Richmond Dispatch.

BY COWARDIN & HAMMERSLEY.

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VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION.

TWENTY-FOURTH DAY.

WEDNESDAY, March 13, 1861.

The Convention was called to order by the President at the usual hour. Prayer by the Rev. Mr. BAKER, of Grace Church, (Episcopal.)

HOUR OF MEETING.

Mr. HULL, of Highland, offered a resolution, as follows:

Resolved, That, until further ordered, the Convention will meet at 11 o'clock, instead of 12.

The resolution was ruled out of order, one of similar import having been laid upon the table a few days ago.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

Mr. WOODS, of Barbour, presented the proceedings of a meeting of citizens of that county, declaring for the doctrine of State-Rights, opposing coercion, advocating the withdrawal of Virginia from the Union, &c.

Mr. WOODS endorsed the high character of the citizens who participated in the meeting. The resolutions were referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.

Mr. MORRIS, of Caroline, presented resolutions of a similar character from his county, which were likewise referred.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE PROPOSITIONS.

The PRESIDENT announced the pending question to be on the motion to refer the Peace Conference propositions to the Committee on Federal Relations.

Mr. TYLER, of Charles City, being entitled to the floor, proceeded to address the Convention. He said he was about to make a very bold and very daring adventure, the state of his health being unequal to the task of discussing the interesting subject under consideration, but he would attempt it under an impulse of duty. Called from the quiet and comfort of his home, to meet the fearful crisis impending over the country, he would not now shrink from the labor imposed upon him. After a brief allusion to the part he had taken in the Government of the country, and the emotion with which he had heard in his retirement of the tearing asunder of the beautiful flag which had so long waved in triumph, he spoke of the last words of Washington in warning his countrymen against the formation of sectional parties, which had been disregarded by the abolitionists, and the cloud, at first no bigger than a man's hand, now overshadowed us with gloom.—The politicians took hold of it, and had succeeded in cutting the ship of State loose from her moorings, and now the fragments were floating in an angry sea. He mourned over it; and when the Legislature called upon him to participate in proceedings for the restoration of the Union, he did not feel at liberty to decline the task. He read the resolutions of the Legislature embodying the instructions to the Commissioners, and remarked that they were instructed thereby to make an effort to restore the Union and the Constitution as it was; not to make a mere bargain for the interest of the border States. He went to Washington, filled with aspirations for the glory of settling this controversy. In his address to the Conference, he endeavored to draw around him all the elements composing the body. He was congratulated with such warmth that he was cheered with hope. But he soon found that the Northern States came there with no olive branch to offer. They had nothing to yield—nothing to give. Nevertheless they (himself and colleagues) went to work. The result was, a series of propositions passed by a minority of the Conference. He asked what was to be done with it. Did the Convention purpose, as it had a right to do, to send it for'h to the States for their adoption? It required three-fourths of the States to ratify it as an amendment to the Constitution, and the idea of obtaining their sanction was preposterous. The Republican politicians could not be made to move an inch. He alluded to an editorial in the *National Intelligencer*, accusing him of being the cause of preventing the action of Virginia on this matter. It seemed that everybody loved to attack him. The propositions, he proceeded to say, were composed of seven sections, and each was voted upon separately, and adopted by varying majorities. His colleague, Mr. Seddon, then asked a vote upon the entire report. He, as presiding officer, doubted the propriety of this, and the Conference sustained him in his decision. Subsequent events had convinced him that he was right. He was satisfied that the vote of Virginia did not adopt it as an entirety; and yet the inference was deducible from the remarks of the *Intelligencer*, that he gave that decision for the purpose of preventing a vote on the part of Virginia.

He then proceeded, after a warm personal compliment to his colleagues who differed with him, to the consideration of the propositions themselves.

In regard to the preservation of the *status* in the Territory of New Mexico, he alluded to the remarks of a distinguished Northern member of the Conference, in connection therewith, and the interpretation of the term which he gave.

Mr. WISE asked if that member was or was not a member from Ohio—a member of the present Cabinet—by the name of Chase?

Mr. TYLER replied that that was a disclosure. He declined a direct answer to the question.

The law of Mexico had emancipated slavery and substituted peonage; and an emigrant to the territory ceded to the United States now goes there surrounded with all the panoply of liberty. The gentleman from Kanawha had spoken of the protection of the common law. What protection could the common law give you on that soil, where the bondman has been emancipated? In this connection he gave illustrations of conflicting opinions in decisions of the common law, showing that the opinion of Lord Stowell conflicted with that of Lord Mansfield, quoted by the gentleman from Kanawha. The eighth section of the Chicago Platform was then read to show how common law was to be administered, by a Federal Judge appointed by Mr. Lincoln.—What protection had we, then, to expect? It would, like the apples of the Dead Sea, fall to ashes the moment you get it in your grasp. It was said the other day that we didn't want any more territory. Yes; you may have territory enough, but it is territory in the moon, to which you can never get, for you are hedged off by the second section of the Peace Conference propositions. The right of transit is denied to our property.—Every day the mechanics of the North are passing along with their property, but we poor starvelings are to be denied that privilege. How will you get to New Mexico?—Would you go by sea? You will have to double Cape Horn before you reach the Gulf of California. Suppose you take it by land?—You want to migrate from Missouri to the Territory. The first thing that arrests you is Kansas; the next, Arkansas. And there you are, with an immense grant of land, but unable to get to it. But we were told that we had a plenty of land to fill up for a hundred years to come. Are you willing to remain without expansion—seven States in this Northern Confederacy, with nineteen against you, and the numbers to be vastly increased during the present Administration? He was surprised to hear such an argument on this floor. If gentlemen were satisfied with that state of things, he had nothing to complain of; he differed with them, and that was sufficient.

He next alluded to the resolution of the Legislature, proposing the Crittenden proposition, somewhat amended, as the basis of the Commissioners' action. His honorable friend from Kanawha had taken ground indicating a willingness to be contented without the acquisition of future territory.

Mr. SUMMERS asked if he understood the gentleman to say that he was satisfied without future acquisition? He would, he doubted not, bear him out in the remark that he voted for the Crittenden proposition, but accepted the other when that failed.

Mr. TYLER said he would in no respect misrepresent him. He had understood him to say that in the propositions the South had gained more than was asked by the Crittenden propositions.

Mr. SUMMERS said he had argued that, taken as a whole, they were an equivalent to, and in some respects better, than the Crittenden propositions.

The corresponding sections of the two propositions, touching the Territorial question, were then read, and Mr. TYLER proceeded to draw a comparison between them. The measure suggested by Mr. Crittenden was like the man himself, whom he respected and honored. No concealment by phrases, but open and manly. In regard to the other, he fully agreed with the principle enunciated, of concurrent majorities. But in its present application it would be found inefficient. He alluded in glowing terms to Henry Clay, whom he delighted to honor, and though there was a difference between them, during Clay's life, it was his lose, for he refused the hand that would have supported him. The gentleman from Richmond (Mr. Macfarland) would remember that he had said in his presence that Henry Clay should have a monument as lofty as the mountains and as enduring as the skies. He professed to be somewhat a disciple of Clay's upon the matter of settling the Territorial question. Mr. TYLER proceeded to argue this branch of his subject, but having announced that he was much exhausted, an adjournment was suggested, in order to give him an opportunity of closing to-morrow. Mr. TYLER therefore yielded the floor, and

On motion of Mr. SHEFFEY, the Convention adjourned.

Prof. C. C. Meigs has resigned his chair in Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA.

[*EXTRA SESSION.*]

WEDNESDAY, March 13, 1861.

The Senate was called to order at the usual hour, Lieut. Gov. MONTAGUE in the chair, and opened with prayer by the Rev. Mr. MOORE, of the Presbyterian Church.

Bills Reported.—To incorporate the Trustees of the Parkersburg Classical and Scientific Institute; to amend the charter of Brown's Gap Turnpike Company; to incorporate a company to construct a railroad from Strasburg to Winchester.

Richmond and Liverpool Packet Company. On motion of Mr. JOHNSON, the rules were suspended, and the bill communicated from the House for the incorporation of the Richmond and Liverpool Packet Company taken up and passed.

Orange and Alexandria Railroad.—A bill for the relief of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad Company having been taken up, Mr. COGHILL advocated its passage.

Before reaching a vote, on motion, the bill was laid on the table, in order to allow Mr. WICKHAM an opportunity to prepare a substitute. The substitute was subsequently presented and accepted. The bill was passed—ayes 28, noes 8.

Land Titles.—Mr. NEWMAN called up and supported a bill to limit the right to make an entry or bring an action to recover lands or the possession thereof west of the Alleghany mountains.

The bill was opposed by Mr. STUART.

Laid on the table.

The Treasury Note Bill Again.—A motion to reconsider the vote by which the issue of treasury notes was passed, gave rise to a discussion of some length as to the merits of the amendment of Mr. BRANNON, incorporated in the bill. The amendment provides that the issue shall not be made unless the Convention now in session shall so direct. A motion to lay on the table and make the order of the day was rejected—ayes 17, noes 23.

The motion to reconsider the vote by which the bill was passed was then carried—ayes 25, noes 19. The vote by which the bill had been read a third time was also reconsidered.

The motion to reconsider the vote on the amendment, resulted in—ayes 24, noes 20. The motion recurring on the adoption of the amendment, it was rejected—ayes 21, noes 24.

The bill, with but a few slight verbal amendments, was passed by the following vote:

AYES.—Messrs. Armstrong, August, Bruce, Carson, Carraway, Claiborne, Coghill, Day, John Dickenson, Asa B. Dickinson, Douglass, Early, French, Gatewood, Greever, Hubbard, Isbell, Johnson, Logan, Lynch, Marshall, Massie, McKenney, Nash, Newlon, Newman, Pate, Paxton, Pennybacker, Quesenberry, Taliaferro, Thompson, and Urquhart—32.

NAYS.—Messrs. Brannon, Caldwell, Carter, Critcher, Neal, Neeson, Rives, Stuart, Henry W. Thomas, Townes, and Wickham—11.

Bills Passed.—Senate bill organizing a volunteer company of cavalry in Albemarle county; Senate bill amending the charter of the Black Lick and Plaster Bank Turnpike Company; Senate bill to incorporate the Cove Creek Lead, Copper and Iron Manufacturing Company in the county of Tazewell; Senate bill authorizing the Loch Leven Rangers, in the county of Lunenburg, to be organized with a less number than now required by law; Senate bill providing pay for the Adjutant General on account of his services in the reorganization of the militia in the years 1858 and 1859.

Stay Law.—Mr. COGHILL, from the Committee for Courts of Justice, to whom was referred a resolution asking for a stay law, reported it inexpedient.

On motion of Mr. EARLY, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

WEDNESDAY, March 13th, 1861.

The House was called to order at 11 o'clock by Speaker CRUTCHFIELD, and opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. PETTIGREW, of the Campbellite church.

Guano and Plaster Inspection.—Senate bill authorizing the inspection of guano and ground plaster was read twice.

Mr. McKENZIE desired the bill to be sent to the proper committee. He was of opinion that these inspectorships were nothing more than the imposition of an unnecessary tax upon the people of Virginia. It operated to pay certain persons large salaries for doing nothing. He was opposed to the principle of creating officers for the remuneration of political tricksters and party wire-workers. The bill was committed.

Bills Passed.—Senate bills for the relief of the securities of Eugenius Tibbs, late Sheriff of Ritchie county; for the relief of Benj. S. Reynolds, of Harrison county.

Senate Bills Reported.—For the relief of Thomas L. Jordan, of Wayne county; directing the payment of certain interest to Emmet J. O'Brien; amending the Code so as further to encourage the volunteer system; legalizing proceedings on Sunday in certain cases.

Free Negroes.—The special committee on free negroes reported a bill for the voluntary enslavement of certain negroes in the county of Appomattox.

The bill for the voluntary enslavement of free negroes without compensation to the Commonwealth was taken up and passed, after the following ryder had been attached to it, offered by Mr. MAGRUDER, of Albemarle:

"The master or mistress of any free negro heretofore voluntarily enslaved, shall have the same right to the custody, control and services of any infant child or children of any such negro so enslaved, as hereinbefore provided for; but before the master or mistress shall be entitled to the custody, control and services of such child or children, he or she shall appear before a Court of Record, and make claim to such custody, control and services, which claim shall be entered of record; but if any such negro child has been heretofore bound out by the Overseers of the Poor of any county or corporation, the articles of indenture shall in nowise be effected hereby."

The bill, as thus amended, passed with but few dissenting voices.

The unfinished business of yesterday came up next in order, being the bill to ratify the sale of the James River and Kanawha Canal. Several amendments were offered, which were discussed at length. The bill was then ordered to its engrossment.

Adjourned.

THE ORDINANCE OF TRANSFER PASSED BY ALABAMA.—The Ordinance passed by the Alabama State Convention for the transfer of arms, forts, &c., in that State to the General Government of the Confederated States, reads as follows:

Be it Ordained by the People of Alabama, in Convention assembled, That the control of all military operations in this State having reference to or connection with questions between this State and other States, or any power foreign to them, shall be turned over to the Provisional Government of the Confederate States of America to be exercised by said Government.

SEC. 2. *And be it further ordained*, That the State of Alabama hereby turns over to the Provisional Government of the Confederate States of America all arms and munitions of war which have been acquired from the late United States, and which are now in the forts and arsenals in this State, and that the forts of this State shall have power to make a similar disposition of any arms or munitions of war which belong to the State, excepting muskets, rifles and small arms: *Provided*, That the said Government of the Confederate States shall account for all such arms and munitions of war as are hereby turned over.

SEC. 3. *And be it further ordained*, That the transfer provided for in this Ordinance shall be conducted on the part of this State by the Governor thereof.

Also the following Ordinance to confer jurisdiction over the forts and arsenals in the State of Alabama upon the Confederate States of America:

SEC. 1. *Be it Ordained by the People of Alabama, in Convention assembled*, That the Provisional Government of the Confederate States is hereby authorized to use, occupy, and hold possession of, all forts, navy-yards and arsenals, and their appurtenances, in this State, and shall repair and rebuild such forts and arsenals at its discretion, until this Ordinance is repealed by a Convention of the people of this State.

THE DUTY ON SUGAR.—The following is the article of the new tariff on sugar, as corrected since the publication of the official act. It will be seen that it places the duty on all unrefined sugars at three-fourths of a cent per pound:

First.—On raw sugar, commonly called Muscovado, or brown sugar, not advanced beyond the raw state by claying, or other process; and on syrup of sugar, or of sugar cane, and concentrated molasses, or concentrated melado, and on white and clayed sugars, when advanced beyond the raw state, by claying or other process, and not refined, three-fourths of one cent per pound; on refined sugars, whether loaf, lump, crushed or pulverized, two cents per pound; on sugars after being refined, when they are tinctured, colored, or in any way adulterated, and on sugar candy, four cents per pounds: *Provided*, That all syrups of sugar, or of sugar cane, concentrated molasses, or melado, entered under the name of molasses, or any other name than syrup of sugar, or of sugar cane, concentrated molasses, or concentrated melado, shall be liable to forfeiture to the United States; on molasses two cents per gallon; on confectionery of all kinds, not otherwise provided for, thirty per centum ad valorem.

MOVEMENT OF MILITARY STORES.—The steamship Empire City is still anchored at Quarantine, at New York. The steamer Star of the West sailed for the Brazos Tuesday afternoon. The schooner M. P. Hudson sailed the same day for Fort Johnson, with a cargo of cannon, provisions, etc. Another steamer is loading for Fort Jefferson, at Governor's Island.

THE INTENDED EVACUATION OF FORT SUMTER.

OPINIONS OF THE REPUBLICAN PRESS.

It is stated that on Tuesday a dispatch was sent by the Government at Washington to Major Anderson, instructing him to inform the authorities of South Carolina that the garrison will be withdrawn from Fort Sumter so soon as a steamer can be sent to convey them to New York. He is also to arrange with them to permit the vessel to enter the port without molestation. There is to be no formal surrender, but he is to leave it with a small garrison, who will surrender on demand, without opposition. The rumors and speculations of the correspondents of the New York papers on the subjece are interesting. The Washington letter to the Tribune says:

There is a great fever among the Republicans in the city on account of the orders for the retirement of the troops srom Fort Sumter. Every man is ferocious at the bare idea of such a thing. The act is deprecated and denounced in every form of anathema; yet it is an act in which the Cabinet are compelled to be comparatively passive. They merely follow the judgment of Gen. Scott, who advises the evacuation, and, of course, takes the whole responsibility of the act. But the reason of its surrender must not be misunderstood. It is done wholly because it cannot now be reinforced before the supplies of the garrison are exhausted.

The rumors about Fort Pickens being given up are entirely unfounded. This fortress can be reinforced, and it will be.

An extra session of Congress is likely to be soon called to supply the omission of the last, and to enable the Administration to assert the authority of the Government. The policy will probably be to repeal the laws making ports of the seceding States ports of foreign entry, and to station national vessels thereat to prevent foreign importations.

WASHINGTON, Monday, March 11.—There is no longer any doubt that Major Anderson's command is to be withdrawn from Fort Sumter. General Scott decides it to be a military necessity, and his judgment determines the question, as it has done some others nearly as delicate. Conferences have been held for several days past, with Mr. Bache, of the Coast Survey, in regard to the access to Charleston harbor; with Mr. Totten, of the Engineers, and with other distinguished officers of the different corps. After a full consultation it was agreed that the attempt to reinforce Fort Sumter could only be made in two ways, and then with doubtful success. First, by a large naval force breaking into the harbor, through the obstructions in the channel, if possible; and, second, by landing an army of over 10,000 men, and attacking the batteries in the rear which command the entrance to the harbor.

The President has no army at his disposal for this purpose. Eight companies are now stationed in this city, and seven at Fortress Monroe, none of which can be spared. The troops recently dispersed in Texas will not be available for several months, if at all, and but 250 are reported as on the way back. The force in Utah cannot be reached immediately. Congress gave no power to call out volunteers in case of necessity, and therefore the President is confined to the actual and limited regular force. His hands are tied, and his resources crippled by the treasonable conspiracy of his predecessor and Cabinet. This predicament was deliberately contrived to embarrass the new Administration.

The decision to withdraw Major Anderson naturally excites much feeling, particularly among the Western delegations. What effect it may produce upon foreign Governments, which looked to the assertion of a strong policy at all hazards, remains to be seen.—Here, it is regarded as a compulsory alternative, to which Mr. Lincoln has yielded from overwhelming necessity, and because he was powerless to carry out his own purpose.

The Washington dispatch to the New York Times says:

Quite a sensation was created here this morning, at the Capitol and Departments, by a report that Mr. Chase had resigned the Treasuryship on account of the determination to withdraw the troops from Fort Sumter.—There is, however, no foundation for the report, except that Mr. Chase is known to be strongly opposed to that policy. His friends are assured that the Cabinet has not yet decided the point respecting the forts, and that Mr. Chase, consequently, will attend to his duties as usual.

While no decision has been come to on the subject, I am satisfied that the Administration will not reinforce at the terrible sacrifice of life which Gen. Scott says it would require.

Of course there are divisions of opinion on this policy. Wade says it's a surrender; but many who at first doubted its propriety, accept its wisdom upon reflection.

Andrew Johnson says Mr. Lincoln should have no false pride on this subject; that his Administration is not responsible for the existing condition of affairs, which makes it wiser now to withdraw the troops than to reinforce.

Depend upon it, the statement is untrue that orders for the withdrawal have already been issued. That was a stock-jobbing *canard*. As late as Friday last the President was decidedly against withdrawal, but information, since received, together with military information bearing on the question, have led him to think more favorably of the policy.

A dispatch to the Herald says:

The Republican Senators, immediately after the adjournment, held a caucus and remained in session for upwards of two hours. It is understood that the question of evacuating Fort Sumter was one of the questions under consideration. There was a large majority of Senators opposed to that policy. They say that it would be regarded as a back down from their position. Other Senators say they had better back down a thousand times than plunge the country into civil war.

OPINIONS OF THE REPUBLICAN PRESS.

The Tribune accepts the evacuation as a necessity, but grumbles bitterly:

It is not for us to judge of the justification the Government may have for surrendering—or abandoning, for there is no difference in the two acts—a post of so much importance, for the circumstances by which they are influenced are not yet fully known to us. But we may, at least, express the wish that no determination to take so important and irrevocable a step be come to through any hasty counsel. War, and the consequences of war, are a possible near future from which few shrink with more instinctive dread than we do; but there are worse sacrifices in the conduct of human affairs than human life.

For four months the Federal Government has succumbed to rebellion, because it wanted, not material, but moral strength. If the cost of reinforcing Sumter be so great in blood and treasure that its surrender or abandonment may seem advisable, there can, at least, be no immediate haste for such a step, and Mr. Lincoln may divide the responsibility with Congress by appealing to them for aid. For the surrender of a post by the new Administration, before it has been a fortnight in power, which the outgoing Administration, with all its imbecility and pusillanimity, persisted in holding, is an act which cannot fail to have most important consequences. It is, to begin with, an acknowledgment of the defeat of the Federal Government, and that the doctrine announced in Mr. Lincoln's Inaugural is found to be untenable on the very first trial.

It is an acknowledgment that the Union is utterly dissolved past all possibility of reconstruction, except by the most abject concessions. It is, moreover, a question whether these acknowledgments will not so demoralize the North, and so strengthen the South, that the hideous front of Compromise may be again raised with renewed hopes and renewed strength, and whether the vigor which has hitherto opposed it may not, by this act, have gone out from us forever. As we said before, we cannot judge of the wisdom of this or that step, without a better knowledge of all the circumstances than we now possess; but we cannot help thinking, that if we are to accept the terms of disunion which the Confederate States offer us, we may begin with some act less humiliating than the surrender of Fort Sumter.

The N. York Commercial Advertiser thinks the abandonment of the fort tantamount to an acknowledgment of the Southern Confederacy:

"It is possible, barely possible, thereofte, that yielding to the necessities of the case, the President purposes the surrender of Fort Sumter to the Southern Confederacy. If so, the controversy is at an end. The revolution in the South is successful. The Southern Confederacy is a rival sovereign Republic on this Continent. The United States has lost tens of thousands of miles of territory, two thousand miles of coast, with its harbors and fortifications, and thus curtailed largely of the means of defence and commerce will be at the mercy of a foreign power on its Southern as well as its Northern border. We use this language because Sumter will never be retaken or restored. Its tenure by the Federal Government, with that of Fort Pickens, is the only check upon the revolutionists. Let them once have possession of all the forts upon the Gulf coast, as they will then have, and the Southern Confederacy is a Government *de facto* thenceforth."

The surrender is made on the presumption that no blood must be shed to retain it. Fort Pickens must be surrendered also on the same principle, and on the same principle a gun can never be fired or a sword drawn for the recovery of them, or either of them, by the Federal Government. Say we not rightly, then, that if Fort Sumter is to be given up, the whole question is virtually settled and the American Union irrecoverably destroyed for lack of power to maintain it?

The New York Evening Post places the blame on Mr. Buchanan, and calls the evacuation the last fruits of trêason:

We do not know that it is yet wholly impossible to save the honor of the nation—the military advisers of the Cabinet, who are competent to form an opinion will decide upon that point; but we do know that if Maj. Anderson is ordered to beat an ignominious retreat, the act will produce a general howl of indignation. No real American, we care not what his politics, will consent to see his nation degraded and dishonored, without a vehement protest. True, it is said that the withdrawal of the garrison from Fort Sumter will have a good effect in the Border States; that it will deprive the Secessionists there of their principal means of inflaming the popular passions; but such pleas are both useless and cowardly. The Border States do not mean to leave the Union; their people have given evidence enough of that fact, and it is but a poor compliment to their patriotism or their honor to say that their adherence can only be purchased by sacrifices which involve the lasting disgrace of the Union. Let it be once understood that the Union can only be saved by vacating the General Government of all its functions, and the question will arise whether it is worth saving at all.

The Times, on the other hand, approves of the abandonment of the fort:

In these circumstances, what is the duty of the Government at Washington? Shall it persist in an attempt to retain a position, the untenableness of which is demonstrated by every military adviser, by every fact within its knowledge, and by the unwilling testimony of the Commander himself? In this utterly hopeless enterprise, shall it precipitate a civil conflict, the deplorable results of which will be not only the industrial and social ruin of this generation, but an inheritance of feud and bloodshed to its successors? When the Border States, with patriotic moderation, have withdrawn all other conditions of their abiding loyalty to the Union, save abstinence from coercion, shall we alienate them forever by this wanton and criminal pursuit of an impracticable point of honor, the offspring of sectional or partisan pride? These are the questions which engage the anxious attention of the new Cabinet, and engross its deliberations. Upon the determination, the immediate and remote future of the people are dependent.

The World also accepts the determination of the Administration as a necessity:

The Administration cannot reasonably be blamed for not undertaking to accomplish impossibilities. It is not to blame for the faults, failures, and imbecile mismanagement of its predecessor in power, nor for the shortcomings of Congress. Mr. Lincoln's administration is not to be blamed because it cannot turn back the hands on the dial plate, and deal with this question as it might and ought to have been dealt with four months ago. The late Administration failed to reinforce the forts of Charleston harbor, in disregard of the advice of General Scott, and the urgent entreaties of Gen. Wool, at a time when reinforcement was both easy and would have been a powerful check on the progress of secession.

Reinforcements have been rendered more difficult and less valuable by every day's delay since, till at length the holding of Fort Sumter has ceased to be of much value, except for its moral effect on the country. Not, by any means, that it is a light thing for the country to be disgraced and humiliated, and made to blush for the imbecility of its Government. But if Buchanan had strengthened the Charleston forts when Gen. Scott first advised it, he would not only have saved the national honor, but have retained strongholds of great strategic value. But we fear all is now lost, because Mr. Lincoln's administration did not commence till the 4th of March. May God avert the disgrace, if it be possible; and if not, enable the country to profit by the discipline of humiliation.

EXCITING TIMES IN FREDERICKSBURG.—They are having exciting times in Fredericksburg, Va. On Monday night a Union meeting was held, of which the News says:

G. H. C. Rowe and J. W. Hunnicutt addressed the meeting in favor of "revolution and fighting, not secession and retreat." Mr. Lacy was called, but the noise and confusion drowned his voice. Dr. Blankman was also called on, but could not get a hearing. Resolutions opposed to coercion and in favor of fighting in the Union were declared to be passed amid the greatest confusion. It was very disorderly throughout. One man had an egg smashed on his head. Anarchy seems to be upon us.

On Friday night a secession meeting was held and resolutions adopted, urging the immediate withdrawal of Virginia. The same paper says:

Messrs. Gilman, Herndon, Braxton, Barton, Rowe, Lacy, and J. L. Marye, Jr., made speeches. The American flag was hissed and thrust out of the door. One man who proposed three cheers for the Union was threatened with expulsion, and it was said he was "joking," but he dared an attack.

A dispatch to the Herald says:

The Republican Senators, immediately after the adjournment, held a caucus and remained in session for upwards of two hours. It is understood that the question of evacuating Fort Sumter was one of the questions under consideration. There was a large majority of Senators opposed to that policy. They say that it would be regarded as a back down from their position. Other Senators say they had better back down a thousand times than plunge the country into civil war.

LIABILITIES OF RAILROADS FOR CATTLE KILLED IN THE STATE OF DELAWARE.—Important decisions, involving the rights and liabilities of railway companies and the owners of cattle killed by trains when on the track, have just been made by Chief Justice Gilpin, of the State of Delaware:

That a railroad company, legally chartered, has the unobstructed right of way over its own road; that it cannot be held in damages for any loss which owners of cattle may sustain if their cattle are killed or injured while upon the track, and when due diligence and caution are observed on the part of those in charge of the train, to prevent said destruction or injury; that the company is not bound to fence in the lands or farms along the line of road merely for the sake of keeping cattle off the track, but that it is the duty of owners of cattle to see that such cattle do not interfere with and obstruct the passage of the trains, and thus become trespassers; that persons who suffer their animals to roam at large upon the track, to the detriment of the travel by obstructing the road, are liable in a suit for trespass thereof.

RICHMOND SUPPLYING THE SOUTH WITH ARMS. The Mobile Tribune, of Thursday last, has the following:

At 11 o'clock to-day seven cars will arrive, having on board two large ten-inch Columbiads, direct from Richmond, Virginia. This will be the first trip direct from Richmond to this city. These cars bring not only the guns, but the carriages and other necessary articles in these perilous times. They were shipped from Richmond by the way of the Richmond and Danville Road, then by the Charleston and New Orleans to Corinth, thence to Mobile, without the cars being changed. So today we will have in our possession seven cars belonging to Richmond, Virginia, or, rather, to a foreign country.

EXCITEMENT IN LOUISIANA.—Says the Baton Rouge (La.) Gazette, of the 2d instant; "We are assured, on good authority, that a gang of runaway negroes, about fourteen in number, are depredating almost with impunity on the property of citizens living on the eastern side of the Comite river, in this parish. They have been frequently seen in squads; some of them armed with shot guns; and in one instance a gun was put to the head of a white man by one of four negroes who emerged from the bushes just as the former was in the act of securing one of their comrades. Two white men are with these negroes, both armed with double-barrelled guns, and doubtless are the instigators of their thieving and insolence.—An expedition is on foot to capture the whole party. If it succeeds, the white villains will get their reward. Of course, much excitement and apprehension exist in the neighborhood."

THE ARMY AND NAVY.—The Army Register for 1861 has been issued. It gives the total enlisted force of the Army at 17,005—aggregate 18,122. There are 198 companies in the different regiments. If all these were subject to the increased allowance of the regiments serving on distant stations, the total enlisted would be 17,549, and the aggregate 18,666.

The distribution of our naval forces throughout the world, as given in the Naval Register for 1861, just issued, is as follows:

	Vessels.	Off. and Men.	Guns.	Tons.
Home Fleet	11	2,400	172	11,120
Mediterranean Fleet	3	990	47	5,192
Pacific Fleet	6	1,402	85	7,362
African Fleet	7	1,585	104	6,444
China Fleet	4	700	86	4,375
Special Service	3	950	63	7,587
Total	34	7,927	597	42,080

MISSIONARIES SAILED.—The ship National Eagle sailed from Boston on Saturday for Madras and Calcutta. The following were passengers: Rev. Edward Webb, wife and two children; Rev. John Scudder, M. D., and wife; Rev. D. C. Scudder and wife; Edward Gould, Jr., of Boston; Mrs. Matthews (captain's wife,) and child.

THE INTERIOR OF THE FLOATING BATTERY.—A New York merchant, who, while in Charleston, was shown through the Floating Battery, furnishes the Times with the following description of its interior:

Accompanied by one of the Governor's Aids and met by Lieut. Hamilton at the entrance, we crawled through the gun holes, and stepped on the main deck. The first impression is that of immense solidity. The outer or gun side is covered with six plates of iron—two of them of the T railroad pattern, placed horizontally, and the other four bolted one over the other, in the strongest manner, and running vertically. The wall of the gun side is full four feet thick, constructed of that peculiar Palmetto wood, so full of fibrous material that 64-pounders cannot pierce them. The main deck is wide and roomy. In nineteen open chambers, on the port side of the deck, we found a profusion of shot—34-pounders, while just beyond them is an immense pile of sand-bags, which protect an overhanging roof, under which is to be placed the hospital. This also protects the magazines (three in number,) under which is the hold proper. There are six entrances to the hold, which will contain, if necessary, over three hundred men.—When it is finally moored near Sumter, there will be four heavy wedges driven down by a species of a ram, which will hold it fast, and prevent any swaying around by the tide.—Although not versed in military matters, I should say that its immense strength of Palmetto logs and iron combined, with a bomb-proof roof over all, will make it perfectly impervious to anything that Major Anderson can bring to bear against it. While thus secure, the inventor claims that he can easily effect a breach in the weak side of the fort.

THE LONDON DEFALCATION.—The advices of the City of Manchester are to the 20th of February, not so late by six days as our previous intelligence; but the arrival furnishes the details of the trouble in the Commercial Bank of London. The delinquent was a ledger clerk named Durden. The amount of the embezzlement, as before stated, is £67,000, and it has been accumulating for several years. The fraud was perpetrated by simply retaining a portion of the funds paid in by customers, who were duly credited for the full amounts, while the sums retained were written off to the credit of a fictitious account, said to have been opened in the name of a confederate in the country. Durden never absented himself from his duties, as his absence would have led to immediate detection. A few weeks back, however, a paralytic seizure incapacitated him for his duties, and the whole affair at once became known. The money was squandered in building speculations. The Directors of the Bank promptly transferred their business to the London and Westminster Bank. The stockholders were expected to escape without loss, and a considerable portion of the embezzlement was expected to be recovered.

FOREIGN GOSSIP.—At the marriage of the young Earl of Lincoln with Miss Hope, the jewelry worn by the bride cost upwards of £12,000, and consisted of a handsome head ornament of diamonds, and a diamond necklace. Mr. Hope, it is said, gives the Countess of Lincoln £6,000 a year pin money, and the use of an Irish estate.

At the last levee, Her Majesty Queen Victoria wore a train of black satin, trimmed with black gimp and rosettes. The petticoat of black satin, trimmed in front with black lace and gimp. The head-dress was a diadem of emerald and diamonds.

It is openly asserted that the Spanish Court is infested by the most unworthy characters. Thefts and robberies are quite frequent, and recently one of the ladies of the palace was detected in forging the name of the Queen, in order to raise money, at the expense of a paramour.

MARYLAND STATE CONVENTION.—The Maryland "State Conference Convention" re-assembled at Baltimore Tuesday morning, in pursuance of adjournment from the 20th ult. Delegations were present from all the counties except Frederick, Talbot, Caroline, Prince George's and Worcester. Judge Chambers, on taking the Chair, made a statement that he had been informed before leaving home that Governor Hicks had determined to call a Convention, or submit the question of a Convention to a vote of the people, but since arriving here he had been informed by parties who had conferred with the Governor as late as Saturday morning last, that he had no intention at present of taking any such action. The session was spent in discussion, and in the reception of various resolutions, which were referred to a committee.

DROWNED.—Geo. W. Durst, who served in the Palmetto Regiment through the Mexican war, was drowned in the canal, near Augusta, Ga., on the 4th ult., while repairing a dam. The deceased acted well his part as a soldier in all the distinguished conflicts in which his regiment was engaged in Mexico, and received on his return home the medal awarded for gallantry by his generous State. At the Garita de Belin, in the heat of the combat, and whilst the men of Drum's Battery were being annihilated by the enemy, he several times constituted one of a number that volunteered from the South Carolina Regiment to aid that gallant officer in manning his gun; and when the last man of the Battery, and the heroic Captain himself had fallen, and several of the Palmettos besides, Durst was still standing at the gun.

MISSOURI CONVENTION.—In the Missouri Convention, on Monday, a committee was appointed to investigate the truth of the statement contained in the Missouri Republican, that a secret conspiracy existed to force Missouri out of the Union. A minority report on Federal affairs was presented, opposing a National Convention as recommended by the majority report, and proposing a Convention of the Border States, to be held at Nashville. It recommends the Crittenden Compromise, and advises the appointment of Commissioners to the Border States to secure their co-operation in the movement. The majority report was debated, but no action had been taken when the Convention adjourned.

LEASING THE OHIO CANALS.—The Cleveland Herald learns that a proposition is before the Ohio Legislature, looking to the lease of the public works of the State to a private company, composed of responsible men. The proposition is to lease the canal for a period of ten years, the company to pay $10,000 a year, afford proper facilities for transit, charge a toll not higher than the present established rates, and effect all the necessary repairs under the direction and to the satisfaction of the Engineers and Board of Trustees appointed and elected by the State. The expenses on the public works of the State exceeded the receipts last year by nearly $140,000.

SOCIETY FOR THE PURCHASE OF VENETIA.—The Sicilians have just organized a society for the purchase of Venetia, and elected Garibaldi as its President. In a very eloquently written address, the founders of this society make a warm appeal to the patriotic feelings of the Italians, and announce that societies of a similar character will be established in all parts of Italy. When the amount subscribed is equivalent to the estimated value of Venetia, it will be offered to Austria; if she refuses to accept it, it will be applied to the raising and equipping of an army for the conquest of that province.

THE OHIO FAT BOY.—The body of Vantile Mack, the celebrated Ohio Fat Boy, who died in New York while exhibiting at Barnum's Museum, passed through Pittsburg on Thursday, by railroad. It was marked, "Agent Ohio Fat Boy, Darlington, Pennsylvania," and was described on the bill of lading as follows: "One Fat Boy—dead. Double first class passenger freight. Weight, 600 pounds.—Freight, $2.50." The weight, as given above, includes the coffin and box.

AFFAIRS IN TEXAS.—Texas advices say the troops formerly stationed at Camp Ringgold have arrived at Fort Brown, on