Richmond Dispatch.

BY COWARDIN & HAMMERSLEY.

THE DAILY DISPATCH is served to subscribers at SIX AND A QUARTER CENTS PER WEEK, payable to the Carrier weekly. Price for mailing, $4 a year, or $2 50 for six months, in advance.

THE SEMI WEEKLY DISPATCH is issued every Tuesday and Friday at $2, in advance.

THE WEEKLY DISPATCH is issued every Friday, and mailed to subscribers at $1 per annum.

DAILY DISPATCH.

VOL. XIX.—NO. 9 RICHMOND, VA., THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1861 PRICE ONE CENT

Richmond Dis

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LETTER FROM HON. JOHN M. BOTTS.

The following letter was read at the dinner given by the New England Society of New York, on the 22d inst., in response to this sentiment:

4. The American Union—the great trust which we hold for succeeding ages. The love of it is still uppermost in the hearts of the people. This love of the whole people for the whole country will overwhelm all discontents and disaffections of all parts and of all parties, and declare, with a voice which all must hear and obey: "The Union must and shall be preserved!"

RICHMOND, Monday, Dec. 17, 1860.

Dear Sir. When I answered your kind letter of invitation on behalf of the Committee of Arrangements, to dine with the New England Society on the 22d inst., I entertained strong hopes that it would be in my power to attend. Yesterday I received another letter from our friend Mr. Tetson renewing the invitation, and urging its acceptance, that we might commune together on the condition of the nation; but I cannot leave home, and deeply regret the necessity which compels me to decline it.

I feel that I have been singularly unfortunate in never having had it in my power to accept any one of the numerous invitations to these Pilgrim meetings with which I have been honored; but necessity has no law, and I must submit. One thing that reconciles me to the disappointment is, that while our country is in its present distracted and dissevered condition, I am in no mood and have no heart for festivities of any sort.

You meet to celebrate the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers, and to keep alive a grateful recollection of the toils, the hardships, the sufferings and sacrifices they endured, in behalf of the great blessings of the freedom of conscience and freedom of speech; which through the mighty deeds of their descendants, *your fathers* aided by the noble, gallant and holy works of our *fathers*, were secured to you and to us as a common heritage to be the most perfect and unexceptional system of government that the world has ever devised—a government that has alike excited the wonder, the admiration, and the hopes of the world. The more I look into that system, and the deeper I penetrate into all its profundity, the more I am struck with its wonderful perfection, and with the superior wisdom, sagacity and foresight displayed in its formation in every part. A system of government under which we have lived and prospered, as no people have ever lived and prospered before, and under which, with a proper spirit of philanthropy, courtesy, forbearance and mutual explanation, we could continue to live in the full enjoyment of advantages and blessings never before vouchsafed to man on earth.

But, gentlemen, I was asked to read *a couplet or two of harmonious whole*, before you meet at the festive board, at the close of this week, this system will probably be no more; it will be numbered among the things that were, and that have passed away, to be seen and felt "*never no more*," perhaps "*forever*."

Before the sun shall have passed again over our continent, from the time at which I write, we shall probably be rent asunder, one State of the Union will have rudely and violently robbed our flag of one star; God in his mercy grant that it may stop at that. Even now, while I write at the dead hour of night, midnight makers and conspirators are at work to tear down the noble edifice of freedom, to trample its fragments in the dust, and to make us the jest and the scorn of civilization.

Can this not be averted? Are there no means by which the balance of the Union can be preserved? It rests with you, gentlemen of the North, to determine the question, and there is no time for delay.

I have given abundant proof that I do not sympathize with South Carolina in her rash and impetuous action. If she is determined to go, let us cool the men and the blood, and prevent any other State from following her pernicious example. She does not desire to be *of us*, nor *with us*, nor *among us*. She does not seek to have her grievances redressed, and I would take no pains to redress them *as far as she is concerned*. She goes out because she has no wish to remain in, but it is not so with the other disaffected States. They can be retained, and ere long will be brought back to themselves and to you.

You tell me that by the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and the attempt to force slavery into the Territory of Kansas through the agency of the fraudulent Lecompton Constitution, the South has done great wrong to the North. I answer, *I know it*, and I have said it *when*, and I have said it *where* it was no light matter to say it—when I stood alone in the single attempt to arrest the mad career of my own State, and I say also that the North, by the passage of the Personal Liberty bills, so far as they were designed to obstruct the execution of the Fugitive Slave Law, and by the general interference of their citizens with the subject of slavery in the States, have done great wrong to the South. Both have done wrong, and both must repair the errors of the past.

You tell me again, that Mr. Lincoln and the party he represents have no design to interfere with the relation of master and slaves in the States where slavery exists by law. I answer, *I believe it—nay, I know it*—I know that the foulest misrepresentations are constantly made, and industriously circulated, by misdirected men and unprincipled traitors, to inflame the public mind; I know that great misunderstanding prevails between the two sections of the country, but to which I think my Maker, I have never by word or deed contributed. On the contrary, I have incurred much just censure and reproach, and suspicion at home, in consequence of my efforts to preserve a fairer and better understanding between the North and the South; because I saw from the first that, if this flame was fanned and not checked, it would ultimately lead to the present disastrous condition of things.

But, gentlemen, permit me to say that this is no time to inquire who threw the firestone, or which section is most to blame; this is no time to stand upon ceremony, or upon etiquette; this is time for bravado and defiance; and whoever indulges in it, either in Congress or out of it, will meet with a nation's contempt and a nation's curse.—The existence of an Empire is at stake: the happiness and the fortunes of millions are at home, and of millions over a large portion of the world, is in the balance, and the only question should be which shall be the first to come forward and tender the olive branch of peace, saying in solemn, earnest, strong, *Brothers, let us be friends again*.

Whichever party is the most forward and active in atonement for the past, whichever yields the most to freedom and to the Union, will surely enjoy the larger share of reputation *for manliness, magnanimity and love of country*. *Yours* in the larger and more powerful section; you cannot be suspected of any base timidity in a sacrifice for reconciliation. *Yours* is the *successful party*, now to come into power; you are in no danger of having any of your rights disturbed; you labor under no apprehension of the loss or ruin of your property; you can afford not only to be just, but to be *generous*, MAGNANIMOUS and GREAT. For the sake of our common country, I beg you to display these high and ennobling qualities as far as your own honor will permit you to go.

Let the North give assurance in some authoritative and unmistakable form that it is not its purpose to interfere with any vested rights under the Constitution; that whatever has been unwisely and unconstitutionally done shall be undone as speedily as possible, and that they will meet the disaffected Southern States in the spirit of that harmony and fraternal kindness, for the settlement of all the present difficulties, and let each section extend to the other *forgiveness for the past and security for the future*.

There is but one person alive whose position would entitle him to speak for the whole, and whose voice is sufficiently potential to allay the impending strife. I could wish that in this extreme exigency of the State, surrounded as we are with danger on every side, that he could find it compatible with his sense of propriety to anticipate, by a few weeks, the duty that will devolve upon him on the 4th of March, and indicate a policy, as I feel assured he would, that would relieve all present uneasiness, and afford more time for ultimate settlement of details.

There are a great many intemperate and unreasonable men in the South, each one of whom has a particular followers, but all of whom would be abandoned if such a policy were pursued; for I do not believe there is a majority in any one of the States (South Carolina excepted, and we may count her out for the present,) that would claim more as a condition of their adhesion to the Union than they would be fairly entitled to under the Constitution as it was adopted, and which we all acknowledge ourselves bound to obey. If a difference of interpretation should arise, how easy it would be to make a case and carry it at once before the judicial tribunal established for the purpose, and let its decision be final and conclusive with all parties.

Amendments to the Constitution may be asked for which may or may not be yielded, but all that any State is at liberty to demand or that any State will be sustained in demanding, will be a fair, honest and faithful execution of the provisions of the Constitution, and the laws made in pursuance thereof, and if this is not cheerfully accorded, the Union cannot and ought not to last; but if yielded, and further demands are made outside of the Constitution, in order to occasion difficulty, then the party that adheres to the present Constitution as it is relieves itself of all responsibility for the consequences that may ensue by virtue of the course pursued by those who seek a departure from it.

At all times deprecating and abjuring sectionalism, in whatever form it might assume, whether in the North or South, I have for many years stood up in the face of this Southern community, unaided and alone, as the only apologist and defender of the North; because, on every recurrence of dissatisfaction and distrust, I snuffed ultimate disunion in the tainted breeze. I had no confidence that men who would abrogate the Missouri Compromise would respect the Constitution any longer than it secured to them the powers of the Government. I have endorsed the integrity and patriotism of the great body of our Northern brethren, when all others shrunk back disheartened and dismayed, until I have been left a single mark for the shafts of my own party, as well as my political opponents. My motives have fallen under the injurious and unjust suspicion that I was actuated by a desire to advance my own political fortunes with the North when not one man in ten thousand in the North knew what I had said or done; while it was whispered and muttered and shouted, in every Southern bar—My position and principles of nationality, to which I have been, perhaps, a too zealous devotee, have been rudely assailed; and when they have proved impregnable and could not be overthrown in order to destroy such influence as I had, my character, both personally and politically, has been traduced and maligned. Yet never an inch did I budge; and it is this which gives me a claim *as your endorser*, to appeal to you as *friends*, in the name of a common country, and in view of a common destiny, to come forward and vindicate yourselves from the foul aspersions that have been cast upon you because of the misconduct of a handful of intemperate, misguided, fanatical and desperate men in your midst, who have been suffered, so far, to pass not only unpunished, but almost unrebuked.

I will not ask you to vindicate my endorsement of your fidelity to the Union, the Constitution, *and the enforcement of the laws, for my own sake*, because it matters little to any but my own family what becomes of me; but I do ask it, I entreat it, and, without meaning to be presumptuous, I *demand* it, for your own sakes, and for the sake of a common country, which now hangs suspended by a hair, awaiting the decision of the sons of New England, the descendants of the Pilgrim Fathers, whose spirits will look down upon you at the festive board, and add their entreaties to mine, that you will save us from a common and inevitable ruin, by exerting the influence you hold, each one with his native heath, to have full justice administered, peace restored, prosperity continued, and the Union of the States perpetuated for ages and ages yet to come.

If I have not deceived myself, this will be done by the conservative men who constitute the majority and the worth of the North; and, if I am deceived, I shall only have to confess the errors of my past life, retrace my steps, and make atonement to those whom I may have misled in my too earnest zeal to act the part of peacemaker to the great National family of the United States.

So far as the President of the United States and his late Attorney General, now Secretary of State, are concerned, the citadel has already been surrendered; the right to prevent any one State from breaking up the entire Confederacy has been denied, and it is expected that South Carolina, profiting by this unparalleled treachery to the rest of the States, will seize upon Fort Moultrie, that has purposely been left in an almost deserted and helpless condition. What disastrous consequence may result from this weakness and cowardice on the part of the Government, time alone can determine; but if civil war shall be forced upon us, with all its attendant evils, let the friends of the Union first put themselves *entirely in the right, in every particular*, let no just ground of complaint exist against them—do all they can to prevent strife, then act on the defensive; but act with a vigor that will make their enemies respect them.

I am, with great respect, your ob't serv't,

JOHN M. BOTTS.

Richmond Dispatch.

THURSDAY MORNING.....JAN. 10 1861

THE NATIONAL CRISIS.

Causes of Secretary Thompson's Resignation—The Committee of Thirty-three—Messages of the Governors of Ohio and Illinois—The War Preparations at Fort Washington, &c., &c.

THE CAUSES OF SECRETARY THOMPSON'S RESIGNATION—WHO ORDERED THE REINFORCEMENT TO CHARLESTON.

The Washington Constitution of yesterday has the following explanation of the causes of Secretary Thompson's resignation. It may be proper to state that Mr. Holt is a native of Kentucky:

"If the President had declared the purpose in his Message to use the land and sea forces of the United States against the South, it is a fact well known to all that, on its avowal, Mr. Thompson would have instantly resigned. It was on the faith that no such purpose was entertained that Mr. Thompson remained in office, and after the regrettable and unauthorized movement of Maj. Anderson from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter, which almost precipitated civil war at Charleston, it was on the faith of a distinct understanding that no reinforcements should be sent and no other evidence afforded by the Federal Government of hostility to South Carolina, that Mr. Thompson consented to remain in the Cabinet after the Secretary of War had resigned.

"It is well known that the gentleman whom the President commissioned to administer *ad interim* the affairs of the War Department, although he was born on Southern soil and owes to the South all that he is worth on earth, either in means or fame, was opposed to her in this her hour of trial and danger, and that, if he could, he would compel her, by force, to surrender her liberties, and submit to the degrading rule of her enemies. But it was hoped that he would not dare to use the powers, thus accidentally devolved on him, to reverse the President's declared policy, to falsify the President's assurances, and expose him in the face of the world to the imputation of having violated his faith. Deep-rooted and bitter as his feelings of animosity are known to be against the South, nobody could suppose that he would have the audacity, on his own motion, to risk involving his country in all the horrors of civil war without consulting his colleagues, or even informing them that he contemplated doing so.

"And yet such is the fact. Despite the positive and emphatic remonstrances of Mr. Thompson against sending reinforcements of Federal troops to Charleston; in the face of the solemn understanding that none would be sent without informing him of the intention to do so, Mr. Holt ordered a ship to be chartered, 250 Federal soldiers to embark in her, and proceed on Saturday last to Charleston to reinforce Major Anderson in Fort Sumter. The announcement of this movement, contained in the public newspapers of yesterday, was the first intimation that Mr. Thompson received that it was made, or even resolved on. Although a member of the Cabinet, supposed to be cognizant of its policy to respond for its course, and to bear the responsibility for its course, and to bear the magnitude and importance to his section is resolved on and consummated before he is even told that it is contemplated.

"Under these circumstances, Mr. Thompson instantly resigned his commission. By doing so he has vindicated his honor, and stamped his reproba ion on an act which no honorable man can regard otherwise than with the severest censure.

"We much regret that the President will necessarily be held responsible for the criminal temerity of the man whom he temporarily placed at the head of the War Department. He has but one course left, if he will escape the odium that will attach to all those who took part in the issue of this ill-fated order, and that is, to dismiss Mr. Holt from a place to which he should never have been called, and order Gen Scott to return to his post and attend to the legitimate duties of his command of the army. The Southern man who would send armed men to shed the blood of his brethren, is fully capable of betraying the colleague to whose friendship he owes his undeserved elevation. The President has yet the power to prove his reprobation of this reprehensible proceeding, and we trust that he will not hesitate to exercise it before the sun sets."

VIEWS OF EX-SECRETARIES.

Hon. A. H. H. Stuart, Secretary of the Interior under Mr. Fillmore, has written a letter to a gentleman in Chicago, recommending that a division line be run along the parallel of 36 deg. 30 min. to the Pacific—excepting California—that the normal condition of all the territory we now have or may hereafter acquire north of that line shall be free, and all south of it slave, until it shall be admitted into the Union as States, and that then it may be changed at the pleasure of its inhabitants.—This, with the repeal of the Personal Liberty bills, the amendment and enforcement of the Fugitive Slave law, and guarantees against interference with the inter-State slave trade, and with slavery in the District of Columbia, he thinks would restore peace to the country.

Hon. C. M. Conrad, who was another member of Mr. Fillmore's Cabinet, has written a long letter in favor of immediate secession by separate State action, on the ground that the slave States could not probably agree on any plan of united separation, and also because the action already taken by South Carolina has determined the course of the whole South.

THE COMMITTEE OF THIRTY-THREE.

The Committee of Thirty-three were engaged on Monday day discussing the proposition of Mr. Davis, of Maryland, relative to the Fugitive Slave Law, the substance of which has been frequently published in the Herald.—Upon this point a general discussion arose on the whole question agitating the country.

Mr. Tappan announced that New Hampshire was ready to yield to every other State in the Union all the rights to which they were severally entitled under the Constitution; but when any one or more of those States demanded more than justly belonged to them, or could be honorably granted by his State, she would resist all such demands, at all times and under all circumstances. Mr. Tappan read a letter from a distinguished member of the old Whig party, of Bascowan, N. H., breathing strong Constitutional sentiments, which Mr. Tappan said reflected the views of the people of his State. Beyond this he could and would not go.

Mr. Washburn opposed so much of the proposition of Mr. Davis as provides for the taking of a fugitive from the State where he is captured to the judicial district of the State from which he escaped, before he has a hearing upon the charge of being a slave. He offered an amendment, that the fugitive should have an examination in the place where he is arrested before being surrendered to the claimant.

This was voted down.

Mr. Kellogg, of Illinois, then offered an amendment, that the fugitive, upon being taken to the district from which he escaped, shall have the benefit of a jury trial, witnesses and counsel, the expense of which trial shall be paid by the United States.

This amendment was carried, and Mr. Davis' resolution, as amended, was adopted, nearly every member of the Committee present voting for it, except Messrs. Adams, of Massachusetts; Washburn, of Wisconsin; Phelps, of Missouri; Morrill, of Vermont, and Tappan, of New Hampshire.

OHIO LEGISLATURE—MESSAGE OF GOVERNOR DENNISON.

CLEVELAND, Jan. 7.—The Legislature met at Columbus to-day. Governor Dennison's message is a long document, and is occupied mainly with State affairs. He recommends a more effective organization of the militia, the present organized militia numbering only about 1,200 men, while the unorganized force is estimated at 285,000 men. No special prominence is given to this subject. The Governor argues at some length in defence of his course in refusing the requisitions of the Governors of Kentucky and Tennessee for persons accused of aiding in the escape of fugitive slaves. He discusses the secession question, denying the right of any State to secede at pleasure, and affirming that Ohio remains loyal to the Union and the Constitution.

He suggests the repeal of the obnoxious features of the Fugitive Slave law, and the repeal of any Personal Liberty bills subversive of the Fugitive law would thus be secured; at the same time the Southern States should repeal their laws in contravention of the constitutional right of citizens of Free States, who cannot be satisfied with less, and who will insist upon their constitutional rights in every State and Territory in this Confederacy. These they cheerfully accord to citizens of Southern States. Determined to do no wrong, they will not contentedly submit to any wrong, and are unawed by their threats. They demand the employment of all the constitutional powers of the Federal Government to maintain and preserve the Union—reject the whole theory of State secession as a palpable violation of the Constitution, and cannot consent to the exercise of any power unless under its sanction.—The integrity of this Union—its oneness and indivisibility—must be preserved.

ILLINOIS LEGISLATURE—MESSAGE OF GOVERNOR WOODS.

CHICAGO, Jan. 7.—The Legislature met at Springfield to-day. The House adjourned without effecting an organization. Governor Woods' message will probably be delivered to-morrow. In it he recommends a complete reconstruction of the present military plan, by dividing the State into three divisions of battalion, regimental and brigade formation; that the most liberal legislative encouragement be given to the formation of volunteer companies throughout the State. He recommends that the Banks of the State be required to secure their circulation exclusively by the United States and Illinois stocks.

In regard to the difficulties at present existing South, he says if grievances to any portion of our Confederation have arisen within the Union, let them be redressed within the Union. If unconstitutional laws touching upon the guaranteed rights of any of our sister States have found place upon our statute books, let them be removed. If prejudices and alienation toward any of our fellow-countrymen has fastened upon any minds, let it be dismissed and forgotten. Let us be just to ourselves and each other, allowing neither threats to drive us from what we deem to be our duty, nor pride of opinion prevent us from correcting wherein we may have erred.—He recommends that if Illinois has passed any laws tending to obstruct the operation of Federal authority, or conflicting with the constitutional rights of others, that they at once be repealed.

Speaking, not merely for himself, but reflecting what he assumed to be the voice of the whole people of Illinois, irrespective of party, as it reaches him from all quarters, he adopts the sentiments of President Jackson: "The Federal Union—it must be preserved," to which sentiment he trusts the Legislature will give emphatic expression at an early day.—The finances of the State are represented to be in a very prosperous condition.

The first business, after the organization of both Houses, will probably be the election of an United States Senator.

THE GARRISONING OF FORT WASHINGTON.

The Alexandria Sentinel thus notices the garrisoning of Fort Washington, on the Potomac, nearly opposite Mount Vernon:

Alexandria has seen a speck of "the war," so far as it has as yet progressed—the movements of troops. On Saturday evening the steamer Philadelphia conveyed a company of United States marines, consisting of forty privates, under command of Major Ferrett, Lieutenants Mear and Webb, three sergeants, three corporals, to Fort Washington, about seven miles below our city, on the Maryland shore.

For many years Fort Washington has been without any other keeper than an old soldier, who lived as lonely as a hermit, save when his solitude was broken and his solicitude stirred by the visits of Sabbath School excursion parties to play and pic-nic amid its shade and upon its green slopes. Now, uniforms flash within its walls and upon its ramparts; and drums beat and soldiers mark time, and its cannon will soon be made to clear their throats and roar like war dogs, as they are.

PENSACOLA AND KEY WEST.

The improvement of Pensacola, Florida, is strongly guarded by U. S. troops. There is one company of infantry, with two vessels of war, at that station. Key West, also another highly important station, the key of the Gulf of Mexico, is occupied by a sufficient Government force to protect it against any attack.

FROM CHARLESTON.

The Charleston papers of Tuesday furnish the following items:

Mrs. Robert Anderson, who arrived in Charleston on Saturday evening, is now, by permission of the Governor, with her husband in Fort Sumter.

Mr. J. E. P. Lazarus, who returned from New York on Tuesday, 1st inst., after an absence of some time, presented $500 to Gov. Pickens, for the use and service of the State, on Wednesday, 2d inst.

Chronology of the Day—Battle of New Orleans.

January 8, 1777, the British evacuated Elizabethtown, N. J. Gen. Maxwell fell on their rear, and took seventy prisoners and a schooner loaded with baggage.

On January 8, 1815, Sunday, occurred the great "battle of New Orleans." The Americans—principally militia and volunteers, from Louisiana, Kentucky and Tennessee—under Major Gen. Andrew Jackson, five miles below the city of New Orleans, defeated the flower of the veteran troops of Great Britain, with dreadful and most incredible slaughter.

The British troops, numbering 14,450 men, were commanded by Major Gen. Field Marshal Packenham, who was killed. The British naval force was under Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane.

The Americans, on the other hand, were commanded by four Generals, three of whom were Generals of militia, who, like their men, were agriculturists or planters, and had left their homes, like their men, from patriotic motives, on the spur of the occasion. Gen. Packenham was killed by a cannon ball from battery No. 7, which was commanded by Gen. Garrigues. The action commenced at dawn of day, and lasted until 8 o'clock. The Americans lost in the line during the battle but seven killed and six wounded. Among the latter Major Chotard, Assistant Adjutant-General; a few men were afterwards lost in skirmishing.

On the right bank of the river the Americans were not so successful; their batteries were carried by the British, led by Col. Thornton, who was wounded. On that side of the river the Americans were commanded by Brig. Gen. David Morgan. Here Lafitte, the well known pirate, gave very efficient aid to the Americans. Lafitte, the day before the battle, went and offered his services to Gen. Jackson, saying that he and his men were well acquainted with the nature of the ground and the swamps, and although they might not be of much use in distant battle, yet if it came hand to hand he would do good work.

After consultation with the Governor, Gen. Jackson accepted his offer. He was placed on the left bank of the river, in a comparatively defenceless position, which it was anticipated would be forced by the enemy. When the British soldiers broke over the works, Lafitte, after ordering a general discharge of small-arms, gave the command, "Clear the decks!" whereupon his piratical crew laid about them so lustily that, although fifteen of the enemy had surrounded one man, he killed eight of them, and cut his way out. The discomfited British were driven back over the breastworks, followed by the yells of the pirates and the shouts of the Americans, and leaving near half the attacking party dead behind them.

One thousand stand of arms were found on the field of battle, as was Gen. Keane's sword, which Gen. Jackson, at his request, restored. The British lost in this terrible engagement 2,600 men.

On January 8, 1817, two shocks of an earthquake were felt at Charleston, S. C., and also at Savannah, Ga.

MAJOR ANDERSON IN CONGRESS.—In the House of Representatives, Mr. Adrain, of New Jersey, introduced a set of resolutions approving of the course of Major Anderson, and pledging support to the President in all constitutional measures to enforce the laws and preserve the Union. The resolutions were adopted—ayes 124, nays 55. The Republicans voted aye, in a body. The Northern Democrats divided—for, while Messrs. Cochrane, Sickles, and MacClay, of New York city, went with the Republicans, Messrs. Florence, of Pa., Vallandigham, of Ohio, and Scott, of California, voted with the South. Some of these gentlemen, voting nay, explained that if the resolution had been confined, simply, to a commendation of Major Anderson, they would have supported it—but believing its effect in the present excited state of the country would do more harm than good, they must vote against it. On the other hand, some members from the South would have given it their support, but from the fact that the Republicans had all along refused the olive branch, though repeatedly offered on their side. Others opposed it on the ground that it meant mischief and civil war. The Southern members voting aye, were Adams and Anderson of Ky., Clemens and Jenkins of Va., and Etheridge of Tennessee.

ADVICE FROM RAREY.—In saddling a horse I proceed thus: I first show him the saddle.—If you pull him about or blind his eyes he thinks something is wrong, and of course resists. But accustom him to the saddle by placing it on and off several times, and all is right. In mounting, too, gentlemen go wrong, as they do about almost everything—[laughter]—about a horse. They bear their weight on the foot in the stirrup and try to climb up, so that the horse is like a fly on a pane of glass—his weight on one side. Mr. Rarey then proceeded to illustrate his method of mounting—standing close to the horse and bearing his weight upon the horse's shoulder. Now, a horse has great power in pulling his head down, but little when it is pulled a-one-side. This shows you how to stop a horse when he runs away. If you make a dead pull it is like a man trying to lift himself over a fence by his boot straps. But if you turn him round and round (illustrating) he is powerless.

If a horse jibs with you in the street, and refuses to go on, don't attempt to spur him; turn him round and round. He would rather go on than keep turning any time. You remember the mule who used to go through a brook to lighten his load of salt, which dissolved in the water. His master cured him by loading him with sand, which the water made heavier. No beating could have accomplished such a reformation. Mr. Rarey then took a drum, showed it to the horse, explaining that horses only feared what they did not understand, as boys feared false-faces in the dark, unless they knew them to be pasteboard; and then, rattling the drum over the nervous puller, concluded this part of his lecture amid hearty applause.—*Rarey's Lecture.*

Accident to the U. S. Steamer Iroquois.

The Trenton Gazette, in a letter from Genoa, dated December 16th, gives the following account of an accident to the United States steamer Iroquois:

At 6:30 P. M., the Genoa light was in sight; fifteen minutes afterward the order was passed for all hands on deck to bring ship to anchor, which was too soon done. My station as "junior off watch" was to pass orders to engineer in charge; it was pitch dark, and wind blew directly in our faces, and it rained very hard. The light from being on our port bow, became changed to nearly a-beam, but it seemed to be much further off than it should be, for the entrance to the harbor is not more than one hundred rods wide, and artificially formed by two moles, without which it would be only an indentation of the shore, and exposed to the sea.

Suddenly the light disappeared, and at the same instant the pilot, who was standing on the top-gallant forecastle, made an outcry which startled everybody—"Stop her!" "Back her!" came in the same breath, and I passed the order, giving the proper signal with the bell; but though the engine was reversed in less than twenty seconds, the ship struck with a heavy thump, giving everybody an involuntary start, then a less violent shock, and though the engine was backed with full power, we were firmly fixed on a rock—the ship had run one-third her length; at the time we struck, our ship was running at full speed—ten knots an hour. The shock was not so violent as might be supposed, owing to the fact that the ship is two feet deeper in the stern than the bow, and the keel touching lightly at first, ran upon the rock as upon an inclined plane. That rock was our salvation; it was not more than one hundred and fifty feet from the shore, which was a solid wall of ragged rocks, forty or fifty feet high. Had not that rock happened to be just where it was, we should have unavoidably run plump upon that shore of nearly perpendicular rock, and you may be sure that when running at such speed it would have been no joke—we should have been a wreck.—It was so dark that the pilot and officers at the bows could not see the danger until an instant before she struck. Such a thing was, of course, ruin to the pilot, and I never saw such a change come over a man—I thought he would jump overboard. He had, from some unaccountable cause, missed the entrance of the harbor by near three miles to the right, and was taking the overland route to Genoa. The discipline of a man-of-war, of course, don't allow of much expressed excitement; orders to "lower away the boats," "get out the kedge anchor," "send the carpenter's mate to see if the ship is making water," "throw the lead," etc., etc., followed each other in quick and regular order; there was deep water on each side of the rock; the ship commenced to leak some, but it was easily kept down by the steam-pump. Although the wind was strong, it fortunately blew off the shore, and there was not much swell, otherwise the ship, and perhaps some of us, would have suffered severely.

After finding that nothing could be done with the kedge anchor and engine, an officer was dispatched to Genoa for assistance; meantime, all sorts of means were resorted to—the guns were run aft—the shot and shell were taken out of the ship, and put in a shore boat, which came alongside; the rock was directly under the keel for about one-third of her length, and the ship rolled and pitched easily as if upon a pivot. All the men were called forward and then ordered to run aft in a body; then they ran in a body from one side to the other, the engine being put in motion at the same time, trying if the ship could be rocked off, but without success, which made it look very dubious, for should the wind change, it would go hard with the Iroquois. About midnight, a steam-tug arrived from Genoa; it was about as powerful a machine as a teakettle and coffee-mill, still it was better than nothing; for three long hours we kept at it—the little spirit seemed to grow and rally, emerge healthy, starting on a short run for the length of the hawser, and our engine working at the same time; we thus did our best to start the ship. At a little past three o'clock, as we were on the point of giving up the attempt until the arrival of the flag-ship Richmond, from Genoa, the ship made a sudden jump, and the cry "she's off!" made everybody breathe easier.

The rising sea started off the ship, rather than the tug or our efforts; we were in a short time steaming along on our way to Genoa, where we arrived safely half an hour later.—The divers, upon first examination, decided that the damage was trifling, only a part of the false keel and a few feet of copper being started; but after three or four days' work, found it necessary to take the ship into dry dock for repairs, in order to do which, it will be necessary to take out all the guns, shot, shell, stores and coal, which will be a serious and tedious job. We shall have to remain here three or four weeks, and may winter here.

Later from Europe.

The steamer Palestine, from Liverpool on the 26th ult., arrived at New York, Tuesday evening. The Arabia arrived out on the 23d.

Business had been suspended for the Christmas holidays since the sailing of the Australasian. Political affairs generally were unimportant.

The political crisis in the United States was regarded as being more serious in England than at first supposed, and was attracting much attention. The London Times, in a leader, says it thinks it quite possible that the problem of the Democratic Republic may be solved by an overthrow in a few days in a spirit of folly, selfishness and short-sightedness.

Italian affairs continued unchanged.

It was reported that the French fleet was about to quit Gaeta, but a counter rumor prevailed in Paris that Russia and France had agreed to support Francis II. in his resistance until spring.

Great demoralization was reported to exist in the besieged army at Gaeta.

It was stated that a decree was preparing at Naples ordering an extraordinary levy of men between the ages of 18 and 55 years of age.

Placards had been posted at Rome, bearing the arms of Victor Emmanuel and the words: "We desire annexation to Sardinia." These placards were surrounded by crowds, but no arrests were made.

A circular had been issued by M. Schnierbing, of the Austrian ministry, detailing certain reforms granted. Its provisions are very liberal.

China advices state that the ratification of the treaty with the Allies was exchanged, and the Convention signed at Pekin, October 24th. The French army retired from Pekin, November 1st. The English would remain until the Ambassadors left. A large force were to remain at Tien-tsin till the treaty conditions were fulfilled. The principal clauses of the treaty are as follows: The Emperor is to apologize for the Peiho affair of last year. English and French Ministers are to reside at Pekin. The indemnity fixed is to be doubled, and Tien-tsin is to be opened to trade immediately, and emigration is to be allowed.—Cowloon has been ceded to Great Britain. The Emperor's summer palace had been entirely burnt.

The bodies of the English prisoners who died in the hands of the Chinese were brought to Pekin and buried. Captain Brabazon and Abbe Huc were beheaded by the Chinese about September 21st. Their bodies had not been recovered. The Emperor was still in Tartary.

MASS ON THE PLAINS OF SYRIA.—The Syrian correspondent of the London Times describes the celebration of mass before the French army in Syria. The forces were encamped upon a plain, and the altar was built upon an eminence overlooking the plain, at the verge of the camp. It was composed of empty biscuit boxes covered with white linen cloths, and the steps with rugs lent by the officers. In front, at each angle, was a mountain gun. The officiating priest was assisted by a native Christian, a soldier of the foot chasseurs, and the correspondent's dragoman, who held the chief post, and held a large blue cotton umbrella over the head of the priest, much to the satisfaction of his sense of self-importance.

The priest's outward appearance, unfortunately, was not immaculate. A fortnight's camping out had sadly soiled his white baggy breeches and jacket, while his hands and face had evidently not fellowshipped with water since the last rain-storm. The military were disposed in favorable positions in front and on either side of the altar. The musicians were on the right of the altar, and the drums and bugles on the left, with the cavalry trumpets directly behind. The band's resources in sacred music were evidently very limited, and they were compelled to eke out the accompaniment of the mass with strains which sounded vastly like dance music. At intervals the drums and bugles, alternating with the trumpets, broke in, and gave the ceremony a warlike, fierce and menacing character, which was again changed and softened, when a really respectable choir pealed forth a hymn of thanksgiving and praise to the God of infinite mercies and loving kindness. At the elevation of the Host, arms were presented with a rattling sound, and salutes were fired from the four corners of the camp. The sight of a European army thus at devotion on the plains of Syria was a strange, imposing spectacle and carried the mind back to the days of Godfrey and Cœur de Leon.

VERY PROPER.—The School Committee of Newburyport, Mass., have passed a resolution expressing their disapprobation of the custom of the various schools making presents to their respective teachers, as one tending to the disadvantage or chagrin of many of the scholars.

FROM WASHINGTON.

[SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE DISPATCH.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8th, 1861.

It was enough to make a Southern man blush to hear the venerable Crittenden pleading on yesterday with the Abolitionists to accept his amendment, which does the South the barest justice, if that, and saves the country from the horrors of war. There they sat, in contemptuous silence, paying no more regard to the petitions of the grey-haired statesman than if he had been a dog. How long must we stand this? Since 1783 every single solitary compromise has been proffered by Southern men, and every concession has cost the South a moiety of its honor and a vast share of its rights in the common property. For the life of me I cannot see how we can longer submit to this condition of things. If the Abolitionists will have war, let them have it.

Toombs boldly declared himself a rebel, if secession were rebellion, and proclaimed his willingness to throw the bloody spear at any moment. His points were made with great power, coming like bursts of thunder, at times; but his speech, as a whole, was desultory, interrupted, broken. It did not flow like Benjamin's, the movement of which was like the majestic tide of the Mississippi.

General Scott is concentrating troops here, ostensibly to protect Lincoln, but, for aught we know, to make an inroad upon Virginia.—We must be on the alert. The sword is drawn against us; the Federal troops, according to a New York dispatch, will reach Charleston this evening. Virginia must trust her defence to herself alone. We will never be more able to take our destiny in our own hands than now.

I am glad you have come out so decidedly for a united South. What else is left us!—The day of indecision, of party feuds, of weak men, uncertain of purpose and untrue to their State, is past. The time has come for heroes.

The Mayor of New York city talks about seceding from the State, and a friend of mine lately saw a Rhode Island paper which urged with vehemence the right and duty of that little State to cut itself off from the tyranny of the fanatics of Massachusetts. But this is all talk. When it comes to blows, section will be against section, North against South.

We had a salute early this morning in honor of the day, and now another is going on.—There will be a parade and a hundred guns for Anderson. This reminds me that Clemens, of Virginia, voted in the House yesterday with the Abolitionists, approving Anderson's conduct and Buchanan's determination to sustain him. The vote was not taken about great disorder. A general fight in the House at an early day is not at all improbable.

Hackett is playing Falstaff at the Theatre.—I have been too busy to hear him. The weather is very mild. You recollect it was predicted that we would have an exceedingly severe winter.

ZED.

Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.

Arming in Amelia.

AMELIA CO., VA., Jan. 5th, 1861.

Since "Incog's" disappearance from your columns our county fails to be represented in the *Dispatch*, and lest his failure to keep you posted should be construed into a state of non-progressiveness or inactivity on our part, I venture to send you a few items of news.—Our county is thoroughly aroused on the "goose question." There are scarcely any amongst us now who do not say this question *must be settled before we stop*—no compromising or backing down about it. There was the largest gathering of the citizens yesterday, after the adjournment of our last County Court, I have ever seen assembled here, and amongst the resolutions passed, was one asking the County Court to issue bonds in a sufficient amount to purchase arms for the volunteers of the county. The Court having been summoned for this purpose, entertained and passed the resolution of the previous meeting *unanimously*, and issued bonds, payable in 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 years, which were voluntarily endorsed by numbers of our wealthiest and most influential citizens, and I have but little doubt the committees have succeeded ere this in getting them cashed, and will very soon make arrangements for the purchase. Our county is getting thoroughly organized and police regulations established in each of its magisterial districts, and we are caging every straggler that cannot give a very satisfactory account of himself, especially if he says "*k-e-o-w*" or "*o-r-s-e*."

I learn that the Rev. Richard McIlwayne preached a very eloquent sermon on Thanksgiving day, at the Court-House, in which he dealt some heavy blows at "wickedness in high places," and assigned it as one of the probable causes of our national degeneracy. The day was generally observed, and services were held at most of the churches in the county.

SCRIBE.

Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.

*Letter from