Daily Appeal.

MEMPHIS.

WEDNESDAY, : : : APRIL 10, 1861.

LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE CITY.

SEE FIRST AND FOURTH PAGES.

STATE CONVENTION!

A Convention of the States Rights Secession party of Tennessee, will be held in the city of Nashville on Saturday, the 11th day of May, to nominate a candidate for the office of Governor. We trust that every county in the State will have preliminary meetings and be represented upon the occasion by a suitable number of delegates. All true Southerners are invited to participate in the movement who oppose union with Black-Republicanism, and favor secession from abolitionism.

THE LATEST NEWS! THE WAR CLOUD BURSTS!

The telegraphic news which we publish in another column this morning is of the most startling character. Our surmises of a war policy upon the part of the Washington Government are confirmed beyond the shadow of a doubt. The appearance of war steamers off Charleston harbor—the official notification of a determination to provision Fort Sumter—the rejection of the southern commissioners, and the active preparations in the navy yards of the Federal Government, are evidences which cannot fail to foreboda the certainty of a bloody conflict. Troops are gathering rapidly at Forts Sumter and Pickens, and additional forces have been ordered at the latter place. Two hostile armies are almost facing each other for the deadly conflict—

"War, remorseless war,
Has poised her red arsenals to hurl from out it!"

The South is, however, prepared for the issue—come weal or woe. The probabilities are that the eagles of victory will perch upon the "seven stars!" flag in the first engagement. Let the heart of every true southron, as he awaits the tragic denouement, be inspired with the noble sentiment of the lamented QUITMAN—"THE SOUTH—MAY SHE ALWAYS BE RIGHT, BUT RIGHT OR WRONG, THE SOUTH!"

THE ISSUE MADE—THE SOUTHERN COMMISSIONERS REJECTED.

The telegraph brings us the intelligence that the Washington Government has at last refused to receive the commissioners from the Confederate States in their official capacity. This result of the Cabinet's deliberations was communicated to these gentlemen by Mr. SEWARD on day before yesterday, some four weeks since they first presented themselves for recognition. If nothing else had transpired to furnish an infallible clue to the policy which Mr. LINCOLN proposes to pursue towards the new Government, we should have it in this isolated fact. "Willing to wound, and yet afraid to strike," he has all along attempted to chalk out a course of masterly inactivity—to let matters drift along and take care of themselves, until circumstances should force him into some definite line of action. The patriots of the whole country, North and South, was buried with suspense at such indecision, however, and his own partisans demanded in tones that were not to be mistaken, that some sort of policy, whether one of peace or war—at any rate a policy—should be immediately adopted. He has at last yielded to the popular clamor of party, and forced the settlement of pending difficulties into an issue of war. His virtually rejects the olive branch that is offered, and appeals to the bloody arbitrament of the sword. The mild and unassuming secretary blandly informs the southern commissioners that "the policy of the Government is peaceful; but that it will act on the defensive if attacked."

Mr. SEWARD need not have made this announcement; for the South was prepared for such a result. It required no great sagacity to draw the conclusion that their policy would be "peaceful," if the seceded States should abstain from all demonstrations of hostility, and quietly acknowledge their authority. If the South relinquished, and the forts are retained without incurring opposition, it would be quite reasonable to anticipate that the necessity of conflict would be obviated, and that the powers at Washington would scarcely have the heartless ferocity to make war upon an unoffending and obedient province of loyal subjects. But the true issue for Mr. LINCOLN to have decided was, whether he would recognize the fact of a successful revolution, and treat accordingly, or whether he would construe the pretentious assertions of Federal authority in States which had repudiated all allegiance to the General Government, and withdrawn from the constitutional compact by which they were parties. He well knew what the attitude of the Confederate States was in regard to the forts now occupied in their limits by hostile troops. Their surrender was regarded as an indispensable preliminary to a settlement whatever. To act on the decision when these fortresses are attacked is to act on the only practicable alternative of the Washington Government, it may now be regarded as having beneficially declared.

THE PLAN OF SUBMISSION.

The imminence of a conflict between the Government at Washington and the Confederate States, does not seem to make the Submission lees clamorous for delay. They were little what happens so they allowed to put off and procrastinate. While the friends of the South, like faithful sentinels on the watch-tower of liberty, are looking to arouse the people to the full appreciation of the danger, the Submission journals are whispering "peace" into the ears of unwary, and are apparently seeking to lull us into a supposed state of fatal insecurity. They stand on foot for a border State plan, which seems to be the only plank in a platform of this Protean faction, is held out only with the view of furnishing a barrier to the irresistible torrent of patriotism. Its object is not what the plan purpose. It is not to vindicate the South and to demand guarantees from eighty which will bring back the United States, but, according to the editorial organ of the party supporting it, the Louisville Journal, it is purely "to accelerate the assembling of a Convention for proposing amendments to the Constitution." In other words it is going to which the southern will find access to the parlor of the spoiler."

It was conceived and originated in Northern men. Mr. LINCOLN proposes in his inaugural address, and Mr. Guy after echoed his silly suggestion, and endorsed it too, but with more trying out their nefarious scheme. I have long since determined that I would not advance the interests of such men if I knew it. And, if I could find a single, reasonable doubt, that they were engaged in any such unholy combinations, I would expose it to the gaze of the honest people, and let them wrestle with it as best they might deem appropriate. I am on the right track, and in the language of inspiration, what tricksters have told in darkness, that I will speak in the light, and what I have heard in the ear, that I will preach on the house top!

In my honest judgment, the coalition and combination of Governor Johnson and Mr. Etheridge, to monopolize the power and patronage of the Union party in Tennessee, and of the Black-Republican Administration at Washington, merits the severe and condemnation of every honest man in the Union ranks. Even the gunpowder plot, in point of hellish malice, did not surpass this scheme! Does the wicked conspiracy of the leaders of secession, did not exceed this in point of turpitude! The rack, the gibbet, and a second edition of the infernal inquisition, is only one step behind this plot!

He then goes on to give several letters from various gentlemen to establish his charges. His personal acquaintance with them, and his reliance upon their integrity, induces him to attest their truth. "I take upon my shoulders," he says, "the truth of what they disclose, and in doing so, I know precisely whereof I stand."

He then puts forth the following "stanzas," which will, doubtless, cause the treacherous clique to flutter like wounded pigeons:

The news of the coalition will be like the breath of a Sirocco upon the Union Whigs of East Tennessee; and though it may blight their expectations for a time, it will prove to be a healthy unison to its authors, and desolate their expectations in the end. If the calamity of breaking up the Union organization of the State shall befall such a disaster, and blast the hopes of the friends of the Union, will be made to feel the consequence of the outrage. For my part, I say unhesitatingly—and I but reflect the sentiments of the masses—that if we have formed a Union party in the State to further the designs of a few selfish men, and to perpetuate power in their hands, the sooner we dissolve such an organization, the better for the general elements, the better.

He complains at the onerous exactions of JOHNSON, and speaks of the duties imposed on his Submission followers thus:

We are all to build up Andrew Johnson, that he may be able to reward his partisans. We are also to install in office his first lieutenant, Hon. Ex. Etheridge, and they are to rule the State, and control a deluded Administration at Washington.

I anticipated this very state of things, and I knew them, as I do now, that when it come to be a power of wood, and a drawer of water for Andrew Johnson, I should beg to be excused! Those who wish to go with him can do so, but they need not call upon me not to divide or distract the great Union party. If that party is to be turned into a great *Andy Johnson* party, in Tennessee, and kept together for the purpose of continuing him in office, and of rewarding his partisans, the sooner it is broken up the better!

In his irrepressible disgust for the ends contemplated in this plot, BROWNLOW announces that he is determined not to "*lie kid into the results of ABOLITIONISM by such a man as Johnson!*" Here we have from *their own ranks* an attestation of the corrupt feature of this pollution-hunting combination, which has been fully perfected among the political gamblers who constitute the head and front of this embryo treason! party. There are good, honest, true southern men acting with this faction in the hope of accomplishing a task entirely foreign to the designs which animate JOHNSON and ETHERIDGE. Will they hearken to the rattoo of danger which now falls like an alarm bell upon their ears, or will they continue and procrastinate, and delay, until it is too LATE?

THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD.

The friends of this enterprise ought to be up and doing. It is all important that the drift of the company in Texas should be promptly met, and that iron, supplies and every necessary thing be insure a vigorous prosecution of the work, should be shipped as early as practicable. The navigation in Red river and Lake Caddo is now good and freights are cheap; cheaper than they have been for years; but who can tell how long it will remain so? Unless if it declines, nothing can be shipped before late in the fall or winter. It is vitally important, and we would enforce this idea upon stockholders, that fifty additional miles of the road should be completed to take off the growing crop, which promises to be universally large and to command good prices. For what this is done, a revenue will be afforded fully adequate to meet any ordinary demand that may be made upon the company. There will then be the mainline from Lake Caddo, a distance of eighty-two of which will belong to the Southern Pacific company, extending into the heart of a cotton country of unequaled wealth and fertility. There is not, in all this section, a navigable stream, except Red river, worthy of the name, and consequently business will come to it from hundreds of miles in every direction.

This line of road, when completed, will be worth, with the other assets of the company, not less than $2,500,000. The company is entitled to a land bounty of 10,240 acres of land to the mile, which upon 82 miles of road amounts to 836,400. Is it not extremely moderate to value this land at $2,500,000? Then, with fifty more miles of railroad, and a connection with Shreveport, the stockholders will possess a property worth, in round numbers, five millions of dollars.

Now let us look what it will have cost them. The existing stock, recognized by the company, may be estimated at about $2,200,000; that is 44,000 shares, upon which the stockholders are requested to make an advance of one dollar, and to take it in new stock.

As an arithmetical proposition it is easy of comprehension. The company will have property in its possession worth, at the least calculation, five millions of dollars, which will have cost them but $2,600,000.

Nor is this all. The company will be entitled to a loan from the State of Texas, of $6,000 per mile, upon this 82 miles of finished road. That is $432,000. It can then proceed to construct fifty miles more, and obtain a further loan of $300,000 for these fifty miles; in all, $700,000; a sum amply sufficient to pay for the work.

What will be the condition of the company then? It will have 132 miles of road completed, worth $3,960,000, and lands in fee simple amounting to 1,246,400 acres. Now, it must be recollected that with 132 miles of railroad completed, and a promise of rapid progress of the work, these lands will possess a marketable value. Any one who has any experience of the effect of railroads upon the value of lands, and of the immense immigration into Texas of late years, will not question that these lands of the company will be readily sold, if the company should conclude to sacrifice them at that price to raise money, at over five dollars an acre. Then, these stockholders will be worth over nine millions of dollars, upon an investment of $2,600,000.

All that is necessary to achieve these results, is for the stockholders to step forward and protect their own interests by the insignificant subscription of one dollar upon each share of their stock. This will give the company $400,000, which, with the State aid, will finish and equip the fifty additional miles of road and leave a surplus. Surely the stockholders, thinking, practical men, as we presume them to be, will not suffer their property, worth at the present time not less than two millions of dollars, sacrificed for debts which amount in the aggregate to not over $75,000. The equity of Fort Sumter is in point here. Aid, in view of such prospects of unmitigated success!

Here is a railroad company such as we have represented, with a gentleman at the head of it of unquestioned integrity, ability, and experience second in fact to no railroad man in the country—one who has the character of never having failed at anything he undertook. Would he hazard his reputation, sacrifice his time, and invest his money in a delusive scheme? And hence it is astonishing to us why it is that any stockholder should hesitate a moment as to what his interest demands of him in this emergency. It is acquisition on one side and total loss of investments on the other. While they are hesitating and doubling the road may and quite likely will be sold out, unless they come to the relief. Delays are dangerous, and if they do not lose the road, they may, by their supineness, defeat the purpose of constructing fifty additional miles this year, which, we said in the beginning, must be regarded as all important. If the stockholders are blind to their own interests, they may rest assured there will be found others to look to their places. They may fail, but the enterprise will not. It has attracted the attention of the leading, thinking men, in both hemispheres. If it fail, they may rest assure there will be a company formed to purchase it, able and willing to carry on the work. And while we should like to see those who have invested their means in this enterprise realize the gold in harvest connected with its successful prosecution, we may not regret, as we otherwise should, if the stockholders fail to come forward promptly in this present emergency, to see it change hands and a new company formed of men possessing more enlarged views, liberal minds and practical knowledge.

We clip the above from the New Orleans *Crescent* of the 3d inst., and commend it to the serious consideration of all who are interested in this great national work, now peculiarly interesting to all southern men. We learn that the stockholders at New Orleans are all paying up, and a private letter dated the 3d inst., from that city, says upwards of thirty stockholders responded on that day. This is as it should be—just to the public and celebrating for themselves. The policy of Col. STEVENSON commands general approbation, and it will win for him and the enterprise what both merit, *i. e.*, success.

TREASON EXPOSED.

BROWNLOW, of the Knoxville Whig, makes the following exposition of the treason of ETHERIDGE, whose antecedents are of such a character as to add new color of truth to the very reasonable statements. Nothing better, we will only say, could be expected from a man whose name is intimately associated with everything which is politically infamous.—BROWNLOW says:

So far as Mr. Etheridge is concerned, I will disclose a fact that will astonish his own friends, one of which his constituents are profoundly ignorant. Thirty delegates to Baltimore, from Tennessee, held a meeting in Mr. Nelson's room in Washington, which continued until after midnight, to agree upon the line of policy they would pursue in Baltimore, and who they would present for the consideration of the national Union convention. Mr. Etheridge opposed the nomination of Mr. Bell, or any one else, by that convention, and advocated an adjournment without a nomination, so as to let the race be run between a Democrat, and the Republicans, and he distinctly said that Mr. Seward would not be nominated, but that some one would who would be more acceptable to the country. He made an ingenious and able speech, and I understood him to advocate the policy of *selling out to the Republicans*, though he did not so well indicate it. Certain it is, that our delegation were resolved upon adhering to Mr. Bell, and procuring his nomination, if they could. And although Mr. Etheridge was a delegate, if he went to Baltimore at all, I never saw him. Whether his consolation with Johnson dates back so far as this, I am not able to say. I only state a fact, for the truth of which I appeal to that entire delegation, including the other six Union members of Congress from Tennessee. I hold myself bound, during the late presidential canvass, to say nothing of this Washington City caucus—but I now feel at perfectly liberty to say what I please, either privately or publicly, respecting it, and the strange and unpatriotic course Mr. Emerson Etheridge thought proper to pursue.

WIGFALL AT CHARLESTON.

The Charleston *Courier* of the 7th instant gives an account of a speech made in that city on the night of the 5th instant by Ex-Senator WIGFALL, of Texas, in reply to a serenade. We make the following extract:

I was told when the Star of the West sneaked out of New York that it would come in open day into your harbor, and the people of South Carolina would not dare to fire at the flag of their country.

I told them I thought they did not understand the people of South Carolina, and it was with feelings of intense gratification that language would fail to express that, when that news flashed on the wires to Washington that the Star of the West had crossed your bar, when you planted at the thirty-three stars upon that flag, the moment you saw that star which you had placed upon your own flag among the thirty-three stars, you fired that shot that erased it from the flag from which you had taken it. That star was taken by you from that flag, and though the irregular government at Washington chose to keep its thirty-three in your face, you chose to fire at it and take the consequences. The Star of the West sneaked into Charleston harbor, she received your blows between her eyes, and she staggered out. That insult has never been resented.

It is true there is a force over here, but we know they can be removed, and if the Federal Government, or national Government, (perhaps the better term) does not remove it in good time, you will remove it for them. [Cheers.] Whether Major Anderson shall be shelled out or starved out, is a question merely of expediency. The honor of South Carolina was vindicated when the flag of the United States was fired at, and it has remained vindicated, because they have never resented that shot.

But it is with me a peculiar gratification, as I have lived under that flag, and fought under that flag, and as some of you have lived and doubtless fought under that flag before this, to know that that flag was never fired at with impunity until it covered a crew of Black-Republicans. [Cheers.]

LOSING HEART.—Senator Grimes, of Iowa, is said to entertain serious doubts as to the probability of any future session of Congress in Washington.

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM MONTGOMERY AND CHARLESTON.

Civil War Inevitable!

Hostile Vessels off Charleston Harbor.

FORT SUMTER TO BE PROVISIONED.

SOUTHERN COMMISSIONERS REJECTED.

Probable Attempt to Reinforce Fort Pickens.

The South Prepared for the Conflict!

[SPECIAL DISPATCH.]

CHARLESTON, April 9.—This morning several war vessels, bearing the United States flag, appeared off Charleston harbor. They are now outside of the bar waiting for the flood-tide to enable them to come up. They will probably make an attempt to-night.

This demonstration has produced the most intense excitement here, and has excited the military enthusiasm of the people to the very highest point. All reserved city forces were called out, and ordered to batteries and forts at midnight.

The country regiments have been telegraphed for, and are pouring into the city by every train. By to-night we shall have six thousand men in arms.

The authorities have received official intimation that Fort Sumter will be provisioned—peaceably, if possible, but forcibly if necessary.

The war has actually begun. Everybody is preparing for the conflict. We shall give the enemy a hot reception. We entertain no doubt but that we shall repel the attack.

Gen. Beauregard's arrangements are admirable.

MONTGOMERY, April 9.—Our commissioners at Washington have announced to this Government their rejection and intention to return home at once.

The Cabinet met yesterday and on receiving this information, it became unanimously of the opinion that war is inevitable. The best evidences are brought to bear that United States war vessels have departed for certain southern points. It is stated that Fort Pickens is one of the points of destination of these vessels. If they attempt to land troops at this point, Gen. Bragg will fire into the enemy and make a vigorous attack on them." His troops are daily being increased.

TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS.

We learn that a dispatch has been forwarded from this place to the Hon. Secretary of War of the Confederate States, to inquire if troops would be received from this State, and how many would be accepted? We have no doubt but that Tennessee will be well represented at the seat of war. A reply has just been received to the application of Captain WINSLOW, on behalf of the "Sons of the South," and they are notified to hold themselves in readiness.

True to her well-earned reputation as the "Volunteer State," Tennessee will furnish a quota of as gallant spirits as ever bore the southern standard. The hearts of the people of Tennessee are with their brethren of South, and the perfidy and treachery of the LINCOLN Government have aroused a blaze of indignation among the generous, frank and chivalrous citizens, who, from their instincts, as well as the illustrious teachings of their sage JACKSON, scorn deception and despise a perfidious ruler.

The false executive and his debased advisers have sown dragon's teeth upon our soil, and armed men are springing into active life on all sides.

A VALUABLE ALLY.

The *Bulletin* of yesterday, in discussing the subject of the valley trade, has the following brave words:

We are willing to stand by our brethren of the gulf States to the last extremity to the defense of the institutions so intimately interwoven with our interests and affections.

But when it comes to discuss the policy of the Middle States, in the event of war, it modifies its tone thus:

It appears to be a prevailing idea that, in case the United States Government should pursue a policy which will lead to war, the non-seceding slaveholding States will have no other alternative but to unite their fortunes and interests with the Southern Confederacy. But is this so?

It responds to this in the negative. Does the *Bulletin* call this backing its southern friends, and "standing by our brethren of the gulf States to the last extremity?"

When it touches the practical side of the gulf States, the *Bulletin* would fain persuade those people that the Middle States are devoted friends and powerful allies, but when the question is that of Black-Republican bayonets, the *Bulletin* claims strict neutrality, and would say to both: "It shall not be done on our soil." Their institutions are "intimately interwoven with our interests and affections" so long as the Federal Government will permit them to enjoy peace; but when the Black-Republicans wage a war for their subjugation and the destruction of those institutions, we are as free allies in interests and divided in affections.

THE SUBMISSION PARTY A SPOILS-DEMOCRACY TO THE BACKBONE.

The incongruous elements of which the Submission party in Tennessee is composed—spotted, ringstreaked and speckled as were JACOB's cattle—promise from present indications to be overtaken with a speedy dissolution. Banded together under the descriptive name of the "Union party," this faction has stolen the livery of heaven in which to serve the devil. But upon the principle, we suppose, that everything is fair in love and war, and the destruction, we begin to see the outcropping of startling facts that are destined to furnish the weapons with which its death will soon be consummated. Evidences are fast thickening that go to show that this miscalled Union party is nothing more nor less than an office-seeking, spoilsmonging coalition between the parasites of JOHNSON and ETHERIDGE, who are universally acknowledged both in Tennessee and at Washington City as its constituted champions. So palpable has this glaring fact become, that even the Knoxville Whig, a Union paper—BROWNLOW, of the Knoxville Whig—makes an exposition of the infamy of the combination and exposes it to the contempt of the honest masses. His terrible onslaught will fall like a thunderbolt from a cloudless sky upon these sanguine place-seekers who are reveling in fancy upon their anticipated triumph. It is a bomb shell in the Submission camp—a breaking forth of the armed men from the Trojan horse which has been projected in their midst. BROWNLOW says:

Until some time past, it has been cautiously intimated to me, that a deep game of intrigue was being played at Washington, by Senator Johnson and Representative Etheridge—that they were secretly combining and manoeuvring to promote their own selfish interests—forming combinations, deluding others, and buying them up with offices, and the promise of offices—and were determined to use the Union organization in the State to promote their own selfish ends, and reward *lick-spittlers* of all shades of politics, who would lend themselves to aid in carrying out their nefarious scheme. I have long since determined that I would not advance the interests of such men if I knew it. And, if I could find a single, reasonable doubt, that they were engaged in any such unholy combinations, I would expose it to the gaze of the honest people, and let them wrestle with it as best they might deem appropriate. I am on the right track, and in the language of inspiration, what tricksters have told in darkness, that I will speak in the light, and what I have heard in the ear, that I will preach on the house top!

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What will be the condition of the company then? It will have 132 miles of road completed, worth $3,960,000, and lands in fee simple amounting to 1,246,400 acres. Now, it must be recollected that with 132 miles of railroad completed, and a promise of rapid progress of the work, these lands will possess a marketable value. Any one who has any experience of the effect of railroads upon the value of lands, and of the immense immigration into Texas of late years, will not question that these lands of the company will be readily sold, if the company should conclude to sacrifice them at that price to raise money, at over five dollars an acre. Then, these stockholders will be worth over nine millions of dollars, upon an investment of $2,600,000.

All that is necessary to achieve these results, is for the stockholders to step forward and protect their own interests by the insignificant subscription of one dollar upon each share of their stock. This will give the company $400,000, which, with the State aid, will finish and equip the fifty additional miles of road and leave a surplus. Surely the stockholders, thinking, practical men, as we presume them to be, will not suffer their property, worth at the present time not less than two millions of dollars, sacrificed for debts which amount in the aggregate to not over $75,000. The equity of Fort Sumter is in point here. Aid, in view of such prospects of unmitigated success!

Here is a railroad company such as we have represented, with a gentleman at the head of it of unquestioned integrity, ability, and experience second in fact to no railroad man in the country—one who has the character of never having failed at anything he undertook. Would he hazard his reputation, sacrifice his time, and invest his money in a delusive scheme? And hence it is astonishing to us why it is that any stockholder should hesitate a moment as to what his interest demands of him in this emergency. It is acquisition on one side and total loss of investments on the other. While they are hesitating and doubling the road may and quite likely will be sold out, unless they come to the relief. Delays are dangerous, and if they do not lose the road, they may, by their supineness, defeat the purpose of constructing fifty additional miles this year, which, we said in the beginning, must be regarded as all important. If the stockholders are blind to their own interests, they may rest assured there will be found others to look to their places. They may fail, but the enterprise will not. It has attracted the attention of the leading, thinking men, in both hemispheres. If it fail, they may rest assure there will be a company formed to purchase it, able and willing to carry on the work. And while we should like to see those who have invested their means in this enterprise realize the gold in harvest connected with its successful prosecution, we may not regret, as we otherwise should, if the stockholders fail to come forward promptly in this present emergency, to see it change hands and a new company formed of men possessing more enlarged views, liberal minds and practical knowledge.

We clip the above from the New Orleans *Crescent* of the 3d inst., and commend it to the serious consideration of all who are interested in this great national work, now peculiarly interesting to all southern men. We learn that the stockholders at New Orleans are all paying up, and a private letter dated the 3d inst., from that city, says upwards of thirty stockholders responded on that day. This is as it should be—just to the public and celebrating for themselves. The policy of Col. STEVENSON commands general approbation, and it will win for him and the enterprise what both merit, *i. e.*, success.

TREASON EXPOSED.

BROWNLOW, of the Knoxville Whig, makes the following exposition of the treason of ETHERIDGE, whose antecedents are of such a character as to add new color of truth to the very reasonable statements. Nothing better, we will only say, could be expected from a man whose name is intimately associated with everything which is politically infamous.—BROWNLOW says:

So far as Mr. Etheridge is concerned, I will disclose a fact that will astonish his own friends, one of which his constituents are profoundly ignorant. Thirty delegates to Baltimore, from Tennessee, held a meeting in Mr. Nelson's room in Washington, which continued until after midnight, to agree upon the line of policy they would pursue in Baltimore, and who they would present for the consideration of the national Union convention. Mr. Etheridge opposed the nomination of Mr. Bell, or any one else, by that convention, and advocated an adjournment without a nomination, so as to let the race be run between a Democrat, and the Republicans, and he distinctly said that Mr. Seward would not be nominated, but that some one would who would be more acceptable to the country. He made an ingenious and able speech, and I understood him to advocate the policy of *selling out to the Republicans*, though he did not so well indicate it. Certain it is, that our delegation were resolved upon adhering to Mr. Bell, and procuring his nomination, if they could. And although Mr. Etheridge was a delegate, if he went to Baltimore at all, I never saw him. Whether his consolation with Johnson dates back so far as this, I am not able to say. I only state a fact, for the truth of which I appeal to that entire delegation, including the other six Union members of Congress from Tennessee. I hold myself bound, during the late presidential canvass, to say nothing of this Washington City caucus—but I now feel at perfectly liberty to say what I please, either privately or publicly, respecting it, and the strange and unpatriotic course Mr. Emerson Etheridge thought proper to pursue.

WIGFALL AT CHARLESTON.

The Charleston *Courier* of the 7th instant gives an account of a speech made in that city on the night of the 5th instant by Ex-Senator WIGFALL, of Texas, in reply to a serenade. We make the following extract:

I was told when the Star of the West sneaked out of New York that it would come in open day into your harbor, and the people of South Carolina would not dare to fire at the flag of their country.

I told them I thought they did not understand the people of South Carolina, and it was with feelings of intense gratification that language would fail to express that, when that news flashed on the wires to Washington that the Star of the West had crossed your bar, when you planted at the thirty-three stars upon that flag, the moment you saw that star which you had placed upon your own flag among the thirty-three stars, you fired that shot that erased it from the flag from which you had taken it. That star was taken by you from that flag, and though the irregular government at Washington chose to keep its thirty-three in your face, you chose to fire at it and take the consequences. The Star of the West staggered into Charleston harbor, she received your blows between her eyes, and she staggered out. That insult has never been resented.

It is true there is a force over here, but we know they can be removed, and if the Federal Government, or national Government, (perhaps the better term) does not remove it in good time, you will remove it for them. [Cheers.] Whether Major Anderson shall be shelled out or starved out, is a question merely of expediency. The honor of South Carolina was vindicated when the flag of the United States was fired at, and it has remained vindicated, because they have never resented that shot.

But it is with me a peculiar gratification, as I have lived under that flag, and fought under that flag, and as some of you have lived and doubtless fought under that flag before this, to know that that flag was never fired at with impunity until it covered a crew of Black-Republicans. [Cheers.]

LOSING HEART.—Senator Grimes, of Iowa, is said to entertain serious doubts as to the probability of any future session of Congress in Washington.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Cincinnati Enquirer:]

WASHINGTON, April 8.—War, war is the theme of the men congregated at the hotels, the Departments and the corners of the streets, and in every household the near approach of hostilities has cast a pall of gloom. The fact is already incorporated at Sumter and Pickens we do not yet know, but there are many rumors that the South Carolina troops were to attack the former to-day, or next, probably to-night. We have not received anything from them to-day, excepting some private dispatches which came over the wires early in the morning. One of them states that the news from New York received yesterday, has caused the Government to order all the military on duty. The most intense excitement prevailed, and every one seems to be under the impression that the present state of things will change within twenty-four hours.

The Cabinet of the Administration argue that the reason of the change of its policy toward Fort Sumter was occasioned by the belief that it was the design of the Confederate Government, so soon as Sumter was evacuated to concentrate the troops now there congregated to Fort Pickens, and to assault and take it before reinforcements could be dispatched to hold Fort Sumter, in order to prevent the diversion of the force now there to Pensacola. It is stated that the vessels to have New York co-operate in sending, are not for the purpose of reinforcing Fort Sumter, but for provisioning it, and it will depend upon the authorities of South Carolina whether it will be done peaceably or by force. I telegraphed last night for a record another Star of the West affair.

Special Correspondence N. Y. Herald.]

WASHINGTON, April 8.—The failure of the Government to obtain possession of the batteries of Fort Pickens was the subject of great surprise. Fears were entertained that a conflict had ensued, in consequence of the landing of supplies, and that telegraphic communication had been cut off.

Up to a late hour there are no reports from Fort Pickens, and the Government is exceedingly anxious for the safety of Lieut. Slemmer.

I was noticed this morning that an unusual number of official telegraphic dispatches were sent over from the War and Navy Departments to the President.

The excitement that prevails here among all classes in consequence of the war prospect is indescribable. The radical Republicans are in high glee at the display of Administration vigor, and walk about with an air of defiance. The Washingtonians all look exceedingly sober.

The country is on the brink of civil war. Lamentable though this consummation may be, the inevitable one can no longer be denied. The knot that has been tying since last November, and that the highest statesmanship of the nation failed to disentangle, will be cut by the sword.

A western Congressman, who has satisfied himself as to the purposes of the Administration by an interview with the President within the last twenty-four hours, remarked to-day that "blood would be spilled in less than ten days." The unmistakable symptoms of an impending crisis render it but too probable that his will prophesy will be verified.

The President is now said to be fully emancipated from the inert influence of the Secretary of State, and to lend his ear mostly to Blair and Chase. Frank P. Blair talked every blackbeard into fits! Only one day this week, after his outspoken, unsparing fashion. He told him plainly that peaceable secession, or separation, was a thing of the past; that the success of the Republican Administration depended on the fulfillment of the assurances held out in the inaugural. He said to have no sympathy with secession, he was elected as a Union man, and on the strength of his avowals he was elected to the Presidency. He said he would not hold out much longer without men and supplies. Yet the Administration did nothing. It is because he (Blair) was a Union man, he received, that should an attempt now be made to reinforce Capt. Slemmer, he will consider it his duty to notify the Secretary of War to pull down his flag and surrender at once, being satisfied that it would be useless to attempt to resist the overwhelming forces surrounding him at the time. Blair is one of the ablest men, it is said, to sacrifice his little hand, but will throw the entire responsibility on the Administration. They have not been aware of his official position for more than a week, and of the extraordinary efforts in progress by the Confederate Government to surround the forts with fortifications and batteries of the largest description. It would be a most wanton sacrifice of human life for him now to attempt to resist them. Whenever an attack is made it will certainly be taken.

There is a large delegation of Virginians here, headed by John Minor Botts. They have come for the purpose of ascertaining something respecting the movements now in progress by the Administration towards the Confederate States.

Mr. Botts says that the secession feeling is steadily gaining ground, and that unless the demands of the Old Dominion upon the North be complied with, she will follow, sooner or later, in the wake of the cotton States. He called on the President, and advised him to withdraw Major Anderson from Fort Sumter, and not to disturb the present status of the other southern forts. His counsels probably come too late.

An officer of artillery in the South Carolina forces arrived here yesterday, and is engaged in recruiting soldiers to fight against their country. The men thus enlisted are not sent beyond Richmond, Va., where a strong force now exists, which is daily being strengthened from among the floating adventurers and filibusters of northern cities.

There will be an extraordinary session of Congress in about sixty days.

WASHINGTON, April 8.—Lieutenant Talbot, the special messenger of Major Anderson, arrived here early this morning. He was immediately taken to the White House by Secretary Cameron. The information he brought induced the President to convene an extra Cabinet meeting, which remained in session for nearly two hours. Nothing has as yet transpired as to the practice character of the dispatches.

Much significance is justly attributed to the failure of a member of members of the Virginia legislature, who came here on a confirmation of the present military status of the South, to obtain satisfactory assurances at an interview with the President last evening.

Mr. Segar, one of the number, openly declared this morning that they could do nothing with the Executive, and that the country was on the brink of civil war.

The arguments before the naval court martial in the case of Commodore Armstrong, were concluded this morning by the well known criminal pleader, P. Phelps of this city, with a brilliant effort in behalf of the accused.

The result of the trial will probably be known on Monday.

The sloop-of-war Pawnee left the Washington navy yard for Norfolk at 8 P. M. She sailed with sealed orders, and her officers and men are utterly ignorant as to their ultimate destination. She carries eight nine-inch Paixhan guns, two twelve pounds and a hundred and ninety men. She was put in perfect fighting trim before starting.

Mr. Russell, of the London *Times*, dined with the southern commissioners yesterday. He is about leaving for the South.

Marshal Sands and Gov. Dennison, and Attorney-General Wolcott, arrived here this morning. Governor Dennison will shortly succeed Swain as a proper successor to Judge McLean. They will find that the President's old friend, Judge Logan, of Illinois, stands next in their way.

The name of Secretary Chase is also connected with the same position by some of his friends, but I do not think he will give the slightest desire to be placed on the bench.

Tom Corwin returned here last night; he will embark next week from New York, on a Government vessel, which the Mexican government has tendered him an escort from Vera Cruz to the capitol.