least he mistook Charleston for Savannah harbor. He had crossed the bar and beat up to within one mile of Fort Sumter, when two or three shots were fired across the bow of the schooner from Fort Moultrie. The Cummings Point battery also commenced firing, and after displaying the American ensign at the fore and afterwards from the peak without avail, he wore off and stood down the channel, when a shot passed through the mainsail at the single reef, and two or three feet above the head of a man who was hauling down the apparently offensive flag. The captain, thinking it now equally hazardous to attempt to proceed or retreat, rounded to and anchored near the lighthouse, when the firing ceased. Major Anderson sent a boat aboard the schooner, but they could not advise Captain March how to proceed. Finally, after lying six hours in an exposed situation, with a strong gale from N. E., and night coming on, he weighed anchor at sunset and went to sea without further molestation, arriving here at 12 o'clock to-day. The captain is as ignorant of the cause of the outrage as he was innocent of any reason for it, and was far more happy to get to sea than he had been anxious a short time before to make a harbor after a rough, disagreeable passage. I have talked with Capt. March, and you may rely upon the information being perfectly correct in every particular.

OUR COLUMBUS CORRESPONDENCE.

COLUMBUS, Ga., April 1, 1861.

Southern Regret at the Necessity for Dissolving the Union—The Madness of Fanaticism—Reconstruction an Impossibility—The Strength of the Cotton States—The Importance of King Cotton—The Millions Supported by it—Insignificance of Northern Staples in Comparison—Cordial Invitation to the Conservative Men of the North—Progress of Southern Manufacturing Industry, dc., dc., dc.

We of the Southern confederacy regret that circumstances have made it necessary to dissolve the government of the United States, but want of affinity between the North and South makes separation absolutely necessary. Not nature, but fanaticism, has destroyed this affinity. Let the North return to reason, and we may still be a homogeneous, united and powerful republic. The passage of the Morrill tariff and other acts indicate that the North is truly mad. "Whom the gods intend to destroy they first make mad." We believe destruction has proceeded too far. It is too late for reconstruction. Nothing now can be done but amicable treaties between the two republics. The more madness displayed by the North will sink her the deeper in ruin. She will soon learn that the cotton States are not weak and insignificant, but that they have a great lever power in their products which will command the commercial world. Cotton is king. No raw article passes through so many ramifications in the commercial world, and supports so many, as cotton. Think of it in its first raw state, thence to the gin, thence to the ship, to the manufacturer; again to the ship, to the jobbing merchant, thence to the retail merchant, thence to the consumer. Who knows the millions supported alone through cotton? The boasted shuck and hay trade of the Northern States dwindles into utter insignificance compared to this great staple. Still hurl your thunders at the North, but as for us, we believe the summer is past and the harvest is ended with the North. We know there are many men of reason and patriotism North; and those we invite cordially to our Southern confederacy. We would be proud to have your press at the centre of our Southern government. We invite you, with all the manufacturing and commercial men of the North, who are our friends, to leave the black republican North. Unite with us; make our homes your homes, and you shall share the prosperity and happiness in store for us.

The North speak of us as their plantations. Can they produce as favorable a report in manufacturing as the Eagle Manufacturing Company of our city?

You gave, in one of your last week's issues, a statement of the condition, resources, &c., of the Columbus Mills, one of the manufacturing concerns of our city. The report of the Eagle Company will give you and your readers a better idea of our manufacturing interests. We have located in our city and suburbs the following manufacturing concerns:—The Columbus Manufactory, the Eagle Manufacturing Company, the Grant Mills, Empire Mills, Palace Mills, City Mills, Columbus Mills. The three first are cotton and woollen mills of first character. The last named four are flouring establishments, each doing a large business, based on a large amount of capital.

We have also one paper mill, with a capital of fifty thousand dollars, having three times more demand for paper than it can supply. We have one large manufacturing establishment of furniture, two iron foundries, one gin manufactory; also, two large manufactories of sash, windows and doors; also, one extensive shoe manufactory. None of these interests are able to supply the demand at their doors. Our city is located at the head of navigation of the Chattahoochee river, giving us a good outlet to the Gulf at Apalachicola. We have a first class railroad to Savannah, on the Atlantic. We have constant communication with New Orleans via railroad and water, and have direct railroad connection with Nashville, Louisville, Cincinnati, St. Louis and all the great West. No place in America affords superior water power for manufacturing. Our city is located in a healthy, fertile and beautiful region. It is proverbial for health. We ship about six million dollars' worth of raw cotton annually from our market.

These are only a few of the advantages which our city possesses.

As we have said above, we invite you, with all our commercial and manufacturing friends of the North, to a place with us.

At some future time, by your permission, I will give you short articles upon the superior facilities afforded at some points in the Southern confederacy for manufacturing.

INTERESTING FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.

OUR CHARLESTON CORRESPONDENCE.

CHARLESTON, April 3, 1861.

The American Flag Again Fired Upon—Major Anderson's Course Thereupon—Conflicting Rumors—Adoption of the Constitution—Senator Wigfall's Speech—The Fortifications on Sullivan's Island—Mean Yankee Tricks, dc. dc.

The city was astir this evening in consequence of rumors about another vessel, showing the American flag, being fired into from batteries on Morris Island. The reports were very conflicting, and nothing definite will be known until an official report is made to Gov. Pickens—an officer having been despatched to the island to ascertain the particulars.

The rumors are that the vessel was a regular trading schooner from Philadelphia, and attempted to make her way into the harbor without showing proper signals; that she was fired at with blank cartridges, and not paying attention thereto, Col. Lamar gave her a shot in the hull from his columbiad. She then displayed the American ensign, and that not being a satisfactory signal, another shot was fired at her, but it was not known at eleven o'clock this evening whether the second shot took effect or not. Capt. Dozier went down in the government steamer Lady Davis, but did not succeed in ascertaining the whereabouts of the vessel. It is supposed she put to sea.

When the firing was observed by Major Anderson, it is stated, he despatched two of his officers—Captains Seymour and Snyder—to Morris Island, with instructions to seek Colonel De Saussure, commanding artillery on the island, and ascertain the cause of the hostile demonstration against his flag. The reply was that the vessel was endeavoring to pass the batteries without coming to at the first summons. Major Anderson's officers then proceeded, with the consent of Colonel De Saussure, to the vessel to examine her condition; but their report has not yet reached the city. The affair is considered of some importance by the highest functionaries here, although it may eventually prove to be of little consequence. The official report will be made to Governor Pickens early to-morrow morning.

The Convention having to day ratified the constitution of the Confederate States, General Beauregard will soon assume the entire control of the military operations in this section, and thus relieve Governor Pickens of that harassing duty. The vote on the constitution will be made nearly unanimous before the injunction of secrecy is removed from the proceedings of the body. The unanimity of feeling exhibited by the members of the Convention in relation to this important event causes much satisfaction this evening in every quarter; and reference to it by ex-Senator Wigfall, in his speech from the balcony of the Mills House, was hailed with enthusiastic cheering.

Your correspondent returned from a visit to the fortifications on Sullivan's Island, in company with the military secretary of the Governor, Colonel Moore, to whose obliging attentions he is much indebted. The works were found in admirable condition for service, the fort itself being strengthened by five new batteries.

No. 1 is a masked battery of two forty-two pounders and three thirty-twos. It is screened by a large frame building, which will be blown up when the occasion arrives for action.

No. 2 is Captain Halloquist's battery of two ten inch mortars. Captain H. is a West Point graduate, and was formerly a second lieutenant in the Fourth artillery.

No. 3 is an enfilading battery of five pieces, three forty-twos and two mortars. It is commanded by Captain Wm. Butler, nephew of Colonel Pierce Butler, of Mexican war fame.

No. 4 is a five gun battery, commanded by Captain S. Y. Tupper, and manned by the Vigilant Rifles, which is a regular fire company in Charleston in time of peace. The Vigilants are a flank company attached to the First regiment of artillery. In action they serve either as riflemen or artillerists as occasion may require. Captain Tupper has been in action against the Seminoles in Florida. Two of his officers, Lieutenants Thames and Harleston are West Point graduates.

No. 5 is a forty-two gun battery, and commands the creek at the east end of the island.

There are eight companies of regulars on the island, Colonel Ripley, an experienced and indefatigable officer, commanding, with Major Dunnovant, also an experienced soldier, second in command. Major H. was in the United States Army in Utah at the time he resigned his commission in that service.

There is also a regiment of rifles, numbering 450 men, under command of Colonel Pettigrew. They are all sharp shooters and can crack the cork of a champaigne bottle at a distance of 300 yards.

A detachment of Washington Light Infantry, numbering 90 men, under command of Captain Simonton, have charge of the battery at the entrance to Bull's Bay. Their camp is called Camp Washington.

The German Artillery, Company A, Capt. Harris, have charge of one of the five gun batteries.

Martial law prevails on the island. The houses are all deserted by their former inhabitants, and are only here and there occupied as officers' quarters, barracks for the soldiery, &c. It is truly a deserted village. Both regulars and volunteers are repeatedly drilled, and the former for raw recruits, with only a few weeks drilling, exhibit remarkable proficiency.

A Yankee trick was played upon one of the officers in the Quartermaster's department a short time since. He went North, and in Connecticut, I believe, purchased a lot of some five thousand friction tubes for firing heavy ordnance. On examination the material they were composed of was found to be simply paper, with a black coloring, so as to make them resemble hard metal. Another Yankee trick has been made public, and it is a dastardly one. A box was sent to Governor Pickens, and being of a suspicious character was cautiously opened by one of his aids, and found to contain rags and bandages, evidently from a small pox hospital.

CHARLESTON, S. C., April 5, 1861.

The End Approaching—Tremendous Excitement in Charleston—War Regarded as Inevitable—Military Preparations—Officers and Soldiers Ordered on Duty—Vessel Fired Into—Departure from Fort Sumter of a Bearer of Despatches—Sentiment of the Community, dc., dc., dc.

The city of Charleston, and indeed the whole State, wherever news can penetrate, have for the last two days been excited to a degree of fever heat unequalled since the secession movement first took place. Events, by their own specific gravity, appear to be rapidly culminating towards a solution of the pending difficulties. Forty-eight hours have been assigned by the most conservative among South Carolina statesmen as the utmost limit of further forbearance, and it is believed that within a week the country will be startled by the announcement of one of two great events—either the evacuation of Fort Sumter or an attack which, in the present state of feeling, is likely to result in a terrible sacrifice of life.

This sudden crisis has been precipitated by various causes. The principal of these is the impression that the administration at Washington do not intend to evacuate the forts, but to pursue as far as possible the "severely let alone" policy foreshadowed in the inaugural. This idea is borne out by news just received that the Governors of four Northern States have advised President Lincoln to hold Fort Sumter at any cost.

Another cause is the secret and unusual movements that have been recently made by the administration bearing directly upon the coercion of the South. By many here these have been heretofore regarded as a part of an attempt to collect the revenue, but it is now thought that they are of a far more serious character.

A third cause is the action of the Convention in ratifying the constitution of the Southern confederacy.

The fourth and last transpired on Wednesday, when a schooner attempted to pass by the forts loaded, as was supposed, with provisions for Major Anderson. Having no colors flying, and her manœuvres being of such a suspicious character, two shots were fired across her bow, when she ran up the flag of the United States, but continued to stand on, defiant of the admonition received. Three more shots were fired, when the vessel altered her course and came to anchor off the bar. Major Anderson afterwards sent a boat to the schooner, but what transpired is not definitely known. The next morning she was not to be seen.

This incident gave currency to a thousand rumors of the most alarming character. One of these was that Anderson would open fire at four o'clock yesterday afternoon. Another that a formal demand of surrender was to be immediately made, and if not complied with, the batteries would open on the fort.

The real facts in the case have since transpired through Lieutenant Snyder, of Anderson's command, who came to the city last evening with a flag of truce, accompanying Lieutenant Talbot, who had been appointed by the government at Washington Assistant Adjutant General for the District of Oregon. The latter desired permission to leave the city and report himself at Washington. Leave was, of course, readily granted by Governor Pickens and General Beauregard, by whom the two officers were received, but with the understanding that no officer was to be permitted to join the garrison of Fort Sumter to supply his place. Lieutenant Talbot is likewise bearer of despatches to the general government. The cause of this stringent measure was what is here denominated the "imposition" practised upon the authorities by Colonel Lamon in forfeiting his pledged honor to return to the city within a week and bring with him the reply of the President. This is one of the delicate points on which your true Carolinian always prides himself, and a breach once made can never be healed.

To return to Lieutenant Snyder and the unknown schooner, however: That officer informed the Governor that she was a Boston vessel, loaded with ice, bound for Savannah, and had put into this harbor on account of stress of weather. He further said that one of the shots had passed through the schooner's sail.

It is a little remarkable that Major Anderson should be so particular and so prompt in communicating these facts to the Governor. The inference is strong that he is anxious to do all in his power to preserve peace, calm excitement, and maintain the pleasant relations that have heretofore existed between the people of Charleston and himself. He has hosts of warm sympathizers here, in a social sense, and it is only his official position that makes him an enemy of the South. It is fortunate for the peace of the country that such a man has filled his responsible situation, for it is as certain as the sunshine that had a Northern person occupied Fort Sumter it would either be in ruins or in possession of South Carolina to-day.

While Lieutenant Snyder was with the Governor his boat's crew took occasion to lay in a store of individual drinks, together with tobacco and various articles of provisions, making in all some thirty packages; but the police had kept a bright eye upon the soldiers, and when the provisioning was complete quietly seized all the "creature comforts" and transferred them to the guard-house.

Speaking of police, there is probably no city in the world at the present time where greater vigilance is observed or more is known concerning the movements of strangers than here. Every citizen is in himself a detective, and aside from the ordinary military and civil force of the community, the supervision exercised in every department is of the most scrutinizing character.

Never in my life have I seen anything like the deep feeling which at this moment pervades the community and is poured forth at every breath. Coming from New York, which is *par excellence* the "city of sensations," and where we are continually floating upon the wave of novelty, one would hardly expect a HERALD reporter to be unprepared for any excitement; but I must confess that my experience in Charleston is unprecedented by that of even the metropolis itself. Fort Sumter, Major Anderson and the prospects of a fight are the only topics of conversation, and every rumor is dwelt upon with an interest that is almost painful. Enter your hotel, and a hundred or two gentlemen are gathered in knots about the corridors discussing the question of the day. "What's the latest?" says one. "Fort Morris has just fired into a schooner and sunk her." "How did you hear that?" "Well, Brown told me, and he got it from Smith, who learned it from Jones, who had it direct from a man who was conversing with an eye witness of the affair, and has telegraphed the facts to Washington." "Let's go down to the telegraph office and see the Major; he knows everything." (The "Major" is the popular Superintendent of the lines.) Accordingly half a dozen make a call. "Major, how about this firing business? Is it so?" "That's what they say." "Who says?" "Why, everybody." "But haven't you sent the facts over the wires?" "Some of the reporters may have sent rumors," says the Major; "I don't know whether they are true or not." "But haven't you telegraphed something official to Washington?" Ah! there the crowd are brought up "all standing." The moment the word "official" comes in down drops the veil of telegraphic sanctity, and the Major instantly becomes the most ignorant "know nothing," in a literal sense, you ever saw. The party go back to the hotel—empty; but the work of effervescence goes on nevertheless, and from morning till midnight you hear nothing but the most impossible and indefinite statements imaginable. These are some of the difficulties of the reporter.

In the present emergency, however, the facts appear to be well founded, and the excitement has not been without a good cause. What that cause is I am not permitted to state. Certain it is that the companies on duty at the various batteries have been ordered to fill up their ranks without delay, and the reserves ordered to join their comrades. The officers in the Convention now in session belonging to the army have also been summoned to their posts and ordered to report to their chief.

Supplies of provisions and the mails hitherto furnished regularly to the garrison at Fort Sumter have been cut off, and no further communication will be allowed between Major Anderson and the government at Washington.

The State was never so well conditioned and ready for a fight as now, and the measures of the last two days are taken at the instance of the Confederate government at Montgomery. The utmost activity consequently prevails in all departments of the military service. It is believed that Anderson, finding himself in a military strait, will be compelled in self defence to precipitate the crisis and take the consequences of a fight rather than starve to death waiting for the tardy movements of the government at Washington.

This is undoubtedly the object of the administration, since it removes to a certain extent from its shoulders the charge of disintegration of the republican party which would be certain to result from an official order to evacuate Fort Sumter.

The Convention will probably adjourn to-morrow or next day. The principal business which remains to be done is to repeal the laws relating to the separate maintenance of a State government, and to make her constitution accord with that of the Southern confederacy.

FORT SUMTER.

[From the Charleston Mercury, April 5.]

When it became generally known yesterday morning that the companies now on duty at Sullivan's Island had been ordered to fill up their ranks without delay, and that the reserves belonging to the several corps were to join their comrades already on duty by the four o'clock boat, people began to speculate as to what was going to happen next. The public curiosity grew more general upon the arrival of two of the officers of Major Anderson's command—Lieutenants Talbot and Snyder—with a flag of truce. They were received by the Governor and General Beauregard. Lieutenant Talbot, having been appointed by the government at Washington as Assistant Adjutant General for the District of Oregon, with orders to repair to that station at once, desired permission to leave the city to report himself at Washington. Leave was of course readily granted to him, with the understanding that no officer was to be permitted to join the garrison of Fort Sumter to supply his place; and, accompanied to the depot by Colonel Moses, aid to the Governor, he left Charleston by the two o'clock train of the Northeastern Railroad. Meantime Lieutenant Snyder had mentioned the fact of the firing into the unknown schooner (as described in our issue of yesterday), and informed the Governor that the vessel in question was a Boston schooner, loaded with ice, and bound for Savannah, and that she had put into this harbor on account of a stress of weather. He further said that one of the shots had passed through the schooner's sail. Lieutenant Snyder then returned to the wharf in company with an aid, and went back to the fort. During his interview with the Governor the soldiers who manned the boat had seized the opportunity to lay in some coveted individual supplies of whiskey, tobacco, eatables and a host of other provisions, making in all no less than thirty-five packages. The police, however, had kept a bright eye upon the soldiers, and when the provisioning was complete, they quietly seized all the packages and transferred them to the guard house.

During the whole of yesterday afternoon all kinds of rumors were rife on the streets. A vague impression had somehow got abroad that the long agony of suspense and inaction was to be speedily and abruptly ended; but how or when, or by whose orders, nobody could tell. We have made diligent inquiry, and (in the absence of official information, which, in a juncture like this, is seldom made public,) we deem the following facts to be reasonably certain:—

First. That the supplies of provisions and the mails hitherto furnished regularly to the garrison of Fort Sumter are to be cut off to-day, and that no further communication will be allowed between Major Anderson and the government at Washington.

Second. That the troops at all the State fortifications are now finally disposed, equipped and provided for, so as to be ready for action at a moment's warning.

Third. That no attack of any kind will be made upon Fort Sumter until further orders, unless such an attack should be provoked by Major Anderson, or by an attempt on the part of his government to bring aid to the beleaguered fortress.

Fourth. That these measures are taken at the instance of the government of the Confederate States, which has lost all confidence in the professions of the Lincoln administration.

We have said that this information has no official sanction; but we have not given it without sifting thoroughly all the conflicting reports prevalent last night, and we think it can be relied on as affording a fair outline of the new policy to be pursued henceforth with regard to the "saucy seventy."

TALK ON 'CHANGE IN CHARLESTON.

[From the Charleston Mercury, March [illegible]]

The mysterious negotiations between the Washington government and the authorities here engrossed a good deal of public attention yesterday, and entered largely into the gossip among the merchants. Short crop reports still continue to run up the prices of the staple, and although the European accounts are not as favorable as expected, all the markets in the United States and Southern confederacy are steadily advancing, and we have daily confirmations of the opinions expressed in our first talk on this subject, published in the *Mercury* several weeks ago. Our New Orleans circular of the 20th makes the total deficiency 721,000 bales only on that day, by adding an increase of 55,000 bales this year in the overland shipments from Memphis. Otherwise the deficiency to day in the receipts at the shipping ports would be 776,000 bales. The receipts after this date last year were 1,300,000 bales, and the stocks on the first of this month were not one-half of what they were at same time last year. Foreign and domestic freights are also aiding in carrying up the price of cotton. Liverpool freights are dull at three-eights of a penny; New York freights one-quarter of a cent.

The tariff is also becoming a very interesting subject of talk, and our merchants are now studying the new bill. It would be well that they should suggest such alterations to our delegates as they may have reason to think would benefit the confederacy.

The receipts of all kinds of merchandise usually bought at the North, which have not been made "free" under the adopted tariff of 1857, have been very heavy. The supply of all the leading articles of the grocery trade is fully equal to the demand. The stock of sugars has been increased considerably, both by arrivals from the United States and New Orleans. The same may be said of molasses, from the above ports and Havana. The price of this article has a decided downward tendency, although, as landed yesterday under our bright sun, it seemed to work upwards. The supply of gunny bagging has been increased by recent arrivals about 2,000 bales, and the stock in store in Charleston is about 3,200 bales, or about one-half the quantity required for our trade for the next crop. The stock imported into Boston in January and February of this year reached 14,000 bales, and the stock remaining on hand on the 19th of March was 17,000 bales in that place.

Our jobbers in Hayne and Meeting streets are doing a good business. Their stock of all the leading articles for the trade is good, but they have not laid in a heavy supply of fancy and fine goods, as they very naturally supposed that these would not have been in very general demand.

Checks on New York are dull at 2¼ a 3 per cent, and sterling is in demand at 107 a 108 per cent. In stocks there is but little doing.

NEWS FROM MONTGOMERY.

MATTERS IN THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY—MOVEMENTS OF TROOPS—THE ISSUE OF TREASURY NOTES—STRANGERS IN TOWN, ETC.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., April 1, 1861.

Nothing of very general interest is transpiring at present in Montgomery, although we are expecting daily the arrival of a large number of troops from Georgia, Alabama and portions of Mississippi, on their way to Pensacola, or rather to Warrington, the seat of operations near Fort Pickens.

When these troops reach Warrington a military force of about ten thousand men will be congregated there. The Zouave battalion from New Orleans will probably have an opportunity to exhibit their peculiar mode of manœuvring and expertness in military gymnastics, which gained the French regiments of this organization such a name in the Crimea and in the last war with Austria. Fighting, with them, is looked upon as an amusement, and there are said to be in the Louisiana battalion, ordered to Pensacola, a number of those who went through the Crimean war, and who also bear wounds received at the battle of Solferino.

The Postmaster General does not intend to assume the charge of the mail system of the South until the beginning of July, which ends the running quarter, unless, indeed, the Washington government should abandon the service. In the meantime he is energetically organizing the various bureaus of his department, and as Judge Reagan is a clear headed, methodical, hard working man, the people of the South may now expect, with some confidence, that the mail system of their section will be carried on with due vigor and attention to its thorough and successful working.

It is unnecessary to say one word as to the efficient management of the Treasury Department under the charge of Mr. Memminger and his assistants, nor of the War and Navy Departments, nor of the Attorney General, nor of the Department of State and the bureaus of the several departments. All are occupied by able, competent and working men.

There are various reports in circulation as to the manner our troops are acting near Pensacola, but it must be remembered that it requires some weeks for volunteers to become easily and pleasantly reconciled to the severe drill and obedience necessary to be exhibited in active service or camp life. While many of the reports are greatly exaggerated, it is a source of satisfaction to know that better order and discipline have been observed than it was reasonable to hope for with troops so unused to camp life.

The Provisional Congress authorized the issue of Treasury notes to an extent not exceeding one million of dollars. Those notes were engraved at New Orleans, and received on yesterday at the Treasury Department. To-day the signing and registering commenced, and the first that were completed were taken by the Secretaries of War and the Treasury in payment of their quarter's salary. There will doubtless be a great demand for these notes. They bear an interest of a fraction over three and five-eighths per cent, or one cent per day for every hundred dollars, and are receivable in payment of all dues to the government and the interest due allowed.

It will be gratifying to the public to know that the swarms of office seekers that were here for some weeks have nearly all gone home, gratified and dissatisfied, according to circumstances. There are not exceeding ten or twelve hundred here now, and they are principally occupied in affording consolation to each other.

Among the arrivals at the Exchange Hotel in this city for the past week, I notice the names of the following from New York:—A. Prince, A. Bynum, A. G. Sydenberg, Jr., E. S. Benedict, George W. Swan, E. Milligan, T. P. Whitney, Ed. F. Pratt, Richard Luthers and lady, A. F. Milton, W. F. Hall, Wm. Duryea, Edw. Scanlon, J. K. Magie, John Anderson, L. C. Kimball, Watts Sherman, Mr. Weeks, H. A. Tolet, Henry C. Perkins, R. S. Young, L. Rameour, W. B. Dinsmore, John D. Palmer, C. H. Newhall, Joseph Le Roysenux, George W. Wyle, B. Smith, Jr., James Stokes and daughter, L. H. Moore. George Sanders and daughter are still here.

ETHIOPIANS—Olof Wyk, from Sweden; E. Goodman and A. Goodman, from England, and the Rev. A. B. Cabness, who registers his name from Shanghae, China.

ACTIVITY OF THE CABINET—SHALL FREE STATES BE ADMITTED TO THE CONFEDERACY.

MONTGOMERY, April 7, 1861.

Mr. Mallory, Secretary of the Navy, suddenly left town on important business connected with his department.

Mr. Walker, Secretary of War is immersed in business, pointing to highly important strategic operations at Charleston and Pensacola.

President Davis, although wearing himself almost sick by harassing public duties, loses none of his usual energy. His plans are complete, and, with General Bragg at Pensacola, he can defy the landing of reinforcements at either Fort Sumter or Fort Pickens.

Military movements are rapidly progressing, more with the view to prevent war than to hasten it.

There are enough applicants for army appointments to supply officers for a force of one hundred thousand men.

Three extra trains to day are bringing troops for Pensacola.

President Davis is undecided on the question whether free States in the old Union shall be absorbed in the new, or whether slave States alone shall be admitted to the Confederacy. This will be a prominent question before the people at the next Presidential election in the Confederate States. Messrs. Toombs, Memminger, Mallory and Benjamin oppose the admission of free States, while Messrs. Walker and Reagan, with President Davis and Vice President Stephens, favor the absorption policy.

Although the Cabinet are individually divided on the question of the admission of free States, no official council has yet been held on the subject.

The Cabinet, like all the people of the seceded States, is a unit on all measures to promote the interests of the new confederacy. The idea of reunion is nowhere entertained.

The United States steam sloop-of-war Brooklyn arrived off Fort Pickens on the 1st inst.

Generals Clemens and Bragg, accompanied by Captain Duncan N. Ingraham, C. S. N., visited the United States frigate Sabine, at anchor off Fort Pickens, on the 30th ult.

IMPORTANT FROM VIRGINIA.

OUR RICHMOND CORRESPONDENCE.

RICHMOND, Va., April 2, 1861.

The Virginia Convention—Exasperated Feeling Against the People of the Free States, dc.

One would suppose, listening to the debates in the Virginia Convention, now in session in this city, that the people of all the free States of the Union were infatuated with the one idea of hostility to the cherished institutions of the South, and thought of nothing by day, dreamed of nothing by night, except how to destroy and exterminate the object of their hostility. All other interests and amusements of life are supposed to disappear before the one absorbing passion—hatred to the South and her institution of slavery. The merchant must neglect his business, the lawyer his client, the doctor his patients, the capitalist his plans of investment, the mechanic his daily occupation, the divine his knotty points of theology, the man of pleasure his amusements, the ladies their new spring fashions, and the child his sports, all for the diabolical purpose of intermeddling with what is no business of theirs, and so exasperating their Southern brethren that they feel they can not stand this thing any longer, and must, therefore, rupture all their social and political relations with the free States.

Now, the HERALD is great authority down here, not alone with the politicians, but with the people as well; and if the HERALD would undeceive them in the matter to which I refer, it might have a good effect. Let politicians of both sections come in for their full share of that opprobrium which they deserve for their incessant efforts to get up an entanglement; but do tell the people of Virginia and of the South—what all travellers know to be the truth—that not five per cent of the people of the free States care a fig about their peculiar institution, and give themselves not the slightest concern one way or the other about it.

And why should they? The relations between master and slave constitute none of their business, and people generally find their own business just about as much as they can well attend to. In the active pursuits of life, in the incessant struggle for wealth, for competency or for bread, which go on in free communities, there are few indeed who care to bestow serious thoughts upon matters altogether outside of the scope of their influence. But I can well understand how people whose whole anxiety is bestowed upon one great and absorbing interest can bring themselves to believe that there is no other or greater object of interest anywhere else than that identical one on which they fix all their thoughts. Hence it is that in all the public speeches made here the people of the North are represented as one great political camp, having for its watchword "*Caius delenda est Carthago.*" Like that one phrase of Mr. Seward's, "slavery must be destroyed, and you and I must do it." There is no word disrespectful enough to apply to the people of the free States. The phrase most in vogue here is "the fanatics of the North;" you hear that ring in endless changes, varied with the terms "Yankees," "Yankeedom," "Northern hordes," "Northern abolitionists," &c. It is a pity that this hostile feeling should be allowed to take such deep root, through the misrepresentations of people who ought to know better than to fan the flame of sectional discord in such a way; and I think that the HERALD could checkmate all disunionist politicians in a very short time by convincing the people of the South that, although there are abolitionists North, just as there are fire-eating filibusters South, the masses of the people in both sections attend quietly to their own business, and pay no attention to matters which don't concern them.

Oh, but, say the leaders of public opinion here, Fremont got a large vote for President in 1856, and Lincoln was elected in 1860, and does that not show that the people of the free States are abolitionized? Hardly. Poor Pierce began the disruption of the democratic party, and so disgusted the people with that party that, under the cry of Jesse and bleeding Kansas, the intrepid explorer of the Rocky Mountains, who, if he was an abolitionist, was a rather harmless specimen of the genus, came pretty near reaching the White House. It is not very likely either that the HERALD should have given its support to Fremont if his election could have been prejudicial to the South or to the interests of the Union. And as for the popular vote for Lincoln, who that knows anything of the acts of Mr. Buchanan's Cabinet officers can wonder at it? The only wonder is that, without any reference whatever to anti slavery feeling, it was not still larger. It probably would have been but for the anti-slavery element which obtruded itself into his support, and alarmed many conservative minds. But yet the election of Lincoln receives no other interpretation here but as the triumph of abolitionism; and on that erroneous theory this State is about to follow the lead of South Carolina and join the Southern confederacy. If her people think their interest lies in that course, let them take it; but let them not do so on the false and mistaken notions to which I have adverted.

The Convention will probably adjourn or take a recess next week. I do not suppose they will pass the ordinance of immediate secession, but they will do what will eventually prove worse for the Union cause—they will submit such amendments to the constitution as will not meet with favor at the North, and then a separation will be the inevitable consequence. At present the people would vote down unconditional secession.

RICHMOND, April 6, 1861.

Proposition to Appoint a Committee to Demand Explanations from the President—Highly Important Debate in the Convention—Battle of the Sections, dc.

A very important movement was made in the Convention this evening, and a debate resulted from it which has very much significance. I should probably state that the body is divided into two well marked sections. The delegates from the eastern part of the State, being largely interested in slave property, are, for the most part, secessionists; while the delegates from the western portion of the State, where there are hardly any slaves held, do not participate in the feeling of secession, although they sympathize with their eastern brethren. The western men think more of amendments to the State constitution of Virginia than of amendments to the federal constitution. At present all slaves under the age of twelve years are exempt from taxation, and no slave is rated for taxation at more than $300. The western men are determined to insist upon slave property being placed on the same basis as to taxation with all other species of property, affirming that a large portion of the expenditure of the State is incurred for the protection of that very property which is thus partially privileged. As soon as this matter of the national difficulties is disposed of, this question of a revisal of the constitution comes up in Convention, and the west has force enough to carry its point. There is, therefore, between the two sections no very cordial feeling.

Near the close of to-day's session one of the eastern members, Mr. PRESTON, of Montgomery county, offered a preamble and series of resolutions in regard to appointing a committee to wait on the President of the United States, and demand to know what course he was about to pursue in regard to the seceded States. In a speech of great power and ability, Mr. Preston supported his proposition. He subsequently, however, at the suggestion of Mr. BALDWIN, of Augusta county, consented to modify his proposition so as to make it read—

Whereas, in the opinion of this Convention, the uncertainty which prevails in the public mind as to the policy which the general government intends to pursue towards the seceded States is extremely injurious to the industrial and commercial interests of the country, tends to keep up an excitement which is unfavorable to the adjustment of pending difficulties, and which threatens the disturbance of the public peace; therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of three delegates be appointed by this Convention to wait on the President of the United States, present to him this preamble and resolution, and respectfully ask of him to communicate to this Convention the policy which the authorities of the federal government intend to pursue in regard to the Confederate States.

Mr. CARLILE, a western member, and formerly a member of Congress, made a strong speech against the adoption of the resolution, arguing that it did not even make use of the proviso which Congress itself does when asking the Executive for information—namely, "if not incompatible with the public interests"—and showing that the President would not recognise the right of the committee to make such an inquiry. He moved as an amendment that a like committee be sent to the Southern confederacy for a similar purpose.

A MEMBER suggested that that was unnecessary, as the policy of the Southern confederacy was openly avowed and well known.

Ex-Governor WISE inquired whether Mr. Carlile would be named as one of the committee to be sent to Montgomery. If so that would be the last they would ever see of him.

Mr. CARLILE declared his willingness to occupy the position indicated, and felt confident that that would not be the last they would see of him.

The amendment was rejected, and then the resolution was put to the Convention, and declared carried, and evidently by an overwhelming majority.

Subsequently a western delegate, an old gentleman named JACKSON, inquired of the Chair what had become of the resolution; and, on being informed that it had been adopted, he declared that he and his friends were taken by surprise, and that they did not know the question had been put.

Ex-Governor WISE suggested that the vote might be put over again, so as to satisfy them. There being no objection, that was assented to.

Then Mr. JACKSON began to make an earnest and powerful speech against the adoption of the resolution.

That called up Governor WISE, who submitted that the question was to be taken over again, but that that did not reopen the debate.

The PRESIDENT held, however, that it was as if the question had not been put at all.

Mr. JACKSON continued his argument against the resolution. He regarded it as a scheme to precipitate Virginia into the secession movement, and declared that under no circumstances whatever would his portion of the State consent to be hitched on to South Carolina.

A MEMBER—Suppose Virginia goes, what then?

Mr. JACKSON answered that if Virginia desired to form a middle confederacy they would stand with her; but when they were asked to break up their markets, impoverish their people, destroy their domestic interests, and stultify themselves in the sight of the whole world, they did not mean to do it. They would stand by the men of the east in securing proper constitutional guarantees for their protection; *but if asked to go farther than that then the west would tell them that this thing called secession had more things than one in it. They would throw themselves on their own rights and stand by them, and take care of themselves.* He told his western brethren that the object of this resolution was only to intensify the agitation, and throw them, horse, foot and dragoons, into the Southern movement; and then, adieu to the star spangled banner and all the untold blessings they had enjoyed under it for the last seventy years.

Mr. MONTAGUE, Lieutenant Governor of the State, confessed the surprise with which he had heard the declaration of the venerable gentleman who had just taken his seat. He knew that such were that gentleman's ideas, but he did not think they would be publicly avowed in this Convention. The plain English of his speech was that while western men stood here and voted with them they were determined, if a majority of the people of Virginia decided to carry Virginia into the Southern confederacy, to divide the State and join the free soil confederacy.

A MEMBER—Himself; not they.

Mr. MONTAGUE—Well, do other western gentlemen disclaim it?

Mr. JACKSON—The gentleman misapprehended me. I said nothing of the kind.

Mr. MONTAGUE—(with bitterness)—What do you say?

Mr. JACKSON—I said that we would stand by you to secure your constitutional guarantees; but that if you intended to hitch us on to South Carolina we would not go with you.

Mr. MONTAGUE—You, and not we, were to be the judges of the efficiency of those guarantees.

Mr. JACKSON—This Convention was to judge of them.

Mr. MONTAGUE—You would stand by us if we would stay in a middle confederacy, or remain in the Northern free soil confederacy; but if we would not do either, then you would divide the State. That is the plain English of it. Now, as you have appealed to the west, I appeal to the east to note carefully and mark well what has occurred here this evening.

Mr. MARR, of Fauquier county, declared his devotion to the cause of Virginia through weal or woe. But what was proposed here? If the President had a particle of pride or manhood in him he would say to this committee as Mr. Fillmore said, in 1852, to the Governor of South Carolina—"I am not responsible to you or the Convention of Virginia. I am responsible only to the nation." The effect of it would be to precipitate on Virginia that state of things which they had been seeking to avoid. He appealed to the Convention not to compel them on this Sabbath eve to give a vote which might precipitate Virginia into revolution before another Sabbath eve rolled around.

Mr. WILEY, of Monongahela county, spoke in favor of time. The measure was fraught with the deepest and highest importance. He was much mistaken if it did not precipitate them into revolution before fifteen days. Was Virginia in the condition to meet the contingency of their committee being rebuffed, or making a report adverse to their hopes? As to Mr. Montague's insinuation about the want of fidelity in the western character, he hurled it back. If the worst came to the worst, western men would have, as they had done heretofore, to fight Virginia's battles. It was on the mountain men that the east would have to rely for the vindication of Virginia's rights, her honor and her integrity. He asked eastern gentlemen to pause and reflect before they alienated their best friends—those friends of whom they might soon stand in the greatest need.

Mr. BALDWIN, of Augusta county, on whose suggestion the resolution had been modified, joined in the demand for time for deliberation. He would regard it as extremely disastrous to press the House to a vote in its present temper and feeling, and he regretted exceedingly to hear the sort of discussion that had been indulged in.

Finally, the motion to adjourn was put and carried. The question comes up again on Monday morning. The vote will, in all likelihood, be a close one.

OUR ALEXANDRIA CORRESPONDENCE.

ALEXANDRIA, Va., April 6, 1861.

Decline of Union Sentiment—The Voice of Secession Again Paramount—The Increase of Produce—The Wharves and Canals Crowded with Grain, dc., dc.

In addition to the details of your correspondents in our old town, I venture to send you a brief account of the state of things here.

The very strong Union feeling which prevailed during the late election of delegates to the Virginia Convention has visibly subsided, owing to the feeble and uncertain policy of the government, and secession is again freely discussed. The strongest secessionists, however, are as yet to be found among our youthful volunteer warriors, who burn for action