# THE MEMPHIS DAILY APPEAL.

J. M. McLANAHAN & BILL. MEMPHIS, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1860. VOLUME XI—NUMBER 292.


## Daily Appeal.

IMPORTANT LETTER FROM SECRETARY FLOYD.

WASHINGTON CITY, Dec. 3, 1860.

DEAR SIR: My time has been so much engrossed by personal public duties, that I have been unable until now, to reply to your favor of the 14th ultimo. I regret this, all the less, because the time has passed when the counsels of any one can arrest the precipitate current of events, or avert the result which an exasperated and excited public feeling of the North has rendered inevitable. Disunion, I fear, cannot be prevented by any human power. All that devoted patriotism and manly firmness can do now, is to control the course of events so as to keep open the door and keep alive the hope for a reconstruction of the Union when the wounded feelings of the South will have been somewhat healed and propitiated by such favorable indications as I think a tolerant future may have in store for the country.

The agitation of the slavery question, which has been so long and wantonly persisted in by the North, has produced the sectional alienation which is about to find its natural result in the formation of a Southern Confederacy. This was necessary in its origin, and can only be prevented by the voluntary assent of its members. When that unity, which is generally conceded to be their source of political strength, is lost, when some fifteen sovereignties, each exercising the right of election and of minute inquisition into the fitness of each other, are rolled up into the Union, the pride of the South will be so wounded, the spirit of independence so aroused, and the sense of security so impaired, that the Union will never more be the same. The public opinion, answer as they will, will be as imperative and robust, in its direction, as that of the 30th December, 1860, in favor of the Union, on the other. If all the Southern States shall not be in a popular vote, to say what shall be done in the present crisis, the action of a probably every one of them will be extremely hasty, severe, and all efforts at reconciliation fail, at most sooner or later period. Impulse would and other counsels would be drowned and reason between North and South.

For me, I am not for secession, as my honorable effort can be made to prevent it. The Union was formed to secure to the contiting equality, justice and protection to the property of the South. I shall be unfaltering, in this place, to participate in the measures and sacrifices by which it should be incorporated into a settlement of the recent differences between the North and the South. I cannot conceive how harmony can be preserved between the North and the South, unless we be made a mere debating club for agitation and incendiary appeals. The sentiment of Northern States, nullifying the fugitive slave law, being subscribed to by a majority of the population of confederation, and by nearly all the county of States, ought to be repealed; and an amendment to the Constitution must forever prevent their recurrence.

But even though the principles of a settlement of the present troubles could be agreed upon, yet it would be very great difficulty in securing their early ratification by the people of the two sections. The northern states cannot be brought at once to recall the fierce language and aggressive positions they have assumed toward the South; while the South, tired of broken compromises, and suffering from repeated and severe outrage, will view and feel in accepts to any concessions. Moreover, every manifestation by the South of a willingness to accept terms of reconciliation, would be construed by the North into a great of timidity and make the occasion of new insult and injury.

I believe, however, that the great material interests of the country demand a reconstruction of the Union and the preservation of the Union, and I rely much upon the Border Slave States, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi, Florida, to avert this great agency to bring about a settlement of our present troubles. The main stay of all else is to be proved any collision between the contiguous States of the South, and the effect, but potential influence of this great agency to bring about a settlement of our present troubles. The main stay of all else is to be proved any collision between the contiguous States of the South, and the effect, and most especially the shedding of the first drop of blood. If we can but succeed in tiding these calamities, the great practical business habits of the country may, perchance, sooner or later, bring about a reconstruction of the Union and a restoration of harmony between the sections.

It is expected to be hoped that these great interests, allied by the disinterested patriotism of a sincere patriotism, may rise in their power, and with potential authority require of the functions of the North to abandon a position which must lead to certain and swift destruction. If this shall be done, who can doubt that a returning sense of confidence will be felt by the injured and exasperated South, and that peace and the Union will be restored?

The American people are rationally practical in their temper and judgment, and when the right and wrong have time to be brought to deliberate. They must see that no interest—no one in the whole extent of the American continent—can fail to be materially injured, and the prosperity of nations materially ameliorated, by a dissolution of the Union. If there is nothing in the popular power of our great Confederacy that is exciting a feeling of pride in the hearts of our patriotic citizens, have our self-interests been forgotten? Have we forgotten to value the solid advantages which all from the respect and protection of our flag confer? The spectacle of the country the desolation and misery of war, and the civil war, and the crime of fratricide, will be certain to arrest the thought of every patriot, and make the people of the Northern States pause before they consummate