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.

TUESDAY MORNING.....JAN. 29, 1861.

DAILY DISPATCH.

VOL. XIX.---NO. 25. RICHMOND, VA., TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1861. PRICE ONE CENT.

Richmond Dispatch.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING,

1 square, 1 day	$0.50	1 square, 5 days	$1.50
1...do... 2 days	[illegible]	1...do... 6 days	1.75
1...do... 3 days	1.00	1...do...12 days	2.00
1...do... 4 days	1.25	1...do... 1 month	5.00

Larger advertisements in exact proportion.

☞ Advertisements published until forbid, will be charged 50 cts. per square of EIGHT LINES for the first insertion, and 25 cents for each continuance.

THE NATIONAL CRISIS.

The Contemplated Attack on Fort Sumter—Meeting of Working Men in Virginia and Elsewhere—Particulars of the Secession of Louisiana—Removal of Women and Children from Fort Sumter—Important Letter from Major Anderson, &c., &c.

THE CONTEMPLATED ATTACK ON FORT SUMTER.

The Charleston correspondent of the Baltimore American, heretofore very reliable in his statements, gives the following:

As time elapses the soldiers and citizens of Charleston, old and young, women and children, bond and free, all, become more and more eager. If it costs blood, so much the better, the price will be dearer and the object secured will be the more highly prized.

"What is the Governor about? why delay when our honor is at stake?" cry out the masses. "We fly to arms when called; we endure the vigors of an unusually hard winter; we guard sand hills and cold iron guns; we expose ourselves needlessly. Give us battle, but don't suffer us to waste time in this manner."

But in the matter of Fort Sumter I no longer have doubt, though it may not be wise or prudent for me to give my reasons, notwithstanding I consider that I have full authority to do so. Yesterday quite an unusual scene occurred in the Senate Chamber, which, with others in the lobby, I had the felicity of witnessing. The subject matter under consideration was an appropriation of $950,000 for military contingencies. One of the Senators whose name figures pretty extensively in the prints of the city each morning, having probably suffered himself to be led away by the ardor of some young soldier, rose in his seat and violently opposed the appropriation. He would not vote for any money for war. There was no use in it. He saw no hope of taking Fort Sumter. He saw no hope of South Carolina ever assuming her independence in fact, as she had in name. There was a large party he thought in the State disposed to allow the sand of State to be dismantled and submerged, and he was not disposed to tax the people for raising so immense a sum when the State was not prepared to carry out her Ordinance of Secession. The people were led off with a wrong idea, and unless we had some assurance that this money was to be properly applied—applied to the taking of Sumter—it was no use to raise it. He wound up by impugning the government with weakness.

Hon. A. C. Garlington, a member of Gov. Pickens' Cabinet, replied. He expressed himself exceedingly sorry that any such sentiments as he had heard were ever uttered upon the floor of the Senate of South Carolina.—He was astonished and indignant that any gentleman who professed to be a Carolinian should ever believe that when his State had ordained an act, that she should ever recede from it. Not prepared to consummate—to carry out the Ordinance of Secession! Making no effort to do it! What meant this arraying of the people? Not prepare to carry out the ordinance, when batteries and fortifications were going up on every hand, and when from every corner of the State every man was buckling on his armor? Preposterous!

"Let me tell the gentleman," continued he in a solemn voice of deep assurance, "Fort Sumter must fall—yes, sir, it must fall! This is the deliberate purpose of South Carolina.—It must fall! [Great sensation.] This I utter in full consciousness of what I say, and I hope the announcement *may go to the world.*" Having no other way of getting it to the world, and desiring to favor the wishes of the gentleman, I am disposed to trust the matter with you to execute the desire.

Mr. Garlington further declared that every preparation was being made for all contingencies that may arise—that a corps of engineers were at this time considering the subject of taking the fort.

Both the gentlemen were much heated with the subject they discussed. Mr. Garlington, however, represented the sentiments of every Senator on the floor except his opponent, who was the only man of all the Senate that voted against the appropriation. The voice of the Senate was unanimously indignant at the imputations of the fiery, ill-judged attack.

Among the youthful volunteers flocking in to fight the battles of South Carolina, are three students, just arrived from St. Timothy's Hall, Catonsville, near Baltimore.—Their names are Wm. H. Anthony and Jacob Higgs, of North Carolina, and W. C. Bayard, of South Carolina. They have entered the service of the Republic in the ranks of the Palmetto Guard, and are now at Morris' Island, prepared to do and die, if necessary, in the maintenance of the sovereignty of the State. Their military efficiency is testified to by the members of the company, who declare that they handle cannon with the efficiency of veterans. The training they have received at Catonsville, under Mr. Van Bokkelin, renders them of great service, as artillerymen are in great demand.

REMOVAL OF THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

The following note from Capt. Doubleday was received from Fort Sumter on the 21st, by Mr. H. Missroon, the agent of the New York steamship line:

FORT SUMTER, S. C., Jan. 20, 1861.

SIR: Major Anderson desires to send the women and children of this garrison to New York. I am directed by him to ask upon what terms you will transport in the steamer 17 women, 12 children under 10 years of age, 11 infants under 2 years of age.

It would be desirable that they should go either in the next trip of the boat or the one following. Yours, &c., A. DOUBLEDAY,
To H. Missroon. Capt. U. S. A.

The terms were arranged, and the women and children will all leave by the steamer Columbia, which sails to-morrow for New York—and thus Major Anderson will have forty mouths less to feed, and the women and children will be out of harm's way.

IMPORTANT LETTER FROM MAJOR ANDERSON.

The Cincinnati Commercial, of Saturday, contains the following letter from Major Anderson, written to a friend in that city two days after the affair of the "Star of the West." It embodies the first authentic intelligence that has reached the public concerning the reasons for the fact that the batteries of Fort Sumter were not opened upon the South Carolinians on the 9th inst:

FORT SUMTER, Jan. 11th, 1861.

* * * * * * * *

"Whether a bloodless separation can now be effected, after her (South Carolina) foolishly firing upon a vessel bearing our flag, the other day, I think very doubtful. I was sorely tempted to open my battery, but perhaps fortunately, for the chance of having matters settled without bloodshed, I could not have touched the battery that opened upon her and my defences were *just then* in such a condition that I could not have opened the war. I am now nearly ready. The people have supposed that this work was ready to be defended when I came in. It was far from it—and it would take me, even now, one week's hard work to have it in a complete state. My command is only about one-eighth of what it should be in time of war—but though small in number, I feel strong in the confidence that Providence will guard and guide me safely through any danger that may threaten."

* * * * * * * *

"Yours, sincerely,
(Signed) "ROBERT ANDERSON."

A MEETING OF THE WORKING MEN OF ROMNEY, VA.

The working men of Romney, Hampshire county, Va., held a large public meeting at that place on Saturday, the 19th inst., and adopted with marked unanimity a series of resolutions reported by a committee appointed for that purpose, and which declared, in effect, that those assembled on the occasion cherish the Federal Union as the Paladium of our liberty, when the laws of the Constitution, and those enacted by Congress in accordance therewith, are promptly, efficiently and justly executed by all the parties concerned; and will deplore the dissolution of the Union as one of the most terrible calamities that can possibly befall us as a nation, or as States; yet, whilst they would avoid so fearful a consequence, they are unwilling to make any concession to the North inconsistent with the rights and interests of the South.—The resolutions pronounce untrue the statements of the Free-Soil press of the North, that the non-slaveholders of the South are disaffected towards the institution of slavery; and fully endorsing the Crittenden compromise, pledge the lives and fortunes of those composing the meeting to the defence of Virginia, should all peaceable measures of adjustment be exhausted.

MEETING OF WORKING MEN IN PHILADELPHIA.

A dispatch from Philadelphia says that though there was a deep snow in that city Saturday night, a mass meeting of working men was held in Independence Square. The dispatch says:

Some five or six thousand working men are standing ankle deep in snow, listening to speeches from their representatives. The employees of all the large manufacturing establishments in the county marched to the place of meeting, bearing torches, banners, and lanterns, and accompanied by bands of music.—The mottoes inscribed on the banners are mostly suggestive of peace and conciliation for the nation's difficulties, and expressive of approbation of the Crittenden compromise. A series of resolutions, lamenting the present national troubles which have been inaugurated and hastened by political demagogues; recommending a repeal, by the State Legislature, of all obnoxious laws; recommending Congress to pass the Crittenden compromise or some other measure like it, and submit it to the people, and that in case the present Congress shall find itself unable to agree upon any such terms of compromise, then that the members of Congress resign their seats that they may be filled with competent representatives of the popular will.

The resolutions also deprecate any collision between the forces of the General Government and the seceding States, as such a calamity will strike a death blow to all hopes of settlement, but pledge the working men to sustain the Federal Government in the maintenance of its powers.

The resolutions also provide for the appointment of Delegates to the National Convention of Working Men, which is to meet at Philadelphia on the 22d of February, and invite the Committee of Thirty-Three to be present.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

MEETING OF RESIDENT SOUTHERNERS IN NEW YORK.

A meeting of the Southerners resident in New York was held the Thursday, over which James L. Poindexter presided. Among the resolutions adopted was one endorsing the Crittenden propositions and the following:

Resolved, That we, the sons of the South, implore our fellow-citizens at home to pause, and before severing the holy bonds of Union to deliberate upon the true feeling of their fellow-countrymen in this section.

Resolved, That the possession of slave property is a constitutional right, and as such ought to be ever recognized by the Federal Government, in whose hands it may ever fall. And if the government shall ever refuse to protect their rights, the Southern States should be found united in their defence.

Resolved, That we have every confidence that the great majority of the Northern people, when freed from the influence of demagogues, will gladly agree to such terms as will secure to all States equal rights in the Union.

Resolved, That we heartily endorse the action of the President of the United States in his noble efforts to avoid thrusting our now distracted country into the horrors of civil war.

Resolved, That in our opinion the hasty and unwarrantable action of Gen. Sandford, in tendering his division to the Governor for coercive purposes, is not alone out of place, but in direct opposition to the wishes of the entire city, deeming, as we do, that selfish motives only prompted him to adopt such a course.

TAKING OF THE ARSENAL AT APALACHICOLA.

The Jacksonville (Fla.) Confederacy has the following account of the capture of this fort:

At about 7 o'clock on the morning of the 6th inst., the arsenal at Apalachicola, at the mouth of the Chattahoochee river, was besieged by the troops of the State of Florida. In consequence of the weakness of the command, an entrance was gained. Mr. Powell, who has been in the service of the United States since 1846, and had command of the place, acted in a gallant manner. After the troops had entered he faced the line and thus addressed them:

"*Officers and Soldiers*:—Five minutes ago I was the commander of this arsenal; but, in consequence of the weakness of my command, I am obliged to surrender—an act which I have hitherto never had to do during my whole military career. If I had force equal to, or even half the strength of, your own, I'll be damned if you would ever have entered that gate until you walked over my dead body. You see that I have but three men. These are laborers, and cannot contend against you. I now consider myself a prisoner of war.—Take my sword, Capt. Jones!"

Captain Jones, of the Young Guard, of Quincy, received Mr. Powell's sword, and then returned it to him, and addressed him as follows: "My dear sir, take your sword; you are too brave a man to disarm." The whole command then gave three cheers for the gallant Powell.

Mr. Powell is now making arrangements to turn over to the Federal Government the funds and papers in his possession belonging to Uncle Sam. Mr. Powell is an officer of ability and experience. He has seen actual service in Mexico, and has received more than one wound while valiantly contending for the honor of the stars and stripes.

"I WILL NOT FIRE A GUN ON MY COUNTRYMEN."

Com. Armstrong, who had command of the Pensacola (Fla.) Navy-Yard, when a superior force took it from him, passed through Mobile on his way to Washington. The Advertiser says:

During his sojourn in the city the gallant old Commodore, the man who said, "I will not fire a gun upon my countrymen," as well as his company, was the recipient of every act of politeness and honor which could be tendered him by the citizens and military. He was waited upon by prominent gentlemen of the city, and the "Washington Light Infantry" turned out in a splashing storm of rain, with a full band, as a special escort to the Montgomery steamer. With a nice sense of duty to the Government he had served so long, and from which he still held a commission, the old Commodore, however, declined the honor intended, though expressing his full appreciation and feeling acknowledgments.—He could not prevent, though, another honor which the people paid him, *nolens volens*, for as he embarked on the steamer in the presence of an immense crowd, a piece of artillery, which had been taken down to the wharf for the purpose, with its brazen throat proclaimed the respect and esteem in which he is held by the South, in a thundering salute.—All honor to the man who said, "I will not fire a gun upon my countrymen," and surrendered his post and braved the censure of his Government and the abuse of the whole North rather than do it.

THE SEIZURE OF THE GEORGIA MUSKETS AT NEW YORK.

The following dispatches have passed between Senator Toombs, of Georgia, and His Honor Mayor Wood, relative to the seizure of arms by the police on last Tuesday:

MILLEDGEVILLE, Jan. 24, 1861.

To His Honor Mayor Wood: Is it true that any arms intended for and consigned to the State of Georgia have been seized by public authorities in New York? Your answer is important to us and to New York. Answer at once. R. TOOMBS.

To which the Mayor returned the following answer:

Hon. Robert Toombs, Milledgeville, Ga.: In reply to your dispatch, I regret to say that arms intended for and consigned to the State of Georgia have been seized by the police of this State, but the city of New York should in no way be made responsible for the outrage.

As Mayor, I have no authority over the police. If I had the power I should summarily punish the authors of this illegal and unjustifiable seizure of private property.

FERNANDO WOOD.

FURTHER PARTICULARS OF THE SECESSION OF LOUISIANA.

BATON ROUGE, Jan. 26.—The vote on submitting the ordinance to the people was taken this morning—ayes 45, nays 84.

John Perkins addressed the Convention on the passage of the Secession Ordinance.

The debate closed, and a vote was ordered.

The galleries and lobbies were intensely crowded, and a deathlike silence prevailed.—On the call of the roll many members were in tears.

The Clerk announced the vote—ayes 113, nays 17—and the President declared Louisiana a free and sovereign republic.

Capt. Allen then entered the Convention with a Pelican flag, accompanied by Governor Moore and staff, and put the flag in the hands of the President, amid tremendous excitement.

A solemn prayer was then offered, and a hundred guns were fired.

The Convention adjourned to meet in New Orleans on the 29th inst.

Before the Convention adjourned the resolution accompanying the ordinance, declaring the right of free navigation of the Mississippi river and tributaries to all friendly States, and the right of egress and ingress to boats of the Mississippi by all friendly States and Powers, passed unanimously.

A gold pen was given each member with which to sign the Ordinance of Secession.

ITEMS FROM GEORGIA.

Col. Ed. C. Anderson has been appointed Ordnance officer in chief of the State of Georgia. The Columbus (Ga.) Enquirer has the following paragraph:

Joe Clark, a colored barber of this city, has written a letter to Gov. Brown, offering to raise a company of free colored men, to be enlisted in the service of the State of Georgia in the present crisis. Whatever may be thought of the policy of enlisting soldiers of this cast, the offer is a patriotic one, and ought to show the "philanthropists" of the North that the free colored population of the South do not appreciate their efforts in behalf of the negro race. Joe served in the Indian war of 1836, and still limps occasionally from a wound received in that campaign.

The Savannah News, of the 26th instant, mentions this rumor:

While in Milledgeville, we heard a report that a mysterious craft had been seen cruising among the inlets of our Southern coast, in the neighborhood of Cumberland Island, and, further, that two men had been captured and lodged in jail at Enterprise, Fla., who were supposed to be the notorious Redpath and John Brown, Jr. We could not trace the report to its source, though taken in connection with the fact that those characters are rumored to have sailed recently from Boston in some secret expedition, there could seem to be a strong probability of its truth. Two more infamous wretches are not to be found in the ranks of the murderous incendiary crew to which they belong, and it is to be hoped, if they are indeed caught, that they will not be permitted to escape. Redpath, the worst of the two, can easily be identified, as he is known in this city, once having been employed as a phonographic reporter in this office. At the time he professed ultra pro-slavery opinions, though we strongly suspected him and are now confident that he was here as an Abolition emissary and spy.

FORT MORGAN.

The Mobile papers give accounts of the continued preparations of the forts in that State for an attack. Of Fort Morgan, one of the editors returned from a visit there, says:

Marks of industry and system were visible everywhere about the fort, which is now occupied by about 480 troops, besides upwards of 150 laborers. To accommodate this increased force, a suitable number of the casemates have been planked up and converted into very comfortable quarters. The ramparts on the channel side have been *sodded* to a considerable extent with sand bags, and the work will be completed in the same style. Sods have been cut from the fosse to be applied to other faces of the works. Trenches have been cut at the foot of the scarp in necessary places, which have filled with the water percolating through the soil, thus converting the fosse into something like a wet ditch, and adding to the security of the works. All the guns for which there are carriages have been mounted, and some attention has been paid to artillery practice, in which the boys show increased proficiency. The garrison are in excellent spirits, and good health prevails, except that most of the newly-arrived troops have to go through a course of seasoning which generally attacks them after the first twenty-four hours and leaves them after about the same length of time. The cisterns, by-the-bye, have been thoroughly cleansed, and the rains have since filled them with excellent water, and the health of the garrison has greatly improved in consequence. Tenders of the services of negro laborers by planters in the interior have been accepted, and some four hundred hands are expected to arrive in a few days.

FORTIFICATIONS IN FLORIDA.

The Jacksonville (Fla.) Mirror, of the 19th inst., says:

Capt. Holmes Steele, with a detachment of his gallant company, proceeded to St. Augustine a few days ago, and have succeeded in transporting four 32-pounders from the fort at that place to the mouth of the St. Johns, to be placed in position to command the entrance of the river, and one 10-pounder, to be placed at some point upon the river between the mouth and Jacksonville. Those guns were transported by teams upon lumber carts under an escort of fifteen men. The volunteers, with a large negro force, are throwing up earth-works and excavating ditches for the defence of their position.

SEIZURE OF THE NEW ORLEANS MARINE HOSPITAL BY LOUISIANA TROOPS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—Information was received by the Government this morning, from the Collector at New Orleans, stating that the barracks, about two miles below New Orleans, now occupied as a Marine Hospital, were taken possession of on the 11th instant, by Captain Bradford, of the State Infantry, in the name of the State of Louisiana.

There were two hundred and sixteen invalids and convalescent patients in the hospital at the time it was seized. The Collector of Customs was required to immediately remove the patients who were convalescent, and those who were confined to their beds as soon as practicable. The reason assigned for this transaction is, that the authorities there wanted the quarters for their own troops.

THE CRUISE OF THE BROOKLYN OFF CHARLESTON.

The Boston Journal, of Friday, publishes the following extract from a private letter, received in that city from Capt. W. S. Walker, of the U. S. sloop-of-war Brooklyn. It is interesting, as throwing some light upon the motive of her recent cruise off Charleston harbor. He writes as follows:

"Although my mission to Charleston was a peaceful one, there would have been a fight, sure, had I arrived there at the time the Star of the West was fired upon. My instructions from the Department were sent by a special messenger, and were confidential, enclosing orders from Gen. Scott to the commander of the detachment for Fort Sumter. I am not at liberty to tell you what my orders were; suffice it to say, they were carried out *to the letter.* I am for the Union, and my services will be devoted to it. It is very gratifying for me to know that I shall be sustained, and that I have the approbation of our people."

WASHINGTON DISPATCHES.

The Government has obtained the temporary use of lots upon Capitol Hill, east of the Capitol, for the purpose of erecting quarters for the company of cavalry from West Point, which was ordered to this city to act in the capacity of light artillery.

This is but two squares from the scene of the inaugural ceremonies.

Ten thousand copies of Clemens' patriotic speech have been taken for circulation in Maryland, seventy-five thousand in the South, and fifteen thousand in the Northern States. More than one hundred thousand copies have been subscribed for already.

The following letter expresses the spirit which now animates some of the branches of the public service:

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
APPOINTMENT OFFICE, January 22, 1861.

SIR—In answer to the inquiry in your letter of the 15th to the Postmaster General, he instructs me to inform you that you were removed from the office of Postmaster at Paducah because you announced yourself as "devoutly in favor of disunion," and it is not considered prudent to retain in the service of the Government men openly seeking its overthrow.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,
HORATIO KING,
First Assistant Postmaster General.

John C. Noble, Esq., Paducah, Ky.

As a rejoinder to the manifesto of a majority of the Virginia delegation, Senators Crittenden and Douglas, and Messrs. Milison, Botler and Harris, of Virginia, of the House, have united in a letter to Hon. James Barbour, of the Virginia Legislature, giving assurance that the prospect of a peaceful and satisfactory settlement of troubles is better than at any previous time, and hourly brightening.

RESISTANCE TO THE LAWS.—The Sherman Booth case in Wisconsin is far from ended.—In the paragraph below the Bovay mentioned is a member of the Wisconsin Legislature, who was engaged in the rescue of Booth from Deputy United States Marshal Taylor, when the mob was headed by Mr. Daniels, the State geologist. A letter from Marshal Lewis says that even the women threatened him with shovels when he went to make the arrest.—The paragraph is from the Milwaukie Democrat of the 23d inst.:

Marshal Lewis arrested one Bovay (who had previously submitted himself for arrest,) at Ripon yesterday morning, and was about taking the cars when a sleigh load of citizens came up and told Mr. B. he should not go.—Bovay replied he had promised to go and go he would. After a brief altercation in regard to the matter, the citizens forcibly took the prisoner and carried him home. The United States Marshal, disconsolate and discomfited, left Ripon in disgust—making no further effort to arrest. We understand Mr. B. was indicted in the United States District Court for aiding in defeating the arrest of S. M. Booth, last fall, when hunted by the Deputy U. S. Marshal."

REJOICINGS AT VERA CRUZ.—When the news of the recent triumph of the Constitutional arms at Mexico reached Vera Cruz, the Governor of the State, President of the Republic, Cabinet, and other officers, were at the Theatre. The Governor was the first to receive the dispatch, which, being confirmed, he read to the audience from his box, whereupon the whole audience rose, and gave such reception as was due to news so interesting and important, by long and repeated vivas.—From the Theatre the news also ran quickly through the city, which, for one night at least, and that after many of sorrow, was one of sincere and heartfelt rejoicing, unmingled with aught but the remembrance of past sufferings. A few days after, and the President, with the most important members of his Cabinet, set out for the capital.

A STERN CHASE.—A few nights ago, on the Galena and Chicago Air-Line Road, near Dixon, the engineer of a train of fourteen freight cars, when descending a long and steep grade, discovered that the cars had been uncoupled and were left behind, and that he was going ahead alone with his locomotive and tender. He soon saw the train coming down the grade after him with tremendous speed. He put steam to his horse to keep out of the way; but they soon overtook him, and such was the force of the collision, that five of the freight cars were cut in two before they were brought to a stand.

SLAVEHOLDING INDIANS.—The returns of the census for the four slaveholding Indian communities west of the State of Arkansas have been received by the Department at Washington. The communities referred to are the Choctaws, Cherokees, Chickasaws and Seminoles. Most of those Indians' heads of families are slaveholders. The Seminoles were the only tribe which refused to let the Assistant Marshal enumerate their slaves. Several thousand slaves are owned by the tribes taken in the aggregate, and these slaves are employed by the Indians in cultivating their lands, and well and kindly treated.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA.

[*EXTRA SESSION.*]

SENATE.

MONDAY, Jan. 28, 1861.

Called to order at 12 o'clock, Mr. BRANNON in the chair.

Prayer by the Rev. J. A. DUNCAN, of the Broad street Methodist Church.

A communication from the House was read, announcing the passage of numerous bills.

Reports of Committees.—The following bills were reported from the appropriate committees: A bill transferring the Huttonsville and Huntersville Turnpike Road to the counties through which the same passes; a bill to amend and re-enact the first and third sections of an act entitled "an act to incorporate a company to construct, on the plan of James S. French, a railroad between Alexandria and Washington, passed Feb. 27, 1854;" a bill incorporating the Hebrew Benevolent Society of Alexandria, and the petition of David Haas, and others, in favor of the same; a bill to incorporate the Parkersburg Bridge Company.

Petitions Presented.—Of George W. Payne and fifty-eight others, in regard to the county seat of McDowell; of James Hewitt and others, for return of taxes paid by them on erroneous assessments on lands in Kanawha county; of D. Hass and others, for incorporating the Hebrew Benevolent Society of Alexandria.

Resolutions.—The following resolutions of inquiry were referred: By Mr. Nash, of incorporating the Merchants' Savings Bank of the town of Manchester; by Mr. Neal, of providing a more summary mode of dispossessing tenants, in certain cases; by Mr. Newton, of incorporating the Aid Society of the Western Virginia Conference of the Methodist E. Church; by Mr. Christian, of releasing the Commonwealth's right to a certain island in Chesapeake Bay to Edward J. Poulson; by Mr. Thomas, of F., of allowing Jane Horton, a free woman of color, to enslave herself to Julia M. Jameson, without payment of any part of her value.

On motion of Mr. WICKHAM, it was

Resolved, That the Auditor of Public Accounts be requested to inform the Senate as to what will be the probable deficiency in the Treasury, on the 30th day of September, 1861, after providing for the payment of all appropriations already made at this session of the General Assembly, and for such other appropriations as, in his judgment, are likely to be made; and of the extent of the increase of the present tax bill that it would be probably necessary to make to meet such deficiency, if it should be determined to provide for it by an increase of taxes, and that he present to the Senate his views as to the best mode of meeting such deficiency.

Communication from the Governor.—A communication was received from Gov. Letcher, transmitting a communication from Governor Hicks, of Maryland, together with one from the Governor of Georgia, with a copy of the ordinance passed by the Convention of that State.—Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

The following is the letter of Gov. Hicks:

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
ANNAPOLIS, January 24, 1861.

Dear Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a printed copy of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of Virginia on the 19th inst., appointing Commissioners to meet in Washington on the 4th February, "to consider, and, if practicable, agree upon some suitable adjustment."

I take pleasure in assuring you that Commissioners from Maryland will meet those from Virginia and other States in Washington on the day named.

I am rejoiced that Virginia has made this move, and trust that it will be met in a corresponding spirit by other States. If so, we may anticipate the best consequences from this patriotic action on the part of Virginia.

I have the honor to be, very truly yours,
THOS. H. HICKS.

His Excellency *John Letcher*, Gov r of Virginia.

Bills Passed.—To amend the charter of the Bank of Phillippi; a bill to amend the charter of the Bank of the Commonwealth.

Mr. H. W. THOMAS offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns on Wednesday, it will (with the consent of the House of Delegates) take a recess until the 6th day of February.

Mr. LYNCH moved to lay the resolution on the table, and called the yeas and nays, with the following result:

YEAS.—Messrs. August, Brannon, Bruce, Carson, Day, French, Greever, Isbell, Lynch, Newman, Pale, Paxton, Richmond, Smith, Thompson, Townes—16.

NAYS.—Messrs. Caldwell, Carraway, Jr., Christian, Dickenson of Grayson, Gatewood, Massie, Neal, Newton, Rives, Thomas of Fairfax, Thomas of Henry, Urquhart, Wickham—13.

On motion of Mr. PAXTON,

Resolved, That a joint committee, consisting of three members of the House of Delegates and two members of the Senate, be appointed to provide a hall for the accommodation of the State Convention.

The rules were suspended, the resolution adopted, and Messrs. PAXTON and AUGUST appointed a committee on the part of the Senate.

On motion, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

MONDAY, Jan. 28th, 1861.

The House was called to order at 12 o'clock M., by Mr. HOPKINS, of Washington county. Prayer by Rev. M. D. HOGE, of the Second Presbyterian Church.

A communication was received from the Senate, announcing the passage of a number of bills.

The House referred to the Committee on Propositions and Grievances Senate bill for the relief of Ro. Y. Overby, of Mecklenburg county, from an erroneous assessment of land.

Senate Bills Passed.—To amend an act entitled an act incorporating the Princess Anne Savings Bank, passed Feb. 27th, 1860; to incorporate the Virginia Steam Sugar Refinery Company.

Bills Referred.—The Senate bill "to incorporate the Richmond City Insurance Company of Richmond" was referred to the Committee on Propositions and Grievances, on motion of Mr. KEEN. He said that some days since the gentleman from Petersburg had submitted a bill of a similar character to the Committee on Banks, and the committee had determined to report a general bill as to the guarantee of paper by those insurance Companies, and he requested that this bill be referred. The company proposed to be incorporated would be nothing more than a legalized shaving shop. The motion was carried.

Opening the House with Prayer.—Mr. ROBERTSON, of Richmond, offered the following:

Resolved, That the Speaker be requested to invite the Clergy of all the religious denominations of this city to open the sessions of this House daily with prayer.

Mr. ROBERTSON said, if he were called on to designate that act of Virginia which confers on her her highest honor, and an honor all her own, he would designate her act of Religious Freedom. It proclaimed the great principle that every man's religion was between him and his God, free from Government interference, and denied to her Legislature the right to confer peculiar privileges upon any sect or denomination of religion. It marked a distinct step forward in the mighty march of civilization. Of all the nations of the world she was the first to take it. Madison dedicated the first labors of his great and illustrious public life to the support of it, and Jefferson desired it should stand for his epitaph that he was Founder of the University of Virginia, author of the Declaration of Independence, and of the act of Religious Freedom. The resolution in which he asked the concurrence of the House is in the spirit of that great act. It is the same that the House has heretofore sanctioned, but he presumed, by inadvertence, was substituted by the one under which you are acting, which confines your invitation to the clergy of particular sects of religion.—I offer it at the instance of the Pastor of the Israelites in this city. He earnestly and humbly begs to be permitted to invoke before us, and upon us, the blessings of God in our labors. Is there one here who would deny him? I understand his walk of life is humble, pious and benevolent. The Jew as well as the Gentile is equally part of our political system, and affected by our legislation. He comes to ask equality of religious privileges, and it is fit, at a time when we are standing on our rights of equality in other respects, we should be careful not to refuse lightly the benefit of that principle to others. Nor perhaps is it inappropriate to remember here a late powerful and eloquent voice that has been raised by a learned Israelite in New York in vindication of that social institution in which our peace and welfare are vitally involved, and in defence of which we are now engaged in a struggle before (I might almost say against) the world.

He might add, what he hoped would be felt a persuasive argument by every gentleman in the House—if any other were necessary—the fact that we have now our equal in all respects, on this floor, in the person of his respected colleague, (Mr. Myers,) a member of the Jewish denomination, and the House, he was sure, would not reject the petition, and repel from our desk the pastor of his choice.

The motion was carried in the affirmative.

Indebtedness of Railroads to the State.—The Second Auditor returned a statement showing the amount of dividends paid by the several railroad companies in which the State is a stockholder, during the last year, and also the amount of interest paid upon the debts due the Commonwealth by each of these railroad companies, the amount unpaid, and for what years.

For the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1860, the Richmond and Petersburg R. R. Co. paid the State $30,463 34 interest on dividend scrip; but no dividends or interest on loans. The Virginia Central Railroad paid $94,252 96 dividends, but no interest on loans; also, $5,959 80 interest on dividend scrip. The Richmond and P. Railroad paid $19,280 00 dividends—no interest on loans—and $2,004 48 interest on dividend scrip. The Richmond and Danville Road paid $47,543 94 dividends, $42,000 interest on loans, and no interest on dividend scrip. The Va. and Tennessee Road paid $70,000 interest on loans, no dividends or interest on scrip dividend. The Orange and Alexandria Railroad paid $14,000 interest on loan, but no dividends or interest on dividend scrip. The Va. Central Road paid $7,218 44 as tolls for use of Blue Ridge Road. The Winchester and Potomac Railroad Company paid an annuity of $5,000 due to the State.

From the statement "showing amount of interest unpaid, and for what years," it appears that the Virginia Central Railroad owes for '54, '55, '56 and '57, $29,140.56. The Virginia and Tennessee Railroad owes for '55, '56, '57 and '58, $245,030. The South-Side Railroad owes for '55, '56, '57 and '58, $180,500. The Norfolk and Petersburg Road owes for '59 and '60, $42,000. The Orange and Alexandria Road owes for '59 and 60, $28,000.

The Virginia and Tennessee Company still owes a balance of $30,475 of the temporary loan, the interest on which to 1st of January, 1861, amounts to $21,420.80.

The South-Side Company has paid nothing since July, 59. (See act passed Feb. 28, 1860.)

The Orange and Alexandria Company owes the State a dividend scrip for $31,600, with interest from 1st Oct., '54, which amounts on 1st Oct., 1860, to $11,376.

Ordered to be printed.

Resolutions of Inquiry Offered.—By Mr. Miller, of passing a law providing for the valuation of property levied on under executions by two or more freeholders, and that such property be required to bring at the public sale at least two-thirds of the value so fixed; by Mr. Grattan, of vacating all the officers in the militia and ordering a new election; by Mr. Wood, of refunding to Mrs. Lucy Holland, of Fluvanna, taxes erroneously paid by her; by Mr. Riddick, of prohibiting the emancipation of slaves by will; by Mr. Frost, of granting the right of way to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company for the extension of their road to the mouth of Big Sandy River; by Mr. Bisbie, of further protecting and encouraging independent manufacturers in Virginia; by Mr. Woolfolk, of relieving George W. Davis from the payment of a certain fine imposed on him by the Circuit Court of Orange; by Mr. Lynn, of granting relief to the securities of Thos. K. Davis, late sheriff of Prince William county; by Mr. Cowan, of compensating the Clerk of the House of Delegates and the Clerk of the Senate for extra service during the present session of the General Assembly; by Mr. Bisbie, of incorporating the American Army; by Mr. Martin, of providing adequate compensation to the Commissioners appointed by Virginia to the Federal Government and to the different States; by Mr. Garrett, of permitting the Board of Officers for the Regiment of King and Queen county, to have power to increase the number of regimental, battalion or company masters; by Mr. Crump, of referring so much of the report made by the Commissioners appointed under the act of Assembly of Jan. 20th, 1859, as refers to the sale of public arms, to the Committee on Military Affairs; by Mr. Randolph, of reporting a bill for the protection of sheep in the counties of Kanawha and Fayette; by Mr. Knotts, of incorporating a company to construct a railroad from some point on the Northwestern Virginia Railroad, by way of Kanawha Court-House, to the mouth of Big Sandy; by Mr. Myers, of authorizing the High Constable of the City of Richmond to sell slaves and other property levied upon, distrained or ordered to be sold under attachment, at the City Hall of said city, or any other public place in said city, upon notice thereof to be prescribed by law; by Mr. Dickinson, of establishing a branch of the Farmers' Bank of Virginia, the Bank of Virginia, the Bank of the Valley, or the Bank of the Commonwealth, at Lebanon, in Russell county; by Mr. Duckwall, of referring so much of the report of the Auditor of Public Accounts, accompanying the Governor's Message, as relates to the subject of Sheriff's bonds, to the Committee of Courts of Justice.

Adverse Reports, &c.—The following adverse reports were returned, viz: By the Committee on Finance, to petition of J. H. Cochran, late Sheriff of the county of Hancock, praying for an additional commission on $2 12 per cent.; by the Committee on Banks, on the resolution inquiring into the expediency of amending the charter of the Planters' Bank of Petersburg, (taken up, on motion of Mr. COLLIER, and referred to the Committee on Propositions and Grievances;) by the Committee of Courts of Justice, as to the inexpediency of legalizing certain acts of the Potomac Bridge Company; by the same, a report referring the petition of Wm. Stratton, Clerk of the County and Circuit Courts of Logan county, to the Committee on Finance.

Petitions, &c.—Mr. Robertson presented the petition of Ro. H. Maury, R. M. T. Hunter, M. R. H. Garnett, and others, asking to have refunded to them $126.27, paid on an erroneous assessment of 32,067 acres of land in Nicholas county; Mr. Davis presented the memorial of Trustees of Lynchburg College, and citizens of that place, to the Legislature, with copies of catalogues and military regulations.

Bills Reported.—The following bills were reported from committees: To amend an act passed 31st March, 1860, entitled "an act to restrict the catching of oysters in certain months;" to amend the charter of the town of Martinsburg; amending certain laws respecting the Militia of the Commonwealth, so as to render them more efficient; to compensate Ephraim B. Hall for services rendered in the Circuit Court of Marion county for the Commonwealth; refunding to Benj. Hoover, executor of Daniel Lowry, dec'd, of the county of Rockingham, a sum of money paid on an erroneous assessment of land; releasing the securities of Ro. O. Doss, late Sheriff of the county of Campbell, from the payment of damages; allowing John Staples a sum of money for services rendered as Attorney for the State in the Circuit Court of Patrick county; to amend the charter of the Bank of Ravenswood; to amend the charter of the Bank of Charleston.

Communication from the Governor.—A communication was received from Gov. Letcher, enclosing a letter from His Excellency Thomas H. Hicks, Governor of the State of Maryland, in response to the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the 19th inst.

Also, communications from Hon. Geo. W. Crawford, President of the Convention of the State of Georgia, transmitting the Ordinance of Secession, and resolutions adopted by that body on the 22d and 23d insts.

The Georgia Ordinance of Secession having already been published, is omitted. The letter of Gov. Hicks will be found in the Senate report.

The resolutions passed by the Convention of the State of Georgia, sitting at Milledgeville, on the 23