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.
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Richmond Dispatch.

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THE NATIONAL CRISIS.

The Debate in Congress on the Corwin Amendment--Interview between Senator Douglas and Mr. Lincoln--The Southern Confederacy--A Northern Senator on Record--The Lincoln Conspiracy, &c.

THE DEBATE IN CONGRESS ON THE CORWIN AMENDMENT.

When the motion to reconsider the vote rejecting Mr. Corwin's amendment to the report of the Committee of Thirty-Three, was made in the House of Representatives, Thursday—Mr. Kilgore, who moved the motion, called the attention of his Republican friends to the importance of the vote they were now called upon to give. But a few days ago they all emphatically declared, by sustaining the resolution unanimously adopted, that they had no desire or disposition to interfere with slavery in the States where it exists.

Yesterday, however, they seemed to have forgotten this declaration, carried away by wild fanaticism, and also the peculiar condition of the country requiring some action. If they had changed their grounds since the occasion to which he had referred, and were now disposed to invade the sovereignty of the States, then he was no Republican.

In repeated speeches he had said those who accused the Republicans of such design uttered a slander. Should they say to the world, when they are about to possess the power of the Government, that they are for using it to break down the sovereign rights of the United States, and invade their privileges? If that was the doctrine, he could not subscribe to it.

They should bear in mind that they were not the masters, but the mere servants of the people. The proposition to amend the Constitution should be taken to their masters, and the latter should be asked whether they will approve or reject it.

He appealed to them for the sake of the peace and quiet of the country, and for the good of the Republican party, to come forward today, and, with the same unanimity they voted for the resolution to which he had referred, declare the same thing in the pending proposition as an amendment to the Constitution. If you fail to give peace you wrong yourselves and not the people, and on your head will fall the responsibility.

Mr. Stanton said that while there were fifteen slaveholding States acknowledging allegiance to the Federal Government, and therefore having in their hands the power to protect themselves against an invasion of their rights, it was a matter of little consequence whether such an amendment to the Constitution should be inaugurated or not.

But the state of the country is now essentially and radically changed. Seven or eight States now deny allegiance to the Government, and have proceeded to organize a separate Confederacy, independent of the Federal Government. Whether it will be recognized or not is a question for the future.

If these State maintain their position for a year or two, and it should appear that nothing but war or subjugation can bring them back, he would be disposed to recognize their independence. In this state of things, if the remaining slaveholding States remain in the Union, they are entitled to additional guarantees.—[Exclamation on Democratic side—"Good, that is right."]

There are now seven slaveholding and nineteen free States. In ten years hence Delaware will, for all practical purposes, be free. This will make twenty free and six slaveholding States, and in a few years more we will have five more free States. There would then be the requisite three-fourths of States to change the Constitution, and confer on the Federal Government power to interfere with slavery in the States.

He held that this was a power which should never be invested in Congress, even if there were only one slaveholding State. Slavery was a matter of local and State concern. If he were a citizen of a slaveholding State, desiring the emancipation of slavery, he would resist interference by the Federal Government. If it was the purpose to afford constitutional protection to the slaveholding States, which the altered condition of the country demands, it was incumbent upon them to submit the proposition to the people to say at least how they will recognize it.

It ought not to be said that the Constitution which our fathers made is sufficient. At the time of its adoption there was only one free State, all the others slaveholding. Therefore there was no necessity for such guarantees then.

He was in earnest when he said that he did not desire to interfere with slavery in the States, and apprehended that his associates did not. If the Border Slave States remain in the Union he apprehended they have the right to demand such guarantees, and, so far as he is concerned, they shall have them.—[Applause from the Southern side.]

His friends on the Republican side were making a mistake. He would tell them that public opinion in the States they represent will not warrant their refusal. At all events, it was ungenerous to refuse the people an opportunity to express their opinion. Their position would not be sustained. He would say to his Southern friends, if this guarantee be now refused, let them forego any act of secession until there shall be an opportunity to appeal to the people of the free States. [Applause.]

Mr. Lovejoy, amid the greatest confusion and excitement, appealed to Mr. Stanton to withdraw his demand for the previous question, which Mr. Stanton most emphatically refused to do.

Several gentlemen complained of the confusion, as it was impossible to know what was going on. Some said that the noise was owing to the large number of strangers on the floor, whilst others charged the disorder to members themselves.

The Speaker directed the Doorkeeper to perform his duty.

The question was then taken, and the vote rejecting Mr. Corwin's proposed amendment to the Constitution reconsidered—yeas 128, nays 65.

INTERVIEW BETWEEN SENATOR DOUGLAS AND MR. LINCOLN.

A Washington dispatch to the New York Herald gives the following particulars of an interview between Senator Douglas and Mr. Lincoln:

The appearance of Judge Douglas early Tuesday evening in close conversation with the confidential friends and advisers of Mr. Lincoln, in the parlors of the latter at Willard's, created quite a sensation, especially as it is an unusual thing for him to leave his residence to go into town in the evening. It appears that the fact had been communicated to the Judge that the Peace Congress had not only failed to agree upon any article of adjustment, but was likely to adjourn without accomplishing anything. This alarmed him so much that he resolved, first, to go to Willard's and ascertain the exact state of the case; and secondly, if he found the report was true, to lay aside his political feelings, for the time at least, and, as a man and citizen of a common country, go at once to Mr. Lincoln and appeal to him also to yield up something for the sake of peace to the country and the salvation of the Union.

Mr. Douglas found that the Convention was truly on the eve of dissolving without agreeing upon anything, and communicated his desire to see Mr. Lincoln to another friend of the latter, who conducted the Judge to Mr. Lincoln's parlor. Mr. Lincoln was receiving the Pennsylvania Congressional delegation. Consequently Mr. Douglas withdrew until the interview ended, when Mr. Lincoln sent a message for Mr. Douglas. The latter informed Mr. Lincoln that he had sought this interview at the risk of being misunderstood, but that the critical condition of the country required every friend of the Union to lay aside all partisan feelings and personal delicacy.—He had just learned that there was imminent danger that the Peace Conference would dissolve without agreeing upon any basis of adjustment. In that event he apprehended that the border States might resolve promptly to secede from the Union, before any plan could be matured for referring the matter in dispute to the people of the several States.—A fearful responsibility would rest upon the President elect if the Union were dissolved under his administration, unless he did everything in his power to save the country from such a catastrophe; that Mr. L. alone could now save it.

He implored him to speak to his friends in the Conference, and save the country. Mr. Douglas did not desire Mr. L. to explain his views then to him, but to speak promptly and unequivocally to his own friends. Twenty-four hours more and it might be too late. He reminded Mr. L. that he had children as well as Mr. D., and implored him in God's name to act the patriot and to save to our children a country to live in. Mr. D. said to Mr. L. that he was now, as heretofore, his political opponent, and expected to oppose the political measures of his administration, but assured him that no partisan advantage should be taken or political capital manufactured out of an act of patriotism which would preserve the Union of these States. Mr. D. added that he had now performed his duty, and asked Mr. L. to perform his. Mr. L. listened respectfully and kindly, and assured Mr. Douglas that his mind was engrossed with the great theme which they had been discussing, and expressed his gratification at the interview.—Shortly after this interview he held a conference with his friends, and, it is said, the appeal of Judge Douglas was the subject under discussion. What the result will be, does not appear as late as to-day noon.

A NORTHERN SENATOR ON RECORD.

The fact that Senators Chandler and Bingham, of Michigan, had telegraphed and afterwards written to Governor Blair, of that State, desiring him if possible to have the Legislature reconsider its refusal to appoint Commissioners to the Peace Conference at Washington, and suggesting themselves as proper candidates for the appointment, has already been stated. The Governor it appears has abused the confidence reposed in him by allowing the modest and patriotic correspondence of these gentlemen to be made public.—Both letters appear in the Detroit Free Press; both are to the same effect. That of Senator Chandler being the briefest and most pointed of the two, we publish it below:

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11, 1861.

"*My Dear Governor*—Governor Bingham and myself telegraphed you on Saturday, at the request of Massachusetts and New York, to send delegates to the Peace or Compromise Congress. They admit that we were right, and they wrong; that no Republican State should have sent delegates; but they are here and can't get away. Ohio, Indiana and Rhode Island are caving in, and there is danger of Illinois, and now they beg us, for God's sake, to come to their rescue and save the Republican party from rupture. I hope you will send *stiff-backed* men or none. The whole thing was gotten up against my judgment and advice, and will end in thin smoke. Still, I hope, as a matter of courtesy to some of our erring brethren, that you will send the delegates.

"Truly, your friend,
"Z. CHANDLER.

"His Excellency Austin Blair.

"P. S.—Some of the manufacturing States think that *a fight would be awful. Without a little blood letting this Union will not, in my estimation, be worth a rush.*"

HOW THE CONSPIRACY AGAINST LINCOLN WAS DISCOVERED.

The New York Herald furnishes an account of the manner in which the plot against the fugacious Abe was discovered. It says:

It appears that there were two sets of most effective detectives sent to work upon the matter. Mr. Fouche Kennedy, of New York, at the instance of Thurlow Weed, dispatched one band of detective police to Baltimore and the interlying points between that place and Harrisburg, to ferret out the plot, and the Vidocq of Baltimore had another band employed in the same localities, neither chief being aware of the action of the other. If there was anything to be discovered this efficient combination of dectective talent would be sure to find it out; and so it did, for it happened that the detectives from New York came into frequent communion with the detectives from Baltimore, and, not knowing one another, each supposed that he had found a conspirator in the other party, and forthwith commenced to sympathize with the plot and draw his communicative companion out, for the purpose of getting information, as these wise officials are wont to do; and so between them they unravelled, if they did not concoct, the whole terrible conspiracy against the life of Mr. Lincoln, which compelled him to resort to the Scotch cap of the Camerons and the long military cloak, in which undignified disguise he reached the Federal capital with a whole skin. No sooner did Mr. Fouche Kennedy succeed in discovering this awful conspiracy than he turned up at Washington, in search of an office, we suppose, to which he is undoubtedly entitled at the hands of Mr. Lincoln, whose life he so miraculously preserved.

THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY.

The Montgomery correspondent of the Columbus Times, writing on the 25th, sends the following intelligence:

The following advertisement from the Advertiser of yesterday morning, will show that the Treasury branch of the Government is now in operation. H. D. Capers, I learn, is Chief Clerk:

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Montgomery, February 23, 1861.

THIS DEPARTMENT is now ready for the transaction of business.

The Secretary will be found at the Executive Building, corner of Commerce and Bibb streets.

Gen. Davis on yesterday attended divine service at the Episcopal Church. I learn that the President daily receives letters from Maine, Connecticut, and other New England States, which, doubtless, contain terrible threats, with a view of intimidating and scaring the Southern Government. Fortunately, Mr. Davis is not the man to be annoyed by these missiles of the fanatics.

Mr. Davis has sent a special messenger with dispatches to Gov. Pickens, of South Carolina. As to the purport of these dispatches, there are many conjectures, "wise and otherwise," which I do not consider worth the ink and paper that it would require to detail them. It is impossible for any outsider to know the contents of secret dispatches.

Florida will certainly get the Secretaryship of the Navy, as she is the only State in the Confederacy that has a Navy-Yard. It is intended, I learn, to make the Pensacola Navy-Yard to the Southern Confederacy what the Gosport (Va.) Navy-Yard is to the Northern—a great ship-building and naval station.

A STRONG GOVERNMENT.

The Augusta (Ga.) Sentinel is out again in favor of a strong Government—something in the form of an Elective Monarchy—upon the principle originally advanced by Alexander Hamilton, the great head of the old Federal school of politics—the chief of which should be elected for a term of twenty-one years.—The Constitutionalist, published in the same place, joins issue with its contemporary, and after ably pointing out the elements of danger, discord, and of possible despotism, with which the idea is fraught, very justly adds:

There was no want of strength in the Government—nothing imperfect in the instrument which bound us together. But there was corruption, undermining, and weakening the main pillars which supported one part of the edifice; there was fanaticism which was endeavoring to destroy another. Had the head of the Administration, for the time being, possessed the moral courage to do its duty, during all of the sectional controversy, the Temple would have been still standing in all its original strength and beauty.

THE OLD PARTIES IN THE NEW CONFEDERACY.

The Columbus (Geo.) Enquirer is not satisfied with the Cabinet appointments of "President" Davis. It says they are objectionable on the score of their exclusive party character:

Every member of the Cabinet, we believe, was a Breckinridge Democrat and an original Secessionist. The Bell and Douglas men have been entirely excluded from a share in the administration of the new Government.—Even such men as George W. Crawford, of Georgia, and Thomas H. Watts, of Alabama, who supported Bell but sustained secession as soon as it was made an issue, are passed by, and politicians of less ability and influence with the people selected. Presenting, as the Bell and Douglas men did, such fine material for Cabinet appointments, their total exclusion cannot be regarded otherwise than as proscription on account of their course previous to the secession issue. The new Government, we believe, has made a great error by this exclusive promotion of a particular party—a party that was in a *minority* in two of the seceding States. It has, however, several very excellent and able men in its administrative departments, and we may yet hope from them a repudiation of the partisanship that appears to have influenced their own selection. Such men are Hon. C. G. Memminger, of South Carolina, and Hon. L. P. Walker, of Alabama, gentlemen who have ever exhibited an independence of party in emergencies requiring devotion to their country alone.

CAPTAIN ARMSTRONG.

The result of the Court of Inquiry in the matter of Capt. Armstrong has been the ordering a Court-Martial for his trial for surrendering the Navy-Yard at Pensacola. The officers to compose the Court have not yet been named.

FATHER VS. SON.—The Boston Courier produces the following extract from an oration delivered in Boston on the 4th of July, 1808, by the father of Charles Sumner. The son of his father had better read it:

"There is indeed no diversity of interest between the people of the South; *and they are no friends to either who endeavor to stimulate and embitter the one against the other.* What if the sons of Massachusetts rank high on the roll of revolutionary fame? The wisdom and heroism for which they have been distinguished will never permit them to indulge in inglorious boast. The independence and liberty we possess are the results of joint counsels and joint efforts—of common dangers, sufferings, and successes; and God forbid that those who have every motive of sympathy and interest to act in concert, should ever become the prey of party bickerings among themselves."

THE PLOT.—The Cincinnati Commercial, a sensation paper, publishes some letters of warning, looking very like they were written in the office which urged the editor to acquaint Mr. Lincoln that, on his tour, 5,000 men were in a plot to kill him, and at some of the depots on the route, "a bead was to be drawn" on him.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA.

[*EXTRA SESSION.*]

SENATE.

FRIDAY, March 1, 1861.

On motion of Mr. DICKINSON, of Prince Edward, (for Mr. RICHMOND,) it was resolved to inquire into the expediency of authorizing a branch of the Farmers' Bank of Virginia, Bank of Virginia, or the Bank of the Commonwealth, at Lebanon, in the county of Russell.

Excursion to Old Point.—The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following invitation:

"The Lieut. Governor, and the members, officers and reporters of the Senate, are respectfully invited to join in an excursion down the York River Railroad and York river, to Old Point Comfort and back again, to-morrow, (Saturday,) 2d inst.

"The train will leave the Depot, on Dock street, at 7 A. M. RO. SAUNDERS, Prest."

Joint Resolution.—The following joint resolution proposed by Mr. BRANNON on yesterday, was taken up and adopted:

Whereas, The State of Virginia holds in her own right certain bonds of the Hillsboro' and Cincinnati Railroad Company, which from the unfinished condition of said road, and the uncertainty surrounding its future prospects, may render it expedient to convert the same into other securities or to make sale thereof: Therefore, be it

Resolved, by the General Assembly, That the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund be, and they are hereby, authorized, should they deem it best for the interest of the State, to convert said bonds into stocks or other securities; or to make sale thereof as in their judgment may be deemed most conducive to the interest of the State.

Bills Passed.—Senate bill for the relief of the securities of Joshua H. Staats, deceased, late Sheriff of Jackson county; House bill changing the time of holding the Circuit Court in the town of Danville; House bill to incorporate the Staunton Arms and Ordinance Company.

Bank Relief Bill Passed.—The bill for the relief of the Banks, as reported from the House, was taken up, when Mr. THOMAS, of F., moved that the Senate recede from its amendment striking out the 4th section of the bill.

Mr. AUGUST opposed the proposition, and moved to lay on the table.

The motion of Mr. THOMAS was then agreed to.

All the other amendments proposed by the House were agreed to—thus adopting the whole bill as it came from the House.

Order of the Day.—The bill releasing the schooner Pauline from the payment of the fine of $500 for an alleged violation of the inspection laws, was made the order of the day for Tuesday next.

On motion of Mr. NEESON, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

FRIDAY, March 1, 1861.

The House was called to order at eleven o'clock, by the SPEAKER, and opened with prayer by Rev. J. A. DUNCAN, of the M. E. Church.

The Bank Relief Bill.—The House were informed by Mr. ANDERSON, of Botetourt, that the 1st Auditor construed the provisions of the bill which passed yesterday as requiring the Banks to contribute specie to provide for the Sinking Fund, which would cause $500,000 in specie additional to be required. Therefore, he asked the House to request the Senate to return the bill for purposes of amendment.

The Bank bill was returned from the Senate, and Mr. ANDERSON offered the following amendment to the 5th section: Provided that nothing in this section shall be construed to require the Banks of this Commonwealth to contribute specie beyond the amount necessary to pay the interest on the public debt.

Mr. KEEN moved to provide further that the Banks of this Commonwealth shall, at their discretion, issue notes of a less denomination than five dollars, to an amount not exceeding ten per cent. on their capital; and provided, also, that no notes of such denomination shall be issued after the 1st of March, 1862; all laws enforcing the penalty for the issue of such notes is hereby suspended till such time.

On offering his amendment, Mr. KEEN said that he intended on yesterday to have offered the proposed amendment, but from the telegraphic manner in which this bill was hurried through the House on yesterday, he was prevented from doing so. He had no idea of inflicting this House with a speech upon the subject; it was a plain proposition, and spoke for itself—not only as a relief to the banks, but to the people. Nor had he much idea that it would pass, judging from the temper of the House on yesterday. In reply to the gentleman from Botetourt, that it made nonsense to the bill, he had only to say that this House had assumed to itself long since the right to enact nonsense, and especially so in this bill. He called the previous question on the bill.—The amendment was rejected—Ayes 9, noes 107.

Mr. ANDERSON's amendment was then adopted, and, on his motion, the bill was sent back to the Senate.

Afterwards, a message was received from the Senate, through Mr. BRANNON, that it had receded from their amendments, and agreed to the passage of the Bank bill as passed by the House.

Bills Passed.—Amending the charter of Sir John's Run Turnpike Company; changing the time of holding the Circuit Courts in the town of Danville; authorizing the sale of real estate belonging to Ebenezer Academy; incorporating the Staunton Arms and Ordnance Department; for paying Virginia Commissioners to President and seceding States; for the relief of Geo. W. Tucker, of Halifax co.

Resolutions.—The following resolutions of inquiry were offered: By Mr. Hoffman, of refunding excess of merchants license improperly paid; by Mr. Barbour, of relieving the Sheriff of Culpeper from certain fines, &c.; by Mr. Richardson, of allowing two military companies in Wheeling to form a battalion; by Mr. McDowell, of changing the times of holding the Circuit Court in the 14th district; by Mr. Johnson, of providing that suggestions may be sued out by and be returned before a Justice, &c.; by Mr. Davis, of amending the law in reference to damages against Sheriffs; by Mr. Ballard, of giving holders of land under patent an absolute title after ten years' possession and paying taxes.

Bills Reported.—To provide for taking the sense of the voters of Marshall county on opening and keeping in repair roads in said county; for the relief of John Robinson, free negro, of Buckingham county; for the relief of James Walden, a free negro, of Chesterfield county; to organize an additional Regiment of Volunteer Cavalry; amending and re-enacting the 13th section of an act passed March 20th, 1860, entitled, An act for the better organization of the militia of the Commonwealth; concerning District Public Schools in the county of Ohio; Senate bills increasing the clerks in the Auditor's office; for the relief of D. S. Dickinson; House bill for the relief of C. Koles, late Sheriff of Raleigh county.

Adverse Report.—A report was returned adverse to the petition of Wm. A. Thacker and others, asking to be refunded money improperly paid.

Petition.—Mr. McDOWELL presented the petition of citizens of Botetourt county, asking a change in the time of holding the Circuit Court of said county.

Special Committee.—A Special Committee was appointed, on motion of Mr. Ross, to report a bill authorizing the trustees of the Methodist Church in Salem, Roanoke county, to sell and convey the same.

Referred.—Senate bill to legalize proceedings on Sunday, in certain cases, was referred to the Committee of Courts of Justice.

On motion, the House took a recess till 7½ o'clock.

NOVA SCOTIANS OPPOSED TO A UNION WITH THE NORTH.—The Halifax Journal ridicules the idea of a Union between the British North American colonies and the Northern States of the present American Confederacy:

"If, says the editor, there was ever any desire on the part of these colonies—and many years ago there may have been—for annexation to the United States, the present crisis has most effectually quashed it. What have we to gain from annexation with the Northern States, who have just sacrificed on the altar of 'higher law' their hitherto prosperous Union? Our interests will be with the Southern Confederacy, where we shall look for employment for our shipping, for a market for our fish; and we may even supplant the North in furnishing them with manufactured articles."

HOW SOUND TRAVELS.—The Norfolk papers are noticing some remarkable cases of the distance sounds can be heard in that vicinity—The Argus gives these two:

The signal gun of the Receiving Ship Pennsylvania is generally heard on the sea shore, in an easterly direction from the city. The flash of light caused by the discharge, is also very often distinctly seen at a distance of about fifteen miles. Christ Church bell has been heard at Kempsville, a distance of about eight miles in a straight line. Some years ago, the beating of a drum was very distinctly heard at London Bridge, in Princess Anne county, about thirteen miles in a direct line from the city. But the drum was supposed at the time to be connected with a band that was playing at Fort Monroe—distant in a direct line between eight and ten miles.

THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY FLAG.—A British bark which brought over a cargo of iron for the Macon and Brunswick Road, fired a salute of six guns in honor of the Southern Confederacy, on her departure from Darien, the 16th inst.

The Surrender of U. S. Property in Texas.

The Texas papers of the 21st ult. bring the particulars of the recent surrender of the post at San Antonio, by Gen. Twiggs, to the State. Gen. Ben McCulloch, by the authority of the State Convention, went with about 400 Texan troops, to take possession of the Arsenal, &c., before Col. Carlos A. Waite, who had been deputed, it was supposed, to supercede Gen. Twiggs, could arrive. The letter says:

"San Antonio was in a state of intense excitement for some days previous to the entrance of the Rangers. Gen. Twiggs received the Secretary of War's order on the 15th.—Col. Waite was expected to arrive the next day. It was generally thought he would refuse to carry out Gen. Twiggs' agreement, and would resist by force, with the 120 U. S. troops of the S. A. Arsenal. It was determined not to give him a chance.

"On Friday evening, the San Antonio K. G. C.'s, 200 in number—a well armed and equipped body—marched out to meet the coming troops under McCulloch, from the Salado, four miles off. At 2 o'clock on Saturday, 200 of them—picked men—entered San Antonio on horseback as an advanced guard. Later, 500 more marched in. Guards were at once stationed around the Arsenal, over the artillery park and all the Government buildings.

"After the city companies took possession of the Alamo, Gen. Twiggs, accompanied by Major Nichols, met Gen. McCulloch in the main Plaza. The horsemen paraded around them, and there was a burst of cheers as the three officers met. A demand was made for the surrender of the Federal property, and the immediate evacuation of the place by the United States soldiers, without their arms.—The reply was, that every soldier would be shot down ere submitting to that disgrace. It was feared that a bloody strife would ensue.

"At half-past 12 o'clock, however, terms were agreed upon. The soldiers leave town immediately, taking their side-arms and a sufficient supply of stores to enable them to leave the State. They are getting ready to leave. They will camp at the San Pedro Springs, awaiting the arrival of Col. Waite. All bids fair for the restoration of quiet, unless Col. Waite should object to the terms agreed upon by Gen. Twiggs, and attempt to retake this position—which is not considered probable.

"The stores, houses and shops are closed; the streets are almost deserted, except by the Rangers and the K. G. C's. The Alamo and Military Plaza present a very martial appearance. The Government property is now in charge of the citizen soldiers of the place.—The volunteers are all well armed. They are plainly dressed, some in kersey—a fine looking body of men, with a determined air."

Another letter says:

"Col. Lee, U. S. A., has just arrived, but too late to effect anything, even if disposed to offer resistance. The Rangers will return to their camp on the Salado, and will at once march to take possession of the other United States forts and garrisons on the frontier. It is thought they will be surrendered without resistance, so large will be the force brought against them. The Lone Star flag once more floats from the Alamo."

The following is the order issued by Gen Twiggs, after the surrender:

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
SAN ANTONIO, Feb. 13, 1861.

[*General Orders, No. 5.*]

The State of Texas having demanded, through its Commissioners, the delivery of the military posts and public property within the limits of this command, and the commander being desirous to avoid even the possibility of a collision between the Federal and State troops, the posts will be evacuated by their garrisons, and these will take up, as soon as the necessary preparations can be made, the line of march out of Texas, by way of the coast—marching out with their arms, (the light batteries with their guns,) clothing, camp and garrison equipage, quartermaster's stores, subsistence, medical, hospital stores, and such means of transportation of every kind as may be necessary for an efficient and orderly movement of the troops, prepared for attack or defence against aggressions from any source.

The troops will carry with them provisions as far as the coast. By order of

BREVET MAJ. GEN. TWIGGS.

Naval Intelligence.

The Secretary of the Navy's special report made to the Senate on January 15, has just been printed. It contains a list of the vessels in commission during the last twenty years, with a description of their station and armament. On October 31, 1860, the total number of guns they mounted was 577, and the whole number of vessels then attached to the Home Squadron, consisted of the frigate Sabine, the sloops Cumberland, Savannah, St. Louis, and Germantown, the steamers Brooklyn, Powhatan Pawnee, Pocahontas, Wyandotte, Mohawk, and Crusador, and the storeship Supply.

The cost of the armament of each of the screw steamships of the Navy is given—the most expensive of which is that of the Wabash, which has a battery of forty guns, capable of firing a broadside of the weight of 1,414 pounds. It cost $86,132.49. The Minnesota has a battery of forty-one guns, and cost $85,080.20. The weight of its broadside is 1,458 pounds. The Roanoke, Colorado and Merrimack have each batteries of forty guns, with broadsides of 1,414 pounds, and their armaments each cost from $82,000 to a little less than $84,000. The armament of the Niagara consists of a battery of twelve guns of eleven-inch calibre, with a broadside of 1,620 pounds, and it cost $74,475.41.

The number of seamen in the United States service in 1860 was 7,544, and of marines 1,746.

The actual cost of maintaining in commission vessels of different sizes, including the pay of officers and men, and the cost of fuel and oil in home squadron is, for

Screw steam frigate	$158,882
Side-wheel sloop, first class	83,395
Screw steam sloop, first class	103,646
Screw steam sloop, second class	63,482
Screw steamer, third class	30,018
Side-wheel steamer, third class	40,358
Sailing frigate, first class	99,693
Sailing sloop, first class	50,556
Razee sloop, first class	72,228
Sailing sloop, second class	45,988
Sailing sloop, third class	37,228

This statement does not include provisions or pay of marines, and there is a considerable additional cost for fuel and oil on the steam vessels, when they are employed in duty on foreign stations.

The cost of provisions required for maintaining in commission vessels of the different classes has rapidly increased during the last seventeen years, and was, in 1860, as follows:

Steam frigate	$52,488 81
Sailing frigate	44,531 75
Steam sloop, first class	32,159 42
Sailing sloop, first class	18,746 00
Steam sloop, second class	14,966 80
Sailing sloop, second class	16,871 40
Steamer, third class	7,873 32
Sloop, third class	12,122 20

The comparative cost of mechanical labor at the several navy-yards, for 1840 and 1860, are thus given:

	1840.	1860.	Increase per cent.	Decrease per cent
Portsmouth	$1 46	$1 94	32.9	
Boston	1 82	1 94	6.6	
New York	1 78	1 93	8.4	
Philadelphia	1 70	2 03	19.4	
Washington	1 48	1 82	23.0	
Norfolk	1 80	1 96	8.9	
Pensacola	2 58	2 49	....	3.5
Mare Island	....	4 39	....	
			99.2	3.5

Average increase in the several yards, (Mare Island excepted,) 13.7 per cent.

FACILITY OF SECESSION FROM MATRIMONY.—The New York Herald contains the following advertisement:

"Divorces obtained in another State without crimination or publicity. Incompatibility of temper only required. All cases warranted and strictly confidential. Apply from 12 to 5 P. M., to ——, No. 6 —— street, room 21."

The Washington Territory Standard says that a man can be released from his duties to society and offspring in the Legislature of that Territory in one and a half minutes.

A CELEBRATION.—The Woodstock (Va.) Tenth Legion says:—"We understand that the patriotic citizens residing at Columbia Furnace celebrated Washington's birth-day in quite a spirited manner. A cannon, weighing over eleven hundred pounds, was cast by order of the worthy proprietor of the furnace, for the occasion. It was substantially mounted upon the fore wheels of a wagon, and charged with the best XXX Dupont. Six salutes were fired, the charges being increased at each fire; and the seventh proved too heavy for Columbia's metal, and the cannon and the wagon were blown to everlasting smash." No one was injured by the explosion of the cannon.

ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST JAPANESE MERCHANT. It is not unlikely that many of the statements made in recent letters written from Japan by disappointed naval officers, who anticipated a "magnificent ovation" there, are grossly exaggerated. A San Francisco paper reports the arrival at that city of a Japanese merchant, who came to purchase goods to be sold in his own country. This is the first instalment of a traffic that, we trust, will be both extensive and permanent.

DIRECT IMPORTATION.—The Savannah (Ga.) Morning News states that 4,000 bales of gunny bagging have been shipped from Calcutta, E. I., for Savannah direct. The bagging is expected to arrive in full time for the coming crop.

FLOYD'S ACCEPTANCES—*Their Legality.*—Mr. Gilmore, attorney for Pierce & Bacon, bankers, who are innocent holders of Russell, Majors & Waddell's drafts, accepted by ex-Secretary Floyd, has obtained from Caleb Cushing, late Attorney General, an opinion on the question of the legality of said acceptances.—Mr. Cushing holds, on a full discussion of the subject, that the liability of the United States for these acceptances is fixed by authoritative decisions of the Supreme Court in previous cases of the same nature, confirmed by acts of Congress:

After explaining the legitimate manner in which Messrs. Pierce & Bacon became possessed of the acceptances, Mr. Cushing asks as to the question of possible fraud on the part of the ex-Secretary, "How could Messrs. Pierce & Bacon conceive or entertain such cause of inquiry? How could they anticipate such an extraordinary incident as the abstraction of the trust bonds in the Interior Department? It would be scandalous, immoral, oppressive, intolerable, to assume that every private citizen of the United States who has to deal incidentally with any department of the Government shall be held to suffer the consequences of some unknown and unimaginable malfeasance in office on the part of its head. For all the relations of such a matter, every citizen has a right to presume the sole responsibility of his Government; and the Government would but render itself infamous in pretending that the consequences of its own want of honesty should be borne by innocent private persons. Rather than set up such a monstrous administrative hypothesis of self-stultification and self-condemnation as this, it would be well for the Government to stop; to go into liquidation; to disappear from the stage, and leave room in the world for the introduction of some new political organism better adapted to promote the welfare of the people of the United States."

THE VOTES IN THE PEACE CONFERENCE.—As a matter of interest we give the vote by States on the propositions adopted by the Peace Congress:

1st proposition—

Yeas—Delaware, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Tennessee—9.

Nays—Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Vermont and Virginia—8.

Divided—New York and Kansas—2.

Not Voting—Indiana.

2d—Yeas—Delaware, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Virginia—11.

Nays—Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Hamphire and Vermont—8.

Divided—New York and Kansas—2.

3d—Yeas—Delaware, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Virginia—12.

Nays—Connecticut, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont—7.

Divided—New York and Kansas—2.

4th—Yeas—Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont and Virginia—15.

Nays—Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire—4.

Divided—New York and Kansas—2.

5th.—Yeas—Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont and Kansas—16.

Nays—Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, North Carolina and Virginia—5.

6th.—Yeas—Delaware, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Tennessee—11.

Nays—Connecticut, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Vermont and Virginia—9.

Divided—New York.

7th.—Yeas—Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Virginia—12.

Nays—Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, North Carolina, Missouri and Vermont—7.

Divided—New York.

Not voting—Massachusetts.

THREE PERSONS DROWNED.—A distressing accident occurred in Prince George co., Va., during the early part of the present week, and by which three persons lost their lives.—Mitchell Harrison, accompanied by his wife and child, and a lad, who was the son of Wm. Bratton, of the same county, embarked in a skiff, or canoe, at a point of Ward's Creek, near Brandon Church, to visit a friend. The short trip was successfully made, but upon returning, at a late hour in the evening, the frail bark collapsed, and all its occupants were precipitated into deep water. Harrison made every effort to save his wife and child, as also the son of Mr. Bratton, but failed to do so, and all three found a watery grave.

THE PLANET MERCURY.—On Thursday night, the 28th ult., this planet attained its greatest Eastern elongation from the sun, with a more northerly declination of eight or nine degrees; it was therefore in an uncommonly favorable position for observation; indeed, in the Northern hemisphere, the most favorable in 1861, except during its transit or passage over the sun on the 12th of November next, which phenomenon will not, however, be visible in America. During last week, and early in March, the planet will set an hour and a half after the sun, and at 6h. 50m. P. M., will appear in the West by South, or a little South of West, at an altitude of 10 degrees, as a reddish star of the first magnitude.

ARTIFICIAL BREEDING OF FISH.—The artificial propagation of fish has proved a complete success in Europe; the Tay breeding boxes, established in 1857, turn out 500,000 young salmon every year; the Irish breeding places have also succeeded admirably; the artificial lake at Huningue, near Basle, covering 70 acres, is doing much to repeople the exhausted rivers of France with fish. Encouraged by European artificial pisciculture, several gentlemen at their villas in Westchester county, N. Y., and up the Hudson, have tried it, and make no more of taking a string of fine trout out of their ponds than would an old-fashioned farmer a pullet from his barn-yard.

RAISING THE TREMONT HOUSE, CHICAGO—The Tremont House, and about an acre of houses thereon, commenced rising to grade this morning. There are five thousand screws under the house, and agang of five hundred men employed, giving each man the supervision of ten screws. The power was applied at ten o'clock this forenoon, and at eleven o'clock the immense weight of buildings had been raised three inches. It has yet five feet nine inches to rise, which the contractors assure us will be completed on Saturday night next. The contractors inform us that the Tremont rises better and more satisfactorily than any building they have ever raised in Chicago.—*Chicago Journal, 25th.*

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF FIVE ON THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL MESSAGE.—The House