Richmond Dispatch.

BY COWARDIN & HAMMERSLEY.

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THE NATIONAL CRISIS

The Star of the West arrived at New York—Seward's Speech—Statement of the South Carolina Commissioners—Description of the Forts that have been Taken Possession Of—New York Legislature Resolutions—Message of the Governor of Indiana, &c., &c.

THE RETURN OF THE STAR OF THE WEST TO NEW YORK—NARATIVE OF HER EXPERIENCE.

The steamer Star of the West arrived at New York Saturday morning. The Journal of Commerce says:

As soon as her identity was made out by people along the river front, the piers in that neighborhood were thronged with spectators, anxious to see the vessel that had been fired at by the secessionists, and to know positively what damage had been done to her. The heavy blue overcoats of U. S. troops could be seen in a dense mass forward of her wheel-house.—Many persons were anxious to gratify their curiosity by going aboard of her in small boats, but this was sternly refused by the officers of the vessel. Capt McGowan came ashore and repaired at once to the office of M. O. Roberts, the owner of the boat. After a consultation between these gentlemen, telegrams were sent to Washington for further instructions, and until they are received, the Star of the West will remain where she now is with the troops on board, and no communication will be permitted except to Government officers, between her and the shore. The troops, two hundred in number, are in excellent health and spirits.

STATEMENT OF CAPT. MCGOWAN.

The following is an official account of the trip:

STEAM-SHIP STAR OF THE WEST, NEW YORK, Jan. 12th, 1861.

M. O. Roberts, Esq—Sir: After leaving the wharf on the 5th inst., at 5 P. M., we proceeded down the bay, where we have to and took on board four officers and two hundred soldiers, with their arms, ammunition, &c., and then proceeded to sea, crossing the bar at Sandy Hook at 9 P. M.—Nothing unusual took place during the passage, which was a pleasant one for the season of the year.

We arrived off Charleston bar at 1 30 A. M. on the 9th inst., but could find no guiding marks for the bar, as the lights were all out. We proceeded with caution, running very slow and sounding until about 4 A. M., being then in 4½ fathoms of water, when we discovered a light through the haze which at that time covered the horizon. Concluding that the lights were on Fort Sumter, after passing the bearings of it, we steered to the S. W. for the main ship channel, where we hove to, to await daylight our lights having all been put out since 12 o'clock to avoid being seen. As the day began to break we discovered a steamer just in shore of us, which we supposed, as she saw us, burned one blue light and two red lights as signals, and shortly after steamed over the bar and into the ship channel. The soldiers were now all put below, and no one allowed on the deck except our crew. As soon as here we saw light enough to see, we crossed the bar and proceeded on up the channel, the water bar buoys having been taken away; the steamer ahead of us sending off rockets and colcium lights, until after broad daylight, continuing on her course up near two miles ahead of us. When we arrived about two miles from Fort Moultrie, Fort Sumter being about the same distance, a masked battery on Morris' Island, where there was a red Palmetto flag flying, opened fire upon us, the distance about five eighths of a mile. We had the American flag flying at our flag staff at the time, and soon after the first shot hoisted a large American ensign at the fore. We continued on under the fire of the battery for over ten minutes, several of the shots going clear over us. One just passed clear of the pilot-house. Another passed between the smoke-stack and walking beams of the engine. Another struck the ship just abaft the forerigging and stove in the planking, while another came in an inch above the water on the quarter. At the same time there was a movement of two steamers from near Fort Moultrie, one of them towing a schooner, I presume an armed schooner, with the intention of cutting us off—our position now became critical, as we had to passed Fort Moultrie to within three-four hs of a mile, before we could keep away for Fort Sumter. A steamer approaching us with an armed schooner in tow, and the battery on the island firing at us all the time, and as we had no cannon to defend ourselves from the attack of the vessels, we concluded that, to avoid certain capture or destruction, we would endeavor to get to sea. Consequently we wore around and steered down the channel, the battery firing upon us until their shot fell short. As it was now strong ebb tide, and the water having taken some three feet, we proceeded with caution, and crossed the bar safely at 8 50 A. M., and continued on our course for this port, where we arrived this morning, after a boisterous passage. A steamer from Charleston was about three hours watching our movements.

In justice to the officers and crew of each department of the ship, I must add, that their behavior, while under the fire of the battery, reflected great credit on them.

Mr Brewer, the New York pilot, was of very great assistance to me in helping to pilot the ship over Charleston bar, and up and down the channel.

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't, J. MCGOWAN, Captain.

We learn from other sources that the firing was maintained from the Island about fifteen minutes, and that the guns sent good line shots, although most of them were much too high and went over the vessel. After two or three shots had been fired, the troops on board exhibited more curiosity than trepidation, and (as many of them as were permitted) went on the upper deck, and watched the firing with great interest. They had their rifles loaded, and were prepared to repel any attempt to board the vessel, and, if ordered, would have taken pleasure in trying to pick off the gunners at the masked battery.

It is not true, as has been rumored, that the American flag was pulled down on the Star of the West. When Captain McGowen turned about he hauled down the private signal of the vessel to let Major Anderson know that she was leaving.

Had Major Anderson prevented the steamer with the schooner (supposed to be armed) from passing under the guns of his fort, or had he attempted to silence the battery at Morris' Island, or in any other way evinced an intention to protect the Star of the West, Captain McGowan would undoubtedly have persisted in his efforts to land the reinforcements at Fort Sumter.

One of the balls came within about four feet of the rudder.

The ball that hit the vessel was a *ricocket* shot. It left a dent about three inches deep on the thick oaken planks.

The officers of the ship furnish the following report:

On Wednesday, 9th inst., at 1 A. M., made Charleston Bar; laid to until daylight, when she proceeded to enter the harbor. When off Morris' Island, was fired into by the battery from that point, seventeen shots being fired at her—one taking slight effect on her port bow, and a second (as she turned to leave the harbor) on the starboard quarter. One ball passed between the smoke-stack and the engine-room. Finding it impossible to land troops, was returning to sea at 9 A. M., when the fire was continued, several shots being fired after her.

She succeeded in getting to sea without other damage to vessel or those on board.

On coming out over the bar, struck twice.—Remained outside the bar over Wednesday night. That night, saw steamers out of the harbor, supposed in pursuit. Extinguished all lights and was not seen by them. Same night spoke ship Emily S. Pierce, from Liverpool, of and for Charleston, at anchor. She had been refused admittance in consequence of having the American flag flying.

SPEECH OF SENATOR SEWARD.

Senator Seward made his long looked for speech in the Senate Saturday. The conclusion of it contains the gist of his argument—certainly his declarations. He says:

So far as the abstract question whether, by the Constitution of the United States, the bondsman, who is made such by the laws of a State, is still a man or only property, I answer that, within that State, its laws on that subject are supreme; that when he has escaped from that State into another, the Constitution regards him as a bondsman who may not, by any law or regulation of that State, be discharged from his service, but shall be delivered up, on claim, to the party to whom his service is due.

While prudence and justice would combine in persuading you to modify the acts of Congress on that subject, so as not to oblige private persons to assist in their execution, and to protect freemen from being, by abuse of the laws, carried into slavery, I agree that all laws of the States, which relate to this class of persons, or any others recently coming from or resident in other States, and which laws contravene the Constitution of the United States, or any law of Congress passed in conformity thereto, ought to be repealed.

Secondly. Experience in public affairs has confirmed my opinion, that domestic slavery, existing in any State, is wisely left by the Constitution of the United States exclusively to the care, management and disposition of that State; and if it were in my power, I would not alter the Constitution in that respect. If misapprehension of my position needs so strong a remedy, I am willing to vote for an amendment of the Constitution, declaring that it shall not, by any future amendment, be so altered as to confer on Congress a power to abolish or interfere with slavery in any State.

Thirdly. While I think that Congress has exclusive and sovereign authority to legislate on all subjects whatever, in the common Territories of the United States; and while I certainly shall never, directly or indirectly, give my vote to establish or sanction slavery in such Territories, or anywhere else in the world yet the question what constitutional laws shall at any time be passed in regard to the Territories, is, like every other question, to be determined on practical grounds. I voted for enabling acts in the cases of Oregon, Minnesota and Kansas, without being able to secure in them such provisions as I would have preferred; and yet I voted wisely.

So now, I am well satisfied that, under existing circumstances, a happy and satisfactory solution of the difficulties in the remaining territories would be obtained by similar laws, providing for their organization, if such organization were otherwise practicable. If, therefore, Kansas was admitted as a State, under the Wyandotte Constitution, as I think she ought to be, and if the organic laws of all the other territories could be repealed, I could vote to authorize the organization and admission of two new States which should include them, reserving the right to effect subdivisions of them whenever necessary into several convenient States; but I do not find that such reservations could be constitutionally made.

Without them, the ulterior embarrassments which would result from the hasty incorporation of States of such vast extent and various interests and character, would outweigh all the immediate advantages of such a measure. But if the measure were practicable, I should prefer a different course, namely: when the eccentric movements of secession and disunion shall have ended, in whatever form that end may come, and the angry excitements of the hour shall have subsided, and calmness once more shall have resumed its accustomed sway over the public mind, then, and not until then—one, two, or three years hence—I should cheerfully advise a Convention of the people, to be assembled in pursuance of the Constitution, to consider and decide whether any and what amendments of the organic national law ought to be made.

Republican now—as I have heretofore been a member of other parties existing in my day—I nevertheless hold and cherish, as I have always done, the principle that this Government exists in its present form only by the consent of the governed, and that it is as necessary as it is wise, to resort to the people for revisions of the organic law when the troubles and dangers of the State certainly transcend the powers delegated by it to the public authorities. Nor ought the suggestion to excite surprise. Government in any form is a machine; this is the most complex one that the mind of man has ever invented, or the hand of man has ever framed. Perfect as it is, it ought to be expected that it will, at least as often as once in a century, require some modification to adapt it to the changes of society and alterations of empire.

Fourthly. I hold myself ready now, as always heretofore, to vote for any properly guarded laws which shall be deemed necessary to prevent mutual invasions of States by citizens of other States, and punish those who shall aid and abet them.

Fifthly. Notwithstanding the arguments of the gallant Senator from Oregon, (Gen. Lane,) I remain of the opinion that physical bonds, such as highways, railroads, rivers and canals, are vastly more powerful for holding civil communities together than any mere covenants, though written on parchment or engraved upon iron. I remain, therefore, constant to my purpose to secure, if possible, the construction of two Pacific railways, one of which shall connect the ports around the mouth of the Mississippi, and the other the towns on the Missouri and the lakes, with the harbors on our Western coast.

If, on the expression of these views, I have not proposed what is desired or expected by many others, they will do me the justice to believe that I am as far from having suggested what in many respects would have been in harmony with cherished convictions of my own. I learned early from Jefferson, that in political affairs we cannot always do what seems to us absolutely best. Those with whom we must necessarily act, entertaining different views, have the power and right of carrying them into practice. We must be content to lead when we can, and to follow when we cannot lead; and if we cannot at any time do for our country all the good that we would wish, we must be satisfied with doing for her all the good that we can.

Having submitted my own opinions on this great crisis, it remains only to say that I shall cheerfully lend to the government my best support in whatever prudent yet energetic efforts it shall make to preserve the Union, advising, only, that it practice as far as possible, the utmost moderation, forbearance and conciliation.

And, now, Mr. President, what are the auspices of the country? I know that we are in the midst of alarm, and somewhat exposed to accidents unavoidable in seasons of tempestuous passions. We already have disorder, and violence has begun. I know not to what extent it may go. Still my faith in the Constitution and in the Union abides, because my faith in the wisdom and virtue of the American people remains unshaken. Coolness, calmness, and resolution, are elements of their character. They have been temporarily displaced; but they are reappearing.

Soon enough, I trust, for safety, it will be seen that sedition and violence are only local and temporary, and that loyalty and affection to the Union are the natural sentiments of the whole country. Whatever dangers there shall be, there will be the determination to meet them; whatever sacrifices, private or public, shall be needful for the Union, they will be made. I feel sure that the hour has not come for this great nation to fall. This people, which has been studying to become wiser and better for as it has grown older, is not perverse or wicked enough to deserve so dreadful and severe a punishment as dissolution.

This Union has not yet accomplished what good or mankind was manifestly designed by him who appoints the seasons and prescribes the duties of States and empires. No, sir; if it were cast down by factions to-day, it would rise again and reappear in all its majestic proportions to morrow. It is the only government that can stand here. Woe! Woe! to the man that madly lifts his hand against it. It shall continue and endure; and men, in after times, shall declare that this generation, which saved the Union from such sudden and unlooked for dangers, surpassed in magnanimity even that one which laid its foundations in the eternal principles of liberty, justice and humanity.

THE PERSONAL INTERVIEWS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSIONERS WITH THE PRESIDENT.

The South Carolina Commissioners to Washington have laid before the Convention an interesting statement of their interviews with the President. We make the following extract:

On Saturday, the 8th of December, several of the South Carolina delegation, including ourselves, waited upon the President. At this time, there was a growing belief that reinforcements were on the eve of being sent to the forts in Charleston harbor. It was known that the subject was frequently and earnestly discussed in the Cabinet. It was rumored that General Cass and Mr. Holt were urgent that reinforcements should be sent. Upon our being announced, the President, who was then in Cabinet Council, came out to us in the ante-room. We at once entered into a conversation upon the topic, which was so closely occupying his thoughts as well as ours.—The President seemed much disturbed and moved. He told us that he had had a painful interview with the wife of Major Anderson, who had come on from New York to see him. She had manifested great anxiety and distress at the situation of her husband, whom she seemed to consider in momentary danger of an attack from an excited and lawless mob. The President professed a deep responsibility resting upon him to protect the lives of Maj. Anderson and his command. We told him that the news that reinforcements were on their way to Charleston, would be the surest means of provoking what Mrs. Anderson apprehended, and what he so much deprecated. We said, further, that we did not believe that Major Anderson was in danger of such an attack; that the general sentiment of the State was against any such proceeding. That, prior to the action of the State Convention, then only ten days off, we felt satisfied that there would be no attempt to molest the forts in any way.—That, after the Convention met—while we could not possibly undertake to say what that body would see fit to do—we yet hoped and believed that nothing would be done until we had first endeavored, by duly accredited Commissioners, to negotiate for a peaceful settlement of all matters, including the delivery of the forts, between South Carolina and the Federal Government. At the same time, we again reiterated our solemn belief that any change in the then existing condition of things in Charleston harbor would, in the excited state of feeling at home, inevitably precipitate a collision. The impression made upon us was, that the President was wavering, and had not decided what course he would pursue. He said he was glad to have had this conversation with us, but would prefer that we should give him a written memorandum of the substance of what we had said. This we did on Monday, the 10th. It was in these words:

To His Excellency James Buchanan, President of the United States:

In compliance with our statement to you yesterday, we now express to you our strong convictions that neither the constituted authorities, nor any body of the people of South Carolina, will either attack or molest the United States forts in the harbor of Charleston, previously to the action of the Convention, and we hope and believe not until an offer has been made through an accredited representative, to negotiate for an amicable arrangement of all matters between the State and the Federal Government, provided that no reinforcements shall be sent into those forts, and their relative military status shall remain as at present.

JOHN MCQUEEN,
WM. PORCHER MILES,
M. L. BONHAM,
W. W. BOYCE,
LAWRENCE M. KEITT.

Washington, 9th December, 1860.

The President did not like the word "provided," because it looked as if we were binding him while avowing that we had no authority to commit the Convention. We told him we did not so understand it. We were expressing our convictions and belief, predicated upon the maintenance of a certain condition of things, which maintenance was absolutely and entirely *in his power*. If he maintained such condition, then we believed that collision would be avoided until the attempt at a peaceable negotiation had failed. If he did not, then we solemnly assured him that we believed collision must inevitably, and at once, be precipitated. He seemed satisfied, and said it was not his intention to send reinforcements, or make any change. We explained to him what we meant by the words "relative military status," as applied to the forts; mentioned the difference betwen Major Anderson's occupying his then position at Fort Moultrie, and throwing himself into Fort Sumter. We stated that the latter step would be equivalent to reinforcing the garrison, and would just as certainly, as the sending of fresh troops, lead to the result which we both desired to avoid. When we rose to go, the President said in substance, "After all, this is a matter of honor among gentlemen. I do not know that any paper or writing is necessary. We understand each other." One of the delegation, just before leaving the room, remarked, "Mr. President, you have determined to let things remain as they are, and not to send reinforcements; but, suppose that you were hereafter to change your policy for any reason, what then? That would put us, who are willing to use our personal influence to prevent any attack upon the forts before Commissioners are sent on to Washington, in rather an embarrassing position." "Then," said the President, "I would first return you this paper." We do not pretend to give the exact words on either side, but we are sure we give the sense of both.

The above is a full and exact account of what passed between the President and the delegation. The President, in his letter to our Commissioners, tries to give the impression that our "understanding" or "agreement" was not a "pledge." We confess we are not sufficiently versed in the wiles of diplomacy to feel the force of this "distinction without a difference." Nor can we understand how, in "a matter of honor among gentlemen," in which "no paper or writing is necessary," the very party who was willing to put it on that high footing can honorably descend to mere verbal criticism, to purge himself of what all gentlemen and men of honor must consider a breach of faith.

THE FORTS ALREADY CAPTURED.

The following named forts have thus far been seized by order of the Governors of the States in which they are respectively located, and are now in possession of the secessionists:

Fortifications.	Location,	Guns.	Cost of Construction and Armament.
Fort Pulaski....	Savannah.....	150	$323 869 138 032
Fort Jackson...	Savannah	14	125 000 11 880
Fort Morgan....	Mobile	36	1,222 556 104 473
Fort Gaines....	Mobile	39	20 000 68 473
Fort Macon	Beaufort, N. C.	61	450 000 48 920
Fort Caswell....	Oak Island, do.	87	571 221 72 711
Fort Moultrie ..	Charleston	54	75 300 48 734
Castle Pinckney	Charleston	25	32 899 23,996
Fort St. Philip..	Louisiana.....	21	203,754 101 989
Fort Jackson ...	Louisiana.....	150	817 608 123 669
Fort Pike	Louisiana.....	49	472,001 36 520
Total			5,335,425 083 777,248

Total cost of the above 11 fortifications, $5,702,337

PENSACOLA AND ITS FORTIFICATIONS.

Pensacola bay has rare properties as a harbor. It is now accessable to frigates. The bar is near the coast, and the channel across it short and easily passed. The harbor is perfectly land-locked, and the roadstead very capacious. There are excellent positions within for repairing, building and launching vessels, and for docks and dock-yards in healthy situations. The supply of good water is abundant. These properties, in connection with the position of the harbor, as regards the coast, have induced the government to select it as a Naval station, and a place of rendezvous and repair. The upper arms of Pensacola bay receive the Yellow Water or Pea river, Middle river and Escambia river, eleven miles from the Gulf.

SANTA ROSA ISLAND.

Santa Rosa Island is situated east by northwest by south fourteen leagues, and completely shuts out Pensacola from the sea. It is so low that the sea in a gale washes its top. It is not more than one-fourth of a mile wide.—The west point of this island is at the mouth of Pensacola bay. The latter is not over one and a quarter mile wide.

FORT PICKENS.

The principal means of defence to the mouth of Pensacola bay and the naval station is Fort Pickens. This fort is a first class bastioned fort, built of New York granite, and situated on low ground on the east point of Santa Rosa Island. Its walls are forty-five feet in height by twelve feet in thickness; it is embrasured for two tiers of guns, which are placed under bombproof casemates, besides having one tier of guns *en barbette*. The guns from this work radiate to every point of the horizon, with flank and enfilading fire at every angle of approach. The work was commenced in 1828 and finished in 1853. It cost the Federal Government nearly one million of dollars. When on a war footing its garrison consists of 1,260 soldiers. Its armament, only a portion of which is within its walls, consists of—

	Guns.
Forty-two pounder iron guns	63
Thirty-two-pounder iron guns	17
Twenty-four-pounder iron guns	49
Eighteen pounder iron guns	3
Twelve pounder iron guns	13
Brass field pieces	6
Brass flank howitzers	26
Heavy eight inch howitzers	13
Thirteen-inch mortars	1
Heavy ten-inch mortars	4
Light eight-inch mortars	4
Sixteen inch stone mortars	4
Coehorn mortars	5
Total armament	210

The fire from this work completely covers the navy-yard, and in case the latter is held by the Federal authorities, it would not hold out long against Fort Pickens. The bar on the exterior of the Bay is three miles distant, and beyond that there are no facilities for a hostile fleet to lie in safety. All the forts in Pensacola Bay are ere this garrisoned by Alabama troops, who were invited there by the Governor of Florida.

FORT M'RAE.

This fortification is situated on Foster's Bank, and guards the west side of the mouth of Pensacola bay. It is a bastioned fort, built of brick masonry, with walls twelve feet in thickness. It is embrasured for two tiers of guns, under bombproof casemates, and has one tier *en barbette*. Its armament consists of 150 guns, and in time of war requires a garrison of 650 men. The work cost the Federal Government about $400,000. Its guns radiate at every point of the horizon. It is a very effective work. The full armament of the fort is not complete, but a sufficient number of guns are in battery to make a very good defence in conjunction with Fort Pickens. Below this fort is a water battery, which mounts some eight or ten guns. The interior of Fort McKee is provided with the necessary shot furnaces, officers' and soldiers' quarters, magazines, &c.

FORT BARRANCAS

is on the north of Pensacola bay, and directly fronting the entrance to its mouth. The work is erected on the site of an old Spanish fort. The fort is a bastioned work, built of heavy masonry, and mounts 49 guns, and in time of war requires a garrison of 250 men.—armament of the work is fully mounted, and its magazines are in good order. In the rear of the fort is a redoubt, which is auxiliary to Fort Barrancas. Some extensive repairs have recently been completed on this redoubt, and the flanking howitzers of scarp and counterscarp can be mounted with very little labor.

THE NORTH CAROLINA FORTS.

Fort Macon protects Beaufort, N. C., and is situated on a bluff on Bogue's bank, one and three-fourths mile from the city. It commands the entrance to Beaufort harbor, having full sweep of fire on the main channel. The opposite entrance to the harbor is Shackleford bank, one and a half miles across. The fortification is of hexagonal form, has two tiers of guns, one in casemated bombproofs and the other *en barbette*. Its armament consists of twenty thirty-two-pounders, thirty-two twenty-four-pounders, two eighteen-pounders, two twelve-pounders, three field-pieces for flanking defence, twelve flank howitzers, eight eight-inch howitzers (heavy,) eight eight inch howitzers (light,) one thirteen-inch mortar, three ten-inch mortars, two Coehorn mortars. Total, eighty-seven guns. The war garrison of the fort is three hundred men. This fort, however, is sadly in need of repairs; the masonry requires pointing in many places; nearly all the iron work, such as doors and window fastenings, are rusted away. One of the wooden bridges across the ditch is decayed, as also the shingled entire slope of the covert way. The shot furnace is useless, the store rooms need renovation, and the roadway requires to have its embankment repaired, and a new bridge to be built across the canal. The wharf, having its piers undermined by the sea current and its wooden superstructure much decayed, requires to be rebuilt. The fortification cost the Federal Government half a million dollars.

Fort Caswell is a first-class fortification, of a hexagonal form, built of massive Northern granite masonry, having two tiers of guns under bombproof casemates, and one tier of guns *en barbette*. It is situated at the entrance of Cape Fear river, two miles from Smithville. Its armament consists of twelve 32-pounders, twenty-two 24-pounders, four 18-pounders, four 12 pounders, three field-pieces for flanking defences, six flank howitzers, six eight-inch howitzers, (heavy,) two ten-inch mortars and two Coehorn mortars—in all eighty-seven guns. The work is surrounded by ditches and advanced works, and is in every particular a first-class work. It cost the Federal Government $571,000. Its war garrison consists of 400 men. The work is generally in very good condition. A change is required in its armament, so that more guns may be mounted upon the gorge of the main work of the covered way, as these portions now bear directly upon the channel, which has shifted from the east to the west shore.—New platforms for these guns will require to be constructed. The battery Johnson, mounting ten guns, situated at Smithville, with a magazine, is auxiliary to Fort Caswell.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY NEW YORK.

The New York Legislature has passed the following resolutions:

Whereas, The insurgent State of South Carolina, after seizing the post office, custom-house, moneys and fortifications of the Federal Government, has, by firing into a vessel ordered by the Government to convey troops and provisions to Fort Sumter, virtually declared war:

And whereas, The forts and property of the United States Government in Georgia, Alabama and Louisiana have been unlawfully seized with hostile intentions;

And whereas, Their Senators in Congress avow and maintain their treasonable acts; therefore,

Resolved, If the Senate concur, that the Legislature of New York is profoundly impressed with the value of the Union, and determined to preserve it unimpaired; that it greets with joy the recent firm, dignified and patriotic special message of the President of the United States, and that we tender to him, through the Chief Magistrate of our own State, whatever aid in men and money may be required to enable him to enforce the laws and uphold the authority of the Federal Government; and that in the defence of the Union, which has conferred prosperity and happiness upon the American people, renewing the pledge given and redeemed by our fathers, we are ready to devote our fortunes, our lives, and our sacred honor

Resolved, If the Senate concur, that the Union-loving citizens and representatives of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Missouri and Tennessee, who labor with devoted courage and patriotism to withhold their States from the vortex of secession, are entitled to the gratitude and admiration of the whole people.

Resolved, If the Senate concur, that the Governor be respectfully requested to forward forthwith copies of the foregoing resolutions to the President of the nation, and the Governors of all the States of the Union.

The question was taken on the adoption of the preamble and resolutions, and they were adopted by 117 to 2.

ITEMS FROM THE SOUTH.

The Charleston papers of Friday furnish the following items:

A company of Minute Men from Abbeville District arrived in this city on Wednesday night. They number one hundred men, and are as fine a looking body as any that can be raised. For the information of the Tribune and papers of that ilk, we state that ten members of this company took the first honor in the South Carolina College. The company is made up of the best material. Their uniform is a red frock and dark pants. The following is a list of their officers: Captain, J. M. Perrin; First Lieutenant, A. M. Smith; Second Lieutenant, J. G. Edwards; Third Lieutenant, A. J. Lithgoe.

The Monticello Volunteers, from Fairfield District, also passed down yesterday. It is also a strong body of fine looking men, and officered as follows: Captain, J. B. Davis; Lieutenants, J. T. Dawkins, W. J. Dawkins, R. J. Kelly.

In Newberry, in the 28th regiment, on Saturday, the two companies were made up; in one of the battalions not 20 men were left when the call was made.

In Clarendon, on Saturday, the call for volunteers was responded to by one company of 88, and one of 50, promptly marching out from the body of the regiment.

Dr. A. M. Lynah, of the United States Navy, has resigned his commission, and returned to his native State.

The Savannah Republican of Friday says:

It gives us pleasure to be able to chronicle the fact that Capt. Hartsteine has resigned his position in the Federal Navy. Capt. H. entered the service at an early age, and has served long and faithfully, rising step by step from a young midshipman to his present exalted position in the front rank of American naval officers. No man has earned higher honors or wears them more gallantly. Long may he live to serve his native State.

SCENES IN CHARLESTON.

The Charleston correspondent of the Baltimore American, writing in expectation of the entrance of the Star of the West, says:

King street, as you know, is the principal retail business locality of Charleston, and serves as a general promenading ground during the afternoon. Yesterday evening, early after dinner, it was perfectly thronged with people. Ladies crowded the sid walks, and as anxiously discussed the exciting news as the men. The streets were thronged with military uniforms—though by far the larger number of soldiers wore no other distinguishing mark than a pair of cross-belts, knapsack and bayonet. These were some of the country soldiers that had flocked into the city during the forenoon. I suppose that not less than 500 of these raw recruits arrived during the day from the uplands. Most of them wore the rough uncouth appearance of countrymen, and appeared to be the subjects of no little mirth to the women. All of them, however, appeared to me to be men of the right stripe. They seemed literally to be "spoiling for a fight."

I saw three companies of them, numbering over 300 men altogether, drilling as recruits on the Citadel Green, and a more sturdy looking set of fellows I never came across. Not one seemed ever to have known sickness, or to have done anything else than eat "hoppin-john," rice and grist.

The Green itself presented a more lively aspect than I have ever seen it assume. Besides the recruits, there were on review two artillery companies from the fort, numbering about 150 men, with 14 pieces of ordinance. A portion of the Citadel Cadets, not on active duty, was also on parade, while the immediate vicinity of the school was lumbered up with fifteen or twenty pieces of heavy ordnance, gun-carriages, &c., ready for transportation and use.

MEETINGS IN VIRGINIA.

A meeting was held in Kanawha county, Va., last week, at which, after adopting a resolution requesting the calling of a Convention, provided "that any act by it changing the relations of the State of Virginia towards the Federal Union, shall be submitted to the people." The following additional resolutions were unanimously adopted:

That whilst Virginia, in all her acts and conduct has made more sacrifices and contributed more than any other State to form the Constitution of the United States, and to maintain the Union, she will not and cannot yield her just rights, nor sacrifice her honor, even for its preservation. That we are in favor of the preservation of the Union, if it can be done consistently with the rights and honor of the South, under the Constitution, but if it cannot be so maintained, then, that "the Union of the South is the safety of the South." That we are sternly opposed to and reprobate the use of force by the General Government to compel or coerce a seceding State, and in view of the appalling calamities, which might flow from such a begotten war, we hold it to be the highest duty of each party most scrupulously to avoid any and every occasion of outbreak or collision.

LIEUTENANT TALBOT.

Lieut. Theodore Talbot, who was commissioned by Major Robert Anderson, of Fort Sumter, with dispatches for instructions from the General Government, passed through this city yesterday morning *en route* for Washington. He was in undress uniform, wore a forraging cap with ginzed cover, and having on a citizen's overcoat, did not appear very much like a soldier. He is a man of small stature, resembling, in point of size, Maj. Wm. Gilham, of the Virginia Military Institute. His complexion and hair, however, are light, and light whiskers, *a la militaire*, adorn his cheeks. He appeared to be about thirty-five years of age, and walked erect and firmly, in true military style. He seemed to be pretty well flushed with South Carolina bank notes, which he displayed in the office of the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad Company when hunting up some Virginia funds, with which to pay for his ticket. Lieut. Talbot is a native of the District of Columbia, but was appointed from Kentucky, in May, 1847, to the post of Second Lieutenant First Regiment U. S. Artillery.—He is a graduate of the Kentucky Military Institute. The date of his commission as a First Lieutenant of the Regiment, is September 22d, 1848; his rank in the Army is that of Brevet Captain.—*Petersburg (Va.) Express.*

MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR OF INDIANA.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Jan. 11.—Gov. Hammond's message relates mainly to the state of affairs. He says, the law for the protection of the ballot box against fraud is defective. He recommends the passage of a law inflicting heavy penalties for illegal voting. He recommends the establishment of a sub-treasury system, to prevent loss from the depreciated condition of the securities upon which our Bank circulation is based.

He says the strength of the Federal Government rests in the affection of the people of the several States, and is one of affection, not of force. An alienation of the affections of the North and South exists, attributable to the agitation of the slavery question at the North, which agitation has been materially intensified by the zealous efforts of a class of political teachers belonging to the ministry. This has produced ultraism at the South, resulting in the divison of the country into sectional parties. Against these ultraisms of the North and South, it is the duty of the conservative element of the whole country to interpose.—This must be done, or disunion is inevitable. The North has as much interest in the South, in the welfare and prosperity of the South, as our Southern brethren. The Constitution demands that fugitive slaves be returned.—Common honesty requires that they should have full and equal rights in all the Territories. The future condition of the Territories, so far as the extension of slavery is concerned, will be ultimately determined, natural laws, climate, soil, productions, &c. The election of Mr. Lincoln has caused the South to believe there is no longer any safety for them or their property in the Union nor the slaveholding States. There can only be permanent peace between the sections when the free States are ready to stop the discussion of the abstract question of morals connected with this subject, and look upon it only as a political question. What is most needed is the restoration of kindly feeling. Then we may hope an honest and faithful discharge of all the constitutional obligations towards each other will result in healing the present breach. He points with pride to the fact that Indiana as a State hitherto has fully kept the bond of union with her sister States. Her record is untainted by any act of bad faith.

The House to-day passed a resolution to display the American flag from the Capitol dome and fire a salute of thirty three guns in honor of the Union while the flag was being hoisted

Proceedings of Congress.

In the United States House of Representatives, Saturday, the following took place:

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union for the consideration of the Navy Appropriation bill.

Mr. Burnett wished to know whether it would be in order for him to make a speech, for the purpose of showing that the appropriations proposed ought not to be made. He expressed his belief that both the army and navy were, judging from present movements, to be used against a portion of the States recently in this Confederacy.

The Chair thought such remarks would not be relevant, the bill having been made a special order, and therefore debate must be strictly confined to the subject.

The committee sustained the Chair in his decision.

Mr. Pryor, of Virginia, moved to strike out the following clause in the bill:

"For pay of commission, warrant, and petty officers and seamen, including the engineer corps of the navy, $4,438,577."

Mr. PRYOR was understood to say that he would sustain the navy so far as protection to the interests of commerce and enlarging the bounds of discovery were concerned; but he would not grant a farthing, and would sink the navy in the abyss of the ocean, before it should be used for hostile purposes against the citizens of our country. The use of this dread instrument of death and desolation in fraternal strife deserves a nation's scorn. The most unhappy aspect in the present unhappy condition of affairs is the prevalence of a military temper in the councils of the administration, and an imbecile Executive has fallen under the guidance of an aspiring soldier. The sword has been cast into the balance. Instead of messengers of conciliation to a discontented people, the Government dispatches men and munitions of war to constrain them to abject obedience.

Mr. SHERMAN rose to a point of order.

Mr. Pryor said he would conclude in five minutes, and would rigorously confine himself to the rules. He was going on, when he was interrupted, that although no foreign foot treads on the soil of America for hostile purposes, yet troops are distributed and concentrated, and forts are garrisoned with an avowed intention of subjugating and overawing a portion of the people, and even in this District masses of mercenaries are accumulated to inaugurate the President in blood. In the course of his remarks he spoke of the Administration as detestable; and availed himself of this occasion to give warning to the people of Virginia that a plan has been matured and preparations are making to subject them to tyranny by force, and he implored them by every consideration of safety and honor to concert measures for their protection.

Mr. Clemens, of Virginia, said it would be unjust to himself and the people of Virginia if the inflammatory speech of his colleague [Mr. Pryor] should pass unnoticed, standing here as he did on terms of equality with him. He appealed to him to know——

Mr. Garnett, of Virginia. I call for the enforcement of the rules of order on the member from Virginia.

Mr. McKnight, of Pennsylvania. Fair play.

Mr. Garnett. I will not receive aid from the Black Republican side of the House. [Sensation.]

Mr. Pryor said if the House would extend to his colleague the courtesy to speak, and allow him the opportunity to reply, he would be satisfied.

Mr. Garnett would agree to withdraw his objection on that condition.

[Voices: "Let that be understood."]

Mr. Sherman. I'll not agree to any such understanding.

Mr. Pryor appealed to his colleague [Mr. Garnett] to withdraw his objection.

Mr. Hindman, of Arkansas, said if Mr. Pryor could have an opportunity to respond, he would have no objection.

Mr. Hill, of Ga., objected to any such understanding, and in this was influenced only by kind feelings. He desired to prevent inflammatory debate. There were men on the other side willing to accept the gage. He stood up for conservative action, and against extremes every where. [Slight applause.]

The question having been taken, Mr. Pryor's amendment was disagreed to.

FROM WASHINGTON.—The Washington Star of Saturday, furnishes the following items:

Lieut. Talbot, with the dispatches from Major Anderson to the Government, arrived in Washington yesterday afternoon, and repaired immediately to the Adjutant General's Office, and with the Adjutant General went to see the President, and had an interview. Lieut T. is stopping at the residence of his mother, near St. Aloysius' Church.

We have entirely reliable information that Robert E. Scott, of Virginia, does not entertain the least idea of going into the Cabinet of Mr. Lincoln, unless the existing national troubles be previously settled upon a basis satisfactory to the conservative portion of the people of the South.

At a private dinner party yesterday, high words passed between Senator Toombs and Lieutenant General Scott. According to relations of the affair in Congressional circles, the conversation turned on the sending of troops to Charleston, when Mr. Toombs expressed the hope that the people there would sink the Star of the West. Gen. Scott, with much earnestness, asked whether it was possible he, as an American, desired such an event?

Mr. Toombs replied affirmatively, and that he wished those who sent the vessel there could be sunk with her. General Scott thereupon said he was responsible for what he said, and Mr. Toombs remarked, "You have known me for tw