos, there is an exceeding appropriateness and a very neat compliment indirectly paid to that delegation in the South Carolina Convention selecting the same hall for the purpose of taking final action in a matter which was in April, 1860, foreshadowed—namely, the establishment of a Southern confederacy and the adoption of a distinct federal constitution.

The usual routine matters over, the first business of importance was the presentation of a certified copy of the Montgomery constitution. A programme was proposed in relation to amendments that might be offered. This produced a response which indicated that, although some few members might wish to interpolate, to amend, or to add to the original instrument, the majority were in favor of cordial and harmonious action and the unanimous adoption of the constitution as it came from its framers at Montgomery.

The next matter of importance was the introduction of a resolution, the adoption of which would interdict the courtesies that had heretofore been extended to Major Anderson by immediately cutting off the supplies he received from the city, his mail facilities and favors of that description. The Convention, by a very decided expression of sentiment, refused to take immediate action on the resolution, and it lies over until to-morrow. At this distance it would be idle to speculate upon the probable fate of the resolution, as you will doubtless learn all about that by telegraph before or as soon as this will reach you. And in the meantime the fort may be evacuated, and all discussion on the point obviated; for it is believed that Colonel Lamon will return here from Washington with orders for the evacuation as soon as he has taken a hasty plate of soup with General Scott and Uncle Abe at the White House. The resolution for stopping supplies came from a Charleston member (Mr. Shingler). In this city the feeling in favor of immediate action in regard to the fort greatly preponderates among the active population, and it is gaining strength among those who have heretofore favored a different policy. The dilatory movements of the government at Washington, in regard to the evacuation, which has been from day to day anticipated, and from day to day postponed, are arousing a feeling of resentment that has almost reached to exasperation. First a Fox comes cunningly along, sees Gov. Pickens, and by permission starts at eight o'clock at night to see Major Anderson. He returns to the city after a brief interview, and takes the same night's train for Washington. Next the bosom friend of the President of the United States comes in an equally foxy manner to the city, likewise sees Governor Pickens, goes to Fort Sumter, talks with Major Anderson, and that Ambassador Extraordinary takes the next train for Washington. Nothing is done; nobody is hurt; everything will come right by and by. That seems to be the policy of the Washington government; but it is not the policy, nor the wish, nor the intention of South Carolina. She has the means to demolish the fort within forty-eight hours; and she deems it an essential point of honor that she should enter into the bond of union with the Confederate States of America with no foreign flag flying over any battlement within her dominions. At this moment she has not officially surrendered her State sovereignty to the Confederate States. But a convention of her best citizens is now in council, willing to do so at the first practicable moment. Delay is therefore dangerous. Procrastination will only result in an attack upon the fort and the effusion of blood. If the policy of Lincoln be in reality peace, let the order for the evacuation of Fort Sumter be given without delay. If he desires a conflict, let him continue to send envoys who have been clothed with power to do nothing except to cause delay, increase the public excitement, arouse further doubts and suspicions, and in the end produce a disastrous conflict which cannot result in good to either the one side or the other.

It may not be widely known, but it is a fact, that South Carolina seceded from the old Union with scarcely a pound of powder to defend herself with. She has now five hundred thousand pounds of powder, ordnance and ordnance stores in super-abundance, and is hourly increasing her defences and augmenting her abilities to assail. Her people are all afire with military ardor. She has money, not by forced loans, as has been lyingly asserted in Northern abolition prints, but by voluntary subscriptions and by a system of taxation which is not regarded as onerous by her population. Here, again, we may particularly deny the reports in these same highly colored Northern prints in relation to certain specified articles of taxation. Slaves, for instance—and they are a species of taxable property that will exist in the State so long as any government on this continent endures—have been rated at $5 per head, when the ratio is but $1 20. In other particulars has the State been equally misrepresented in relation to her system of taxation. From a late report of the Secretary of the Treasury of the State, your correspondent was enabled to glean a few particulars about the financial condition of the State that are not only interesting but important. From this report it is ascertained that the chief sources of revenue of the State are from slaves and lands. Seven hundred dollars being the assumed average value of slaves per head, and $6 per acre the average value of lands in the State, the following exhibit is produced:—

356 000 slaves, at $700 per head	$270 000 000
17 500 000 acres land, at $6 per acre	105 000 000
Other subjects taxable	73 000 000
Total	$448,000,000

The rate of taxation provided by the act of 1861 is estimated to yield $800 000, which makes an average of 17½ cents on every hundred dollars of the value of the property which is taxed. The deposit of the United States surplus revenue is included in the assets of the State, because it is certain that it will never be demanded of any of the States. The term "deposit," when the money was distributed, was well known to be a mere disguise of the transaction, the design of which was to continue the flagrant oppression of the agricultural interest for the protection of Northern manufacturers, by a tariff of duties which greatly exceeded the expenses of the government. The State will suffer no loss by its guarantee of the railroad bonds of the State, being secured against that liability by a first lien on the roads and all the effects of the companies; and but few railroads have been reduced to so desperate a condition as not to be worth the cost of iron and equipments. The first railroad car that was run in the United States was run on the South Carolina road. It has been supposed that the State was not interested in domestic manufactures; but the tree 20 000 bales of her own raw material in the manufacture of cotton fabrics. But few States of the Union or South Carolina present a better balance sheet of debit and credit than South Carolina, while the immense income accruing from her great staple is always sufficient to afford an abundance of the comforts and the luxuries of life to her intelligent population, with a large share to expend for the goods, wares and merchandise of her neighbors.

Quite an interesting occurrence took place in the Circle Green a few days ago. It was the review of the Cadets by General Beauregard, and was witnessed with great satisfaction by some four thousand people. The young Carolinians never presented a better appearance, and were highly complimented by General Beauregard for their soldierly bearing. These Cadets are composed of the right material to make good soldiers.

CONFEDERATE STATES' FEELING IN THE COUNTRY—NEW YORK AND CHARLESTON.

Those at the North ignorant, and perversely so, of the state of feeling at the South have ascribed to politicians, to demagogues of the sordid class, the present condition of Southern sentiment. To furnish your readers with an insance to the contrary—and it is but one of hundreds that occur to the observer in this section every day—I will give you an account of a talk I had with an up country merchant, who does a business amounting to perhaps $ 0,000 per annum. I met him at the Pavilion Hotel, kept by Major Butterfield—a splendid specimen of transported New Hampshire granite. You will meet at the Pavilion a class of people you will no encounter at either the Mills House or the Charleston Hotel. They are the solid men of the interior.

After a few words of commonplace conversation, our up country friend said he was not at all astonished at the unanimity of feeling in favor of the Confederate States in Charleston.

"Why?"

"Why, sir, there is not a woman in five in my town who would not rather give fifteen per cent more for her goods if purchased in Charleston, than if bought North. No dealer can sell his goods to his customers, even if he sells them cheaper, if it is known that the chief profits go to the North. The enthusiasm among the women is even greater than among the men. They take as much interest in political affairs as the men, and he is in a bad way for success in any feminine undertaking—I mean a matrimonial alliance, for success in any business in which women have an interest—if he espouses the cause of the North or attempts to sell Northern goods. We all rejoice in the separation from the North. We don't agree in political sentiment—for our negroes are a political sentiment, you must admit."

"Therefore, the more the North treads upon our toes, the more we must resist. Isn't that so?"

Of course it was.

"We have long wanted to be separated from the North. We have now got it; why should'nt we keep it?"

Self-preservation &c.

"Speaking of seaports, why shouldn't Charleston become as great a seaport as New York?"

She hasn't got the harbor.

"She has water enough in the harbor to float a fleet. Like New York, she has two rivers, to the right and left. New York has her East and North rivers. Charleston has her Ashley and Cooper rivers. They all flow into a common ocean, don't they?"

That was so.

"Well, then, all these things being equal, why should not Charleston increase in business, and in time rival New York in commercial importance? Tell me."

"Very true, very true; the tariff is a question that knocks them all, even the niggers, although that's pretty stout, and is now ahead. But mark my words, sir; the day will yet be seen when, with free trade South, under the Confederate States, and a high tariff North, under the United States, Charleston will yet be one of the biggest cities in America."

We agreed with him. It may not be generally known that since the old channel was partially and temporarily obstructed, new ones have been discovered by the indefatigable exertions of the Charleston pilots—one of whom is Captain Evans, a New Yorker—and the harbor is now as free or freer than it ever was for the introduction of merchant vessels drawing not over eighteen feet water.

Gossip About the Convention—Important Commercial News.

CHARLESTON, March 26—9 P. M.

The arrival of the members of the Convention has imparted additional liveliness to our streets and hotels. The city is exceedingly lively, and everybody appears to be happy, except a few members of the Convention, who wish to amend the constitution, in order to reopen the slave trade. The point will not be carried, if pressed.

No war news of interest. Things will remain in *statu quo* until the return of Colonel Lamon. Ex Governor Adams, one of the first South Carolina Commissioners to the then general government under President Buchanan last winter, is a member of the Convention. He regards Lincoln's position as identical with that of Buchanan—that is, he is bound to collect the revenue, hold and protect the public property, and yet acknowledges his inability to do either.

Hon. W. Porcher Miles has arrived from Montgomery, with the first Confederate State flag, which will probably take an interesting part in the surrender or evacuation ceremonies at Fort Sumter, through the medium of the fair hands of Miss Pickens, daughter of the Governor, unless the South Carolinians have the honor of presenting the fort to the Confederate States under the flag of their own state sovereignty.

Adams' Express office in this city is now used as a bonded warehouse for all goods coming this way from the interior. The border revenue guard have not yet been appointed. Florence and Chester, S. C.; Dalton, Ga.; Hernando and Holly Springs, Miss., and four other places, have been designated as ports of entry from the border and United States. All goods, including passengers' baggage, will have to undergo the same examination at these inland border stations, when fully established, as if they had come from England or any other foreign country. Until these revenue officers are appointed at the inland stations, Augusta, Ga., and Charleston, S. C., have been established as the frontier custom houses. All freights coming by railroad into the Confederate States are held by the collectors at Augusta and Charleston until the duties are paid, the Secretary of the Treasury having appointed those officers collectors of seaport as well as inland stations. No inland collector has been appointed for Savannah, and goods by railroad for that point and others South are stopped in Charleston until the payment of duties, or are forwarded in bond.

We have just learned from reliable authority that the Confederate States government have made a requisition on the several States in the confederacy for a certain number of men, for some unkown purpose. The quota of one of the States is two thousand men, who are ordered to be prepared "for the campaign." The movement has a look toward the defence of Pensacola in case of invasion by the United States forces.

The Latest Reports from Charleston.

CHARLESTON, March 29, 1861.

We have no expectation that Fort Sumter will be evacuated on Saturday. The delay is worrying the people here greatly.

The State Convention has a majority for peace, but not without the evacuation of the fort.

A messenger from Washington was expected here today but did not arrive.

Governor Pickens says he is ready for a fight.

The reports of visits of foreign fleets create no dissatisfaction. France and Spain are now the ascendant Powers in the Southern confederacy.

Interesting from Pensacola.

We have received despatches from Pensacola with information from that point up to the 20th instant, at which time the utmost activity was displayed by General Bragg with the Confederate State troops under his command in the besiegement of Fort Pickens. He expressed the utmost confidence that in a few days from that time he would be able to resist an attack from any combination of military and naval force the United States could bring there to attempt to raise the siege. There are five hundred negro laborers engaged in erecting new sand batteries to command Fort Pickens and the exterior points of the harbor. Gen. Bragg has positive information of the true condition of matters within Fort Pickens. The armament of that work has been wonderfully misrepresented, as it appears that many of the guns are of inferior calibre, and the mortar battery consists of but four ten-inch mortars. Fort McRea is considered a match alone for Fort Pickens, without speaking of Fort Barrancas and a dozen small batteries that will be arrayed against it if necessary. An erroneous idea prevails in supposing that a fleet of vessels of war can sail into Pensacola bay without any great resistance from the land batteries. Let them try the experiment, and the Northern confederacy will lose every vessel that makes the attempt. They will have to pass within six hundred yards of Fort McRea, which presents a bold front of thirty-two and forty-two pounder guns shotted for action. Even supposing a hostile fleet should pass the latter named work, they will only be in a position within half range of three formidable sand batteries, besides the guns of Fort Barrancas. The Quartermaster and Commissary Generals at Pensacola are making ample arrangements for quartering and supplying with food five thousand troops now under orders from various points of the confederacy, destined for Pensacola. The engineer corps are working assiduously in prospecting from various points and determining upon plans to resist an attack from a naval or land force. Several light artillery batteries were daily expected at Pensacola at the date of our advices. The New Orleans Zouave regiment, consisting of five hundred active young men, under the command of Major Gustave Coppens, a graduate of the military school of France, were expected to arrive at Pensacola on the 22d. The hospital department is being organized. The site of a temporary hospital has been determined upon and a corps of nurses detailed for duty. A warm time was early expected.

Capt. Thomas M. Jones, who recently resigned his position in the United States Army, arrived at Pensacola on the 19th, and reported himself to General Bragg. He holds the commission of Captain and Assistant Adjutant General of the army of Louisiana.

Pensacola (Courier of the 18th) has the following:—

[illegible] of the city; Farragut, of the navy Yard, and Lieutenant Chapman, of Mobile, have been notified to hold themselves in readiness to proceed to New Orleans. We hope to take charge of a man-of-war.

HEADQUARTERS TROOPS CONFEDERATE STATES, NEAR PENSACOLA, FLA., March 18, 1861.

GENERAL ORDERS—NO. 4.

The Commanding General learns with surprise and regret that some of our citizens are engaged in the business of furnishing supplies of fuel, water and provisions to the armed vessels of the United States, now occupying a threatening position off the harbor.

That no misunderstanding may exist on this subject, it is announced to all concerned that this traffic is strictly forbidden and all such supplies which may be captured in transit to said vessels or to Fort Pickens will be confiscate.

The more effectually to enforce this prohibition, no boat or vessel will be allowed to visit Fort Pickens or any United States naval vessel without special sanction.

Col. John H. Forney, acting Inspector General, will organize an efficient harbor police for the enforcement of this order. By command of

Brigadier General BRAXTON BRAGG.

ROBERT C. WOOD, Assistant Adjutant General.

From the Warrington correspondence of the above paper we take these paragraphs:—

WARRINGTON, March 16, 1861.

DEAR OBSERVER—The inhabitants were all aroused at an early hour from their beds this morning by the firing of a salute from the forts in honor of the flag of the Confederate States, which was hoisted for the first time to-day. Long may it wave over a happy and united South.

I learned while moment that the ladies of Pensacola were to present a flag to the troops stationed here and at Barrancas to-day, and that addresses were to be delivered by Messrs. Pugh, Bullock and others, of a very patriotic and interesting character.

A company numbering about eighty men arrived here last night from Mobile, by schooner. I have not learned the names of the officers, but will try to find out and send them to you.

Estimates were made yesterday of the amount necessary to compete the steamer Fulton, which is now lying in this yard; they are to be forwarded to-day to the Hon. S. R. Mallory, Secretary of the Navy, at Montgomery.

IMPORTANT FROM CUBA.

Arrival of the Quaker City—Aggressive Movements of the Spanish Government—St. Domingo to be Forcibly Annexed to Spain—Hayti and Mexico Also in the Programme of Spanish Aggrandizement—Departure of Spanish War Vessels from Havana with Troops for St. Domingo—State of the Havana Markets, &c., &c.

The steamship Quaker City, R. W. Shufeldt commanding, left Havana at noon of the 25th instant, and arrived at her wharf here last evening.

Great excitement existed in Havana on the subject of the Spanish annexation of St. Domingo. It appears that during some time past a process of colonization has been going on, by the introduction of large bodies of emigrants into the island, with the view of promoting Spanish interests, and consequent disaffection towards the republican government, and, at the first sign of resistance on the part of the native population, to invoke the aid of the Spanish government. This was accomplished on the 16th instant, when the Spanish flag was hoisted, much to the consternation of the black and native inhabitants. The Spanish frigate Blanca was despatched from Havana on the 23d, immediately on the receipt of the above news, fully armed and equipped, with a large number of regular troops on board, to assist in the Spanish protectorate, or, in other words, annexation.

The screw steam frigates Petronella and Barceguela were to follow as soon as possible with about 5,000 of the regular army. A large additional naval and military force, including some of the largest war vessels and about 10,000 regular troops, is also reported as on the way from Spain to Cuba and the West Indies. By an arrangement with France, already consummated, it is said that Hayti is to share the fate of its sister republic.

The Dutch frigate Vesuvius, Commander Tukins, arrived at Havana on the 20th. The United States steamer Mohawk arrived off the harbor on the 24th. All well.

Business continued in a depressed state. $1,000,000 are said to be on their way from Spain to aid the metallic circulation of the Island. The sugar market was quiet. Freights declining. Stock on hand 247,000 boxes and 15,500 hogsheads.

The Quaker City brought eighty-nine passengers, including General Miramon, Ex President of Mexico, family and suite; Col. Samuel Colt and family, of Hartford, Connecticut; Major Patterson, bearer of despatches from St. Domingo to Washington; Mariano Alvarez, Spanish Consul General at St. Domingo and bearer of despatches for his government; E. V. Murt, Esq., Belgian Consul General to Havana; Lieutenant W. R. Terrill, United States Army, Messrs. C. T. Jardella and Edwards, United States Coast Survey; Mlle. Judith Sylvie and Signora Lotti and family.

Our Havana Correspondence.

HAVANA, March 25, 1861.

Departure of Spanish Vessels-of-War for St. Domingo—Their Mission the Forcible Annexation of the Dominican Republic—Hayti in the Programme for Spanish or French Absorption—The Grasping Policy of Spain—England Indifferent on Account of her Cotton Interests—The United States' Internal Difficulties Spain's Opportunity—Mexico to Succeed on the Programme—Arrival of the United States War Steamer Mohawk—Death of an Eminent Merchant—Suicides of Coolies—Arrival of Vessels in Havana—Departure of Miramon for Spain, via New York—Markets, &c.

The Spanish steam frigate Blanca, with a full complement of sailors and marines for active service, left her anchorage in our harbor Saturday evening last for St. Domingo, having on board troops to enforce Spanish policy and to defeat any opposition that might be made by the government or people of the Dominican republic to the protective jurisdiction of Spain. May thousands of people were upon the wharf to cheer this enterprise for the acquisition of new territory and the display of Spanish power upon their ancient domain, where were impressed almost the first footsteps of the pioneers of Western civilization. To-day leave for the same destination the Spanish steam frigates Barenguela and Petronella, with complete war fittings, munitions and men drawn from the army, to compel respect to Spanish power and to Spanish dictation. It is said that five or six thousand soldiers are to be sent to revolutionize or to finish the revolution initiated by the Spanish government, by a quiet introduction of emigrants, instructed in the game, and paid for their services by grants of lands which were to be acquired through their duplicity and treachery to the government where they pretend to seek homes and protection.

Every demonstration tending to territorial acquisition on the part of Spain in St. Domingo, from the fraud, deception and tricks of the Spanish Consul Segovia in St. Domingo city, to defeat the policy of the United States—causing the refusal of confirmation of a treaty made in good faith with the Dominican republic, through their own commissioners under legal authority, and at their own suggestion, after the same had been thoroughly discussed and maturely considered on both sides, and ratified by the Senate of the chief of the high contracting parties—the United States—to the inducing tide of Spanish hired emigration to the Dominican republic, conducted by Spanish officers of high rank in the army and navy, and transported from various places in armed vessels of the crown, for the purpose of future action to construct a case for Spanish national intervention—has been already recorded.

Although the facts, views and deductions of your correspondent have been subsequently fully verified and established by the investigation, testimony and official reports of agents employed by the United States, yet no effectual steps have been taken to check or prevent the maturing of Spanish designs, now in a prosperous course of fruition. These demonstrations of a Power your people have been elevating in political might and majesty by their own dissensions are of great importance to them, as well as to all nations interested in the cause of human rights and freedom. The Dominican republic, with its white, black and mixed population of freemen, is already in the bondage of Spain. Hayti is to follow in the wake of Spanish policy, by previous understanding with the French Emperor.

England is taciturn, under quiet view of advantage for the produce of her looms; England is taciturn, under the influence of her yarns, when a free people pass under the domination of an arbitrary, absolute, slaveholding power, where slave labor and slave traffic are to be checked and curbed. (Vide discussion 27th February House of Commons—Lords John Russel and Palmerston) England sits still, with folded arms, and says nothing while Spain absorbs nationalities recognized by all civilized communities of the world, for reasons which can be multiplied for the national advantage by millions, perhaps. How will it be with the growing prosperity and power of the nation, just emerging from its moulting condition of a half century, when Spain goes down with all her strength to annex Mexico? She is only held in restraint now, under the impression that from the valies of the Mississippi thousands would flow towards the sierras of Mexico to prevent the acquisition.

The political disturbances in the United States showed that the time was ripe for the aggressive purposes of Spain, and hence the prompt advantage taken of it. But is this enormity to pass unrebuked? Are not all the States, is or out of the Union, interested in the cause of liberty—in political and social rights? And is there not aggregate strength enough in the Union as it stands to compel the respect of foreign Powers.

Some response must be made to these things. Who is to do it? The colored