Richmond Dispatch.
BY COWARDIN & HAMMERSLEY.
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FRIDAY MORNING......MARCH 15, 1861.

VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION.

TWENTY-FIFTH DAY.

THURSDAY, March 14, 1861.

The Convention was called to order at 12 o'clock. Prayer by the Rev. Mr. BAKER, of Grace Church, (Episcopal.)

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

Mr. NEBLETT, of Lunenburg, presented a series of resolutions adopted by the citizens of his county, favoring immediate secession, opposing a Border State Convention, and repudiating the Peace Conference propositions.

Mr. KENT, of Wythe, presented the proceedings of a meeting held in that county, with resolutions in favor of an immediate withdrawal of Virginia from the Union, and against the consideration of any subjects by the Convention not appertaining to National affairs.

Referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.

THE PEACE PROPOSITIONS.

The PRESIDENT stated the pending question to be on the motion to refer to the Committee on Federal Relations the report from the Commissioners to the Peace Conference.

Mr. TYLER, of Charles City, being entitled to the floor, resumed his remarks. After an allusion to his physical disabilities, he proceeded to allude to the Peace Conference propositions. He read an amendment which he had offered in the Conference, relative to the appointment of Territorial officers. He sought in this to guard the interests of the South, and to secure the appointment of trustworthy agents. He could not account for the vastly increased expenditures of Government within the last sixteen years, since he left the Administration. A system of plunder had grown up in the Territories, which he sought to restrain by his amendment. The whole Virginia delegation voted for it, yet it only received those five votes, plain and rational as it was. He would that it could be incorporated now upon any programme that is designed to be offered.

He then proceeded to consider the remaining sections, which he did not reach yesterday. He related an anecdote of the framers of the Constitution, to show that Southern people were best capable of managing their own affairs, and quoted a provision of that instrument, made in favor of the Southern States, touching representation and taxation, giving, in addition, decisions of the Supreme Court thereupon.

To the fourth section he had no objection, because it merely reaffirms the language of the Constitution. Against the fifth section, relative to the foreign slave trade, (and for which his friend from Kanawha had made the best apology that could be made,) the Virginia delegation voted as a unit. He had no desire to re-open the African slave trade; he protested against it. But they looked upon it as applicable to the inter-State slave trade, in the probable event of a recognition of the Southern Confederacy. To the sixth section there was nothing objectionable.—The last section was looked upon as the initiation of forced emancipation. The chief objection, however, was to the latter clause, securing to citizens of each State the privileges and immunities of citizens of other States.—The Constitution already provided for that, and this enactment would give Congress an opportunity to legislate upon the subject. In Northern States, Massachusetts among others, movements were on foot to secure to negroes the rights of citizenship, and he supposed the case of a Southern Senator sitting cheek-by-jowl with a negro in the Senate of the United States. The section was voted against unanimously by the Virginia delegation. In fact, the propositions offered nothing of a tangible character, while they omitted all that would be really for the security of the South. They gave no guarantees for the recovery of fugitives—no security against the operations of the underground railroad.

He alluded to Lincoln's proposition for a National Convention, which he illustrated by the couplet of the spider and the fly. If Virginia got into such a Convention, she would never get out again. It would not do for Virginia to fold her arms in slumber—she must do something. The probable evacuation of Fort Sumter was here touched upon, and he spoke of his efforts with President Buchanan in that direction. He thought the proceeding commendable in Lincoln, even though the necessity was forced upon him. He wished that the same policy might be pursued in regard to Fort Pickens, and that the Southern Confederacy might be recognized, in order to save the fragments of the Union. But events portended that something else was in contemplation, and it would not do for Virginia to rest idly under a delusion. All eyes were now turned towards her. If chicanery or cajolery were practiced, it would be well for her to look to it with suspicion; if it were found necessary to increase the garrison at Fortress Monroe, it would be well for her to look to it, and prepare for any emergency. The numerous resignations in the army meant something.—They would not disclose the secrets of the army, but it was apparent that movements were contemplated in which they could take no part. Virginia must have guarantees for protection against the aggressive power which had grown up in the North. Majorities are despotic—he had rather be governed by King One than King Numbers. If Virginia was disposed to try further experiments, let her go forth strong-handed, and without timidity. Let her yield not an inch. He wanted the Government of the whole Union, and believed we could acquire it if we pursued a sound policy. A voice was heard from N. Y. last night declaring that Va. held the destinies of the whole Union [He alluded to Mr. Cochrane.] By pursuing a decided, straightforward policy, the majority of the whole people would rally to her, and then the sceptre becomes theirs. He wanted the Convention to take sufficient time, and complete the work thoroughly, but not to be too slow, for the people were moving. Let Virginia act for herself—let her name her ultimatum—demand ample and full protection—and send it to the Border slave States, and to all the free States, telling them that if they cannot adopt the course proposed, Virginia cannot stay with them.—He had no fears of a division of sentiment between Eastern and Western Virginia. It was in the West that the men of former days stood and battled for their rights of domain, and the patriotic motive existed there still.

He alluded to the policy of the Administration as having been put forth insidiously to entrap the border slave States. The foreign appointments were sufficient to show the course of the future. Cassius M. Clay goes to Spain—a perfect fanatic on the subject of slavery. Cuba would not be acquired by the South under this Administration. The appointment of Mr. Corwin, to Mexico, was better. He expressed a high personal regard for that gentleman. But at the Courts of England and France this Government would be represented by men of Exeter Hall associations, who would go to preach tirades against the South. Was Virginia, then, to slink about in the possible hope of obtaining terms to remain in the Northern Confederacy, or was she to boldly stand up for her rights, and demand security for her rights? He alluded in eloquent terms to the records of the past, preserved upon the tombstones at Jamestown and at Yorktown, and appealed to the Convention, in the name of the illustrious men of former days, to take a position admitting of no doubt. He urged them to make the ultimatum strong—to say to the North, in the language of Canute to the waters of the great deep, "Thus far shalt thou come, and no farther." Tell them that the *statu quo* must be preserved as it is—that not another man must be sent to Fortress Monroe, Harper's Ferry, or to the fort on the Potomac. Alluding to a scurrilous attack upon him in the N. Y. *Times*, where he was branded as a traitor, he said he had engaged in no political manœuvring with any party. The only communication he had received from South Carolina was a dispatch in reply to an effort for the preservation of peace. His correspondence was all with the North. He delighted to correspond with such noble men as Edward Everett, Robert C. Winthrop, and the venerable Dr. Spring, of Albany. After some remarks upon the skillful game of the Republicans in Congress, he spoke briefly of the proposed Conference of the Border Slave States, which he thought would amount to nothing. But if the ultimatum which he suggested were put forth, he could not foretell the greatness of its results. He was not prepared to say it would not be the means of restoring the glorious Union. He was not satisfied that the South would not come back. Virginia could not do without the Cotton States, and it was idle to talk of it. If those States were put up in the market to-morrow, Russia, England and France would bid for them until millions would not tell the amount. The exchanges of the world are regulated by cotton. And was all this to be thrown away because some thought that South Carolina had acted badly? After an eloquent tribute to South Carolina, he went on to consider the slight probability of benefit accruing to Virginia, by exchanging the trade with the South for a traffic in ice derived from the ponds of Massachusetts.

Mr. TYLER said in closing, that he had presented the subject with as much force as he was capable of in his enfeebled condition, and thanked the Convention for the respectful attention given to his remarks.

Mr. CONRAD, of Frederick, said that while he had listened with interest to the discussion of a subject which had occupied three days, he thought it was time for the Convention to address itself to something of a more practical character. He therefore hoped the question on referring the report would be taken without further debate.

The question was then put—Shall the report of the Commissioners to the Peace Conference be referred to the Committee on Federal Relations?—and decided in the affirmative.

THE REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEE.

Mr. CONRAD offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the report of the Committee on Federal Relations be made the order of the day, in Committee of the Whole, to-morrow at half-past 12 o'clock, and continue so, from day to day, until further ordered.

Mr. WISE, of Princess Anne, suggested that the minority reports be included in the resolution.

Mr. CONRAD said that in his ignorance of parliamentary law he had supposed that the whole subject would come up in debate. He would, however, cheerfully acquiesce in the suggestion if it were necessary.

Some further remarks were made on parliamentary law, by Messrs. Wise and Dorman.

Mr. SHEFFEY, of Smythe, said there were rumors of the Committee soon being able to report in full, having thus far only made a partial report. He inquired of the Chairman in regard to the time it might be expected.

Mr. CONRAD, (Chairman of the Committee,) could not state with exactness; but he supposed by the end of this week, or on Monday next.

Mr. SHEFFEY then moved to amend the resolution by striking out "to-morrow" and inserting "Monday next."

Mr. CONRAD opposed the amendment, and after some further remarks by Mr. SHEFFEY, it was rejected.

The resolution having been changed by inserting the words "with the minority reports from said committee," was then adopted.

DEFENCE OF THE STATE.

Mr. RICHARDSON, of Hanover, moved to take from the table the following resolution, offered by himself on the 28th of February:

Resolved, That in furtherance of the resolution adopted by this Convention on the 20th inst., seeking information of the Governor regarding the militia, the Adjutant General of the State be, and he is hereby, requested to communicate to this body, as speedily as is compatible with a thorough report on this subject, how many and what kind of arms are in the possession of the State, undistributed, and the number and kind of additional companies which can and will, probably, shortly be armed. Also, at what points, in his judgment, having due reference to the localities of the different companies, and to economy in time and money, the whole volunteer force of the State can be best assembled in bodies sufficiently large to be instructed in battalion evolutions, in the evolutions of the line, in siege, garrison and camp duties, incident to the respective arms of the service, and any other information in his reach calculated to throw light on the means necessary to put the Commonwealth in a complete state of preparation against attack.

Mr. RICHARDSON advocated the taking up of the resolution. It merely instituted an inquiry, and does not propose to appropriate one dollar. Let Virginia do what she will, the present crisis is one of great peril; and wherever she might go, he desired that she might be placed in a position to make good what she deems proper to demand. If she goes North, she is likely to have war with the South; if she goes South, she encounters the risk of a war with the General Government; if she goes into a Middle Confederacy, she will have war with both sections; and if she goes nowhere, there might be war between the East and West. He thought the Convention had a right to instruct the Legislature to pass a bill to meet the emergency. Nothing worth speaking of had yet been done in that direction. The Legislature at its last session made an appropriation for the defence of the State, and now there were less than eleven thousand troops, and those deficiently armed.—There were rumors of the concentration of Government troops at different points, and something practical ought to be done for the protection of Virginia. There was, it is true, a formidable battery of words; and if we could believe all we hear, there were men not a hundred miles from Richmond who could eat half a dozen Yankees for breakfast, take Harper's Ferry and Fortress Monroe during the same day, and bring back the keys of those positions by supper time. He thought the men who talked the loudest would be found wanting in the hour of danger. He hoped the resolution would meet with no opposition.—If it passed, it was his purpose to withdraw from the Committee on Federal Relations a resolution which he offered early in the session, proposing measures looking to the defence of the Commonwealth.

Mr. EARLY, of Franklin, was opposed to taking up the resolution. The last clause would require the services of competent Engineers, and the State had none in her employment.

Mr. RICHARDSON said the gentleman had entirely misinterpreted the language of the resolution. It merely sought information from the Adjutant General on the points stated.

Mr. BROWN, of Preston, thought it was a subject properly belonging to the Legislature, and he was opposed to taking it up. He then moved an adjournment, but withdrew it at the request of

Mr. RICHARDSON, who proceeded to correct the misapprehension under which gentlemen labored in respect to the resolution.

Mr. BOISSEAU, of Dinwiddie, renewed the motion to adjourn, but withdrew it.

The question was then taken and resulted—ayes 44, noes 28. No quorum voting.

On motion of Mr. BURDETT, the Convention adjourned.

THE MARYLAND STATE CONVENTION—*Adjournment.*—The informal State Conference, of Maryland, assembled in Baltimore, closed its business Wednesday, and adjourned for the present. The resolutions adopted declare that "the policy and interests of Maryland require that no action shall be taken by which the State shall be committed until the State of Virginia shall have determined the question of a proposed Conference or some other measure requiring the co-operation of this State." The Convention further resolved that the proposition for a Conference among the Southern Border States, by delegates deriving authority from the people, would meet the approval of Maryland, and appointed a Committee to visit the Virginia Convention and express to them the foregoing assurance."

"Those of the delegates who desired to go farther than was proposed by the report of the Committee on Resolutions, submitted amendments declaring that all attempts upon the part of the Government to "re-occupy," repossess, or re-take" any forts or any other property within the limits of the seceded States, would be acts of war, and that such acts would absolve Maryland and the Border States from all connection with the United States. Judge Chambers left the Chair and opposed these amendments as in reality opening the way to secession, and as initiating a programme that would not be sanctioned by the people of Maryland. Strong speeches were made in support of the amendments, and for a time an "irrepressible conflict" threatened the harmony of the Conference.—Finally the subject was got rid of by postponing its consideration until the next meeting of the Conference."

The Commissioners appointed to Virginia, are Ex-Gov. E. L. Lowe, Judge Chambers, W. H. Norris, and Dr. J. Hanson Thomas.—They will arrive in Richmond to-morrow morning.

MORE PLUCKING OF THE GOOSE.—The famous Japanese swindle has been outdone; publicans have been found who surpass the Lelands, and Albany eclipses New York. Mr. Lincoln and his suite are more prodigious feeders and drinkers than the No-Kamis.—They remained for less than one day at the Delavan House in Albany, and a bill was rendered to the amount of eleven hundred and twenty dollars. As there were eighteen persons in the party, two of whom, Mr. and Mrs Lincoln, did not dine in the hotel, the expense for each person, three-quarters of a day, was just seventy dollars! Included in this bill was a charge of three hundred and fifty-seven dollars for wine, or above twenty-two dollars or nine bottles a head. We are not surprised, after such drinking, at a considerable charge for Congress water. Neither is it wonderful that the breakages for stoves, chairs, and so forth, were set down at a hundred and fifty dollars. Fellows with nine bottles of liquor under their belts must have been in a state to break everything about them, even their necks. Shakspeare makes Iago say that "your Englishmen is the most potent in poting; your Dane, your German, your swagbellied Hollander are nothing to your English. He drinks you with facility your Dane dead drunk; he sweats not to over throw your Almain, and he gives your Hollander a vomit ere the next bottle can be filled. Oh, sweet England." But England is a two-penny mug to your genuine American, according to the hotel bills. When the Prince of Wales was at Albany, with a retinue of thirty persons, his bill at Congress Hall for two days was two hundred and fifty dollars, including sixty dollars given to servants. How moderate in comparison with the traveling party of the President elect!—Mr. Lincoln being a rigid temperance man, the keepers of the Delavan have probably taken their revenge upon him in this manner. *N. Y. Post.*

CONFIRMATIONS BY THE SENATE.—The following are all the confirmations made by the U. S. Senate on Wednesday: John Z. Goodrich, Collector at Boston; Geo. W. McLellan, Second Assistant Postmaster General; DeWitt C. Littlejohn, Consul at Liverpool; William H. Vesey, Consul at Aix la Chapelle; Lucius G. Forbes, Postmaster at Beloit, Wisconsin; John J. Speed, Postmaster at Louisville, Ky.; George Harrington, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury; J. P. Baker, of Nebraska, Agent of the Otoe and Menominee Indians.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA.

[EXTRA SESSION.]

SENATE.

THURSDAY, March 14, 1861.

The Senate was called to order at 10 o'clock, Mr. THOMAS, of Fairfax, in the Chair. Prayer by Rev. Mr. BROWN.

Bills Passed.—Senate bill to increase the pay of certain officers of the Public Guard; House bill to amend chapter 108 of the Code, concerning births, marriages and deaths. On motion of Mr. DOUGLASS, House bill providing for payment of the Peace Commissioners was taken up, and he offered the following amendments: To insert $10 per day instead of $8; also, to give $6 per day additional to John Tyler. The amendments were agreed to, and the bill was passed unanimously.—Senate bill for the relief of the securities of Robert Chambers, Sheriff of Boone county; Senate bill to incorporate the Coal and Oil Company of Braxton county; Senate bill to incorporate the Commonwealth Savings Bank, of Richmond; Senate bill to amend the charter of the Virginia Car-Spring Company; also, to amend certain acts relating to the charter of the New Creek Company, of Hampshire county; also, to incorporate the Laurel Valley Oil and Coal Company, in the county of Mason; also, to authorize Thomas Chancellor to erect a wharf on his lands; Senate bill extending the corporate limits of the town of Fredericksburg; Senate bill to incorporate the Burning Springs and Oil-Line Railroad Company; also, to authorize the Circuit Court of Preston county to legalize the conveyance of a tract of land made by Andrew Oliphant, as guardian or committee of William Smith, an idiot; also, to incorporate the Silver Run Mining and Manufacturing Company; House bill to amend and re-enact the 2d section of an act passed Feb. 8, 1860, to revive and amend an act passed March 1st, 1853, entitled "an act to amend and revive the charter of Little Kanawha Navigation Company;" also, to amend the charter of the Sir John's Run Turnpike Company; also, to amend an act incorporating the town of Christiansburg, and extending the limits of the same.

Bills Rejected.—Senate bill for the relief of Rowland Fletcher; Senate bill to refund a sum of money to the Virginia Rifles, paid by them for sword bayonets, was rejected for want of a constitutional majority, (ayes 24, noes 6;) Senate bill to authorize a loan to the Western Military College, was rejected for want of a constitutional majority.

On motion of Mr. TALIAFERRO, the vote by which the bill was lost was reconsidered, and, on his motion, laid on the table.

Bills Reported.—Mr. BRANNON, from Committee, reported House bill imposing taxes for the support of government, and on his motion, it was ordered to be printed. He also reported, with a recommendation against passing, House bill to amend the 35th section of an act entitled "an act imposing taxes for the support of government," passed March 31st, 1860.

Resolution of Inquiry.—Mr. WICKHAM offered the following joint resolution:

Whereas, there is at this time a very large number of able-bodied convicts in the Penitentiary unemployed, and kept at a heavy expense to the Commonwealth; and whereas the Capitol of the State is getting in bad repair, and it may become desirable at some future day to construct a new Capitol; and whereas the State owns valuable granite quarries within a short distance of the city of Richmond: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That a select committee of five be appointed to inquire into the expediency of authorizing the Governor of the Commonwealth to cause a portion of the convicts of the Penitentiary to be employed in quarrying and dressing granite, with a view to the future erection of a new Capitol.

The PRESIDENT appointed Messrs. Wickham, Dickinson of P. E., August, Paxton and Pennybacker, as the committee.

On motion of Mr. NEWMAN, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

THURSDAY, March 14th, 1861.

The House was called to order at 11 o'clock, by the SPEAKER. Prayer by Rev. GEO. PETTIGREW, of the Disciples Church.

A communication was read from the Senate announcing the passage of a number of bills; among them House bill "authorizing the issue of Treasury notes," with an amendment striking out three words—"at any period."

The bill requires that the Governor shall direct the Auditor of Public Accounts to borrow for the Commonwealth of Virginia, from time to time, an amount not exceeding, in the aggregate, *at any period*, one million of dollars.

Mr. HAYMOND moved to strike out the Senate's amendment, and insert—

"*Provided*, That no part of the money authorized to be borrowed by this act, shall be borrowed, except so much thereof as may be required to pay the necessary expenses of the Government, except it shall be necessary to repel invasion, or to provide for the defence of the State, when, in the opinion of the Executive, it shall be necessary for our protection so to do; nor shall any money be paid out of the public treasury to carry into effect the act passed January 22d, 1861, creating an Ordnance Department; nor shall any money be paid out of the public treasury under the provisions of the act of 20th January, providing for the defence of the State, and of any other moneys, except the money borrowed under the provisions of this act."

Mr. KEMPER opposed the proposition and hoped the House would stand by the original bill.

The SPEAKER ruled that the proposition of Mr. HAYMOND was out of order, as the bill could only be amended by way of a ryder.

Mr. HAYMOND moved to postpone indefinitely; and the same being opposed by Messrs. HACKLEY and ANDERSON, was withdrawn.

Mr. COWAN moved to lay the bill on the table. In doing so, he said, year after year I have voted appropriations providing for the defence of the Commonwealth, and when this bill passed this House I was in favor of it—*now* I am opposed to it. Sir, the sovereignty of Virginia is assembled in Mechanics' Institute, and have virtually said that we shall not fight, if we want to. More than that, sir; the Convention, by a very significant vote, the other day, refused to even organize a committee to take into consideration the subject of taxation, a measure of redress being hoped and prayed for by my section. Sir, this bill will necessarily increase the taxes, and I am uttery opposed to any bill to tax my people to defend and protect an institution which is made the instrument of their oppression.

Mr. KEMPER spoke of the defenceless condition of the State, and for the purpose of being allowed an opportunity to speak on the bill, moved an indefinite postponement.

Mr. CRANE rose to a point of order, and proceeded to deliver an amusing harangue, of a demonstrative character. He thought Mr. KEMPER wished to do all the speaking, having submitted his motion for the purpose of being allowed a chance to talk.

The SPEAKER said that he had not recognized Mr. K., and therefore he did not have the floor.

Mr. CRANE opposed the bill; its object was to purchase or make arms, to make war on our Northern friends. He had supposed this relict of barbarism had passed away—that arms were to be used to enforce treaties or to wrest rights from foreign powers. He would not have the world think that Virginia was training men to march against their friends. He must know that an army was marching against us, before he could take up arms, &c. He had been called a submissionist. He desired to adhere to the institutions and Government founded and purchased with the blood and treasure of his fathers—he was proud of the title. He objected to the bill because it requires the immediate issue of Treasury notes. He hoped it would lay on the table.

Mr. ROBERTSON hoped the House would not halt, nor take one backward step on the line of policy it had heretofore decided to pursue. That policy looked, indeed, to the preservation of peace; but recognized the contingency of war, and the wisdom of being prepared for it. There were two propositions at the base of this policy, on which he thought almost the whole State stood united—one was, that a policy of force could not be adopted by the General Government, under present circumstances, without imperilling the most vital interests of Virginia, and if adopted, force would be repelled by force; and as this force policy was urged by many, and the decision in respect to it doubtful, she decides to prepare for an emergency, and place arms in the hands of her citizens—for though it might be true, in general, as one of the opponents of the bill said, that "Error ceased to be dangerous while Reason was left free to combat it," no one ever dreamed that if Error came with arms in her hands, Reason should not be armed, too, to resist her. Hence this bill, to give our citizens the means of defending themselves and repelling aggression, if force should be the policy of the Government. The gentleman from Marion said there was no danger of war. He hoped there was not; but he saw nothing in the present aspect of affairs to show that the danger of it was less than heretofore, and somewhat, he feared, that justified increased apprehension of it. And of one thing he was sure, that that danger would be increased if this bill should be defeated.—For what would it be, but to declare in effect, by abandoning her declared purpose to arm, to proclaim that come what might she would not resist? And do we not know that the eyes of thousands who would resort to force, if they thought force could succeed, are turned anxiously towards Virginia to catch the slightest gleam that her course might afford to justify the inference that she would submit to such a policy? Let us by no receding from a position deliberately assumed, by no hesitancy, even, give the slightest ground for such an inference. None could be more unwarranted. The people of the State were well-nigh unanimous, he believed, not only on the proposition to resist a coercive policy by the General Government, but to demand, also, the fullest guarantees by proper amendments of the Constitution for all their rights and essential interests. He did not share the doubt that had been thrown out, that the Convention would fall short of that mark.—He believed they would stand fully and firmly on all that was demanded by the rights, the interests, and honor of the State. And hence he would go forward with this bill, which is meant to guard and protect them, in the confidence that the action of the Convention would be in accordance with the policy already adopted by the Legislature. He allowed no weight to the argument addressed to us by the Chairman of the Finance Committee, founded on the condition of the Treasury. If the measure is wrong, or uncalled for, reject it; if proper and necessary, pass it, and if more means are wanted, let him bring in a bill to raise them. Nine men out of ten in Virginia want the arms to be supplied which this bill is to furnish. They will cheerfully bear the necessary taxation.—He begged the House to beware how they took a step that must lead to a false and most dangerous delusion. The defeat of the bill would be looked on as a change of policy. It could bear no other interpretation; and he thought the time had never been when Virginia was more called on than now to stand firm and unmoved on the ground she had with such unanimity assumed, and had so long maintained. He hoped the bill would have now, as at first, the well-nigh unanimous sanction of the House.

Mr. KEMPER opposed all propositions to indefinitely postpone, lay on the table, or otherwise delay action on the bill. Some weeks ago this House had unanimously passed the bill. What light had since dawned upon his distinguished friend, (Mr. Haymond,) and others, more miraculous than the light that had converted Saul from a slayer to a saint? Was the Legislature now, in the very agonies of this crisis, to persist in the policy of vacillation and delay—to deliberately back down from the purpose of resistance proclaimed to the world one month ago, and,

"Like the King of France, with forty thousand men,
March up the hill, and then march down again?"

When the State was almost destitute of powder, nitre, sulphur, had no cap-machine, neither munitions nor machinery for their manufacture; when your very Metropolis is found to be, in a military sense, nearer to New York than to the heart of your own State, destitute as you are of all coast defences; in view of the fact that this bill would supply these wants, would fortify your coast, and forever close the gates of the Commonwealth against invasion, are we to be told to postpone action in the hope that a Black Republican dynasty would mercifully spare us? He spoke of the appalling responsibility which would rest upon the advocates of delay, if war came upon us; argued that the only means of averting the horrors of civil war was thorough preparation to meet it; that if the preparation proposed in the bill should be instrumental in preventing the calamities of war, then the appropriation asked for would prove economical, remunerative and beneficent; but if war was inevitable, then the appropriation was, of all things, the most indispensable for the preservation of the lives of the people, and the honor of the State. Gentlemen had argued as if the advocates of this bill were afraid of Abraham Lincoln. He, for one, avowed he was afraid of the infamy of submission to unchecked Black Republican rule, and preferred death under arms upon the battle-field. He was afraid to expose the bosom of Virginia *unarmed* to the bayonets of Republican myrmidons.

He repudiated the idea advocated by some, that it should be left to the discretion of the Governor or the Convention to suspend the appropriation, and at some length further argued in favor of vigorous action by the Legislature, and denounced the policy of delay.

Mr. BARBOUR said he hoped it would be the pleasure of the House to pass the bill with the amendments made by the Senate. The best way to avoid war was to be fully prepared to meet it. The fact that a Convention in this State was initiated, had caused a consternation in the Black Republican influences in the North. After the result of the Virginia elections were made known and misconceived at the North, all purpose of conciliation to the South was abandoned. If gentlemen desire to destroy the last lingering hope of any restoration of this Union, let them pursue the policy recommended by those opposed to this bill. We are to be lulled by propositins of peace. Upon what basis do these predictions rest? Does the North move in the direction necessary to restore the Union. Mr. Barbour had yet to see the first indication of any purpose to move in that direction. Could Virginia originate any new movement in that direction? If this House could be regarded as a fair exponent of the purpose of the people of Virginia, any new movement originated in Virginia would discredit the Commonwealth. The preamble and first resolution originating the Peace Conference at Washington was adopted in this House with four dissenting votes. This House, by that vote, declared that the General Assembly, "representing the wishes of the people of the Commonwealth, were determined to make a final effort to restore the Union and the Constitution in the spirit in which they were established by the fathers of the Republic;" and therefore resolved to convoke the Peace Conference. This *final* effort of Virginia was a wretched failure. After the failure of this *final* effort, (and he is a bold man who will say it has not been a failure,) is it consistent with the honor and the dignity of this Commonwealth to institute some new devices, and thus to belie her own record? He meant to reflect on no gentleman. Each must settle the question in the forum of his own judgment and his own conscience. He could only declare for himself, after the part which he had borne in the passage of those resolutions, he considered it utterly inconsistent with his views of personal propriety and public duty to put Virginia in the position of making any new advances for peace, after the failure of what her Representatives had declared to the world was her *final* effort. As he saw no indication from the North of any movement for restoration, he was bound to regard the permanent dissolution of this Union as inevitable, and would act accordingly. He implored the House not to delay the bill.

Mr. KEEN, of Pittsylvania, said he believed it was upon his motion this bill was taken up upon its final passage before this House. He should vote for the bill, and against every motion that looked to its defeat, but not for the reasons assigned by the gentlemen from Culpeper or Monroe. As to the question of East and West, which gentlemen had thought proper to introduce, he had only to say, he entered his protest against it. When he came to this body, he came here as a representative of his people, (and he thought truly,) as a Virginian knowing their rights, and a people who dare maintain them. He came here to make no pledges to East, West, North, or South, but to occupy the position of a Virginian, (though from a border county on the South-Side.) He believed that whenever the time came, from the Panhandle to the Eastern shore Virginia would be one and indivisible. As to the idea that it was necessary to the passage of this bill because of the action of the Peace Conference resolutions, he dissented.—The gentleman had forgotten another section of this bill, which provides that the action of the Peace Conference should be submitted to the Convention. That body was laboriously engaged as to the action of said Conference.—Upon that action, I have only to say, my people will abide. He had frequently carried revolvers, &c., but never with any idea of intimidating any man born on American soil; but that he meant to say that he who has reason to suspect that his rights will be invaded, is a fool if he does not prepare himself to defend them. I am for defence. Let what will come, weal or woe, the stout hearts and strong arms of Virginians will defend themselves.

Messrs. BASSELL, CAPERTON, and others, spoke eloquently in favor of an immediate vote on the bill. Sundry Western members, including Mr. BOREMAN, indulged in the same style of remark as Messrs. CRANE and COWAN.

The House agreed to allow Mr. KEMPER to withdraw his motion for an indefinite postponement. Mr. CARPENTER called the previous question on laying on the table. The House refused by a large majority to lay on the table. The question recurring on agreeing to the Senate amendments, the ayes and noes were demanded, and resulted in the adoption of the Senate amendments by a vote of about 107 to 12.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a communication from the Committee on the Penitentiary, relative to the condition of that Institution, and the store thereto attached. If the Reporter comprehended the figures read by the Clerk, it exhibited the store in an unfavorable attitude. The report of the Committee was ordered to be printed.

The whole of the day having been consumed in speech-making, the House adjourned without accomplishing any business.

THE SOUTHERN NAVY.—The navy of the Southern Confederacy consists of the following revenue cutters, seized from the U. S. Government: McClelland, 4 side guns, and one pivot, crew 35 men; Lewis Cass, one 68-pounder, crew 45 men; Aiken, one 42-pounder, crew 35 men; Washington, one 42-pounder, and the Dodge one pivot-gun. Besides these, there is the tug propellor James Gray, purchased at Richmond, which carries a 42-pound Columbiad; the captured slave brig Bonita, which is being changed to a war vessel; the steam gun-boat Nina, which mounts one gun, and has just returned to Charleston from a ten days' cruise on the coast, and the steamer Everglade. The U. S. steamer Fulton, seized at the Pensacola navy-yard while in ordinary, carries four 32-pounders. It will cost $10,000 to put her in sea-going trim.

Fort Brown.

This fort, now held by Capt. Hill, with 400 United States troops, and invested by Capt. Ben McCullough, with 1,500 Texan troops, is memorable in the Mexican war. Its siege then is thus described by a correspondent of the New York Commercial:

"The American army of occupation under General Taylor arrived opposite Matamoras, on the Rio Grande, between 11 and 12 o'clock on the morning of the 28th of March, 1846, and eight days afterward, where had previously been erected a staff for the American ensign, the fortifications of Fort Brown were commenced. This extraordinary military defence is an earthwork of immense size, having six bastions, and is capable of comfortably accommodating five or six regiments.

"The fort was planned or carried out with a most extraordinary expedition, under the supervision of the then Captain, now Major Mansfield. Approaching it from Point Isabel, the American side, you perceive the tops of the highest houses in Matamoras, which is on the opposite side of the Rio Grande river. The visitation of the Fort is on a point formed by the remarkable and numerous bends of the river, consequently it is actually surrounded by Mexican territory, as at the time it was occupied by Major Brown, the sea-shore opposite was one continued line of forts and connected batteries.

"At this time Fort Brown stood a siege which has no parallel in history. For many days some six forts, commanding all the sides, front and rear, poured into the fort shot and shell; at night the very heavens were illuminated by the fuses of the destructive missiles. There were no bomb-proof chambers; it was simply an open enclosure of perhaps an acre of ground. The small number of men left for its defence under Major Brown was its protection (a hint, perhaps, suggesting comfort for our soldiers in Forts Pickens and Sumter) for there were not many people to be killed, and as our soldiers had no powder or ball to reply with, all they could do was to look out for their safety.

"To accomplish this, the men dug what they termed 'gopher holes,' the sentinels on the walls of the fort as they noticed a flash, would cry out from which battery might be expected a shell, and the men on the moment would run into the gopher hole that protected them from the battery named by the sentinel. Sometimes the Mexican shots were so rapid, and the weather was so warm, from the 1st to the 8th of May, that our soldiers, with scanty food, were almost worn out in the running from one protection, gopher hole or bomb-proof chamber, to another. In this long attack of eight days but one soldier was killed; Major Brown was wounded in the thigh by a splinter, which wound subsequently, owing to the excessive heat, gangreened and killed him, and the brave hero was buried at the foot of the flag-staff he so nobly defended.

"Since the time of the events referred to, many changes have taken place to strengthen Fort Brown, and a large town has grown up in its vicinity. Lieutenant Hill, who is now in command, says he will maintain it.

THE EVACUATION OF SUMTER AT CHARLESTON. The Charleston Courier, announcing the news of the proposed evacuation of Fort Sumter, heads the paragraph "A conquest of Peace." The Mercury has a brief editorial on the subject. It says:

Sumter is to be ours without a fight. All will be rejoiced that the blood of our people is not to be shed in our harbor, in either small or great degree. To those who have troubled themselves with vague fears of war on a large scale, and the horrors of war extensively, the relief will be as great as the apprehension has been grievous. For ourselves, notwithstanding all the Northern thunder, we have never been able to bring ourselves seriously to believe in the probability of any more than a few collisions, sufficient to show that we are in earnest and competent to make good our position of independence against our would-be masters. These gentry "hold our valor light," as also the honesty of the determination of the Southern people to be quit of them and their impertinent and detrimental interference through a government in common. It may, perhaps, yet be necessary to instruct them a little in these particulars.—But it appears that for the present, under the circumstances in this case, they are inclined sensibly to dispense with experiment and its teachings. How far this discretion will revivify the hopes and stimulate the efforts of reconstructionists throughout the South, is a matter to be discovered by observation. The temper and intention of the Northern people has now been so thoroughly developed and exposed to the eyes of all those at the South who will see, that we trust Union-menders are too late in their attempts upon the virtue and integrity of our people. Crushed egg-shells and friendship abused can never be mended. We have no doubt, however, that Herculean efforts will be made in that direction, and must only take good care of these weaker brethren at the South, whose sentiments are stronger than their reason, or who live in the past rather than the future. The strait jacket was a valuable invention. But, in the mean time, the prospect of having Sumter is very pleasant.

A QUEER PEOPLE.—Chambers' Journal, discussing a recent book of missionary travels in Africa, thus alludes to one of the tribes which are found in that *terra incognita*:

"But the strangest of all the stories told are of the Dokos, who live among the moist, warm bamboo woods to the south of Caffa and Susa. Only four feet high, of a dark olive color, savage and naked, they have neither houses nor temples, neither fire nor human food. They live only on ants, mice, and serpents, diversified by a few roots and fruits; they let their nails grow long, like talons, the better to dig for ants, and the more easily to tear in pieces their favorite snakes.

They do not marry, but live indiscriminative lives of animals, multiplying very rapidly, and with very little material instinct. The mother nurses her child for only a short time, accustoming it to eat ants and serpents as soon as possible; and when it can help itself, it wanders away where it will, and the mother thinks no more about it. The Dokos are invaluable as slaves, and are taken in large numbers. The slave hunters hold up bright colored clothes as soon as they come to the moist, warm bamboo woods where these human monkeys live, and the poor Dokos cannot resist the attraction offered by such superior people. They crowd round them, and are taken in thousands.

In slavery they are docile, attached, obedient, with few wants and excellent health.—They have only one fault—a love of ants, mice and serpents, and a habit of speaking to Yer with their heads on the ground, and their heels in the air. Yer is their idea of a superior power, to whom they talk in this comical nature when they are dispirited or angry, or tired of ants and snakes, and longing for unknown food. The Dokos seem to come nearest of all people yet discovered to that terrible cousin of humanity—the ape."

IMPORTANT FROM MEXICO—*A French Blockade.*—The Alta Californian, of February 6, has this important paragraph:

Advices have been received by the overland mail from Mazatlan, stating that the French man-of-war Seirieuse had strictly blockaded the ports of Mazatlan and San Blas. Two Mexican war schooners, which had been captured by the French vessel, are supposed to be used by the French commander in enforcing the blockade. The sum of $10,000 is demanded in settlement of an old claim, and the letters indicate a determination on the part of the French commander not to raise the siege until the sum is paid. It is supposed the merchants of those ports will have to pay the amount if the Government does not. The house through which we obtain this news supposes that the blockade is detaining a vessel of their own, now considerably over due.

This is the only information concerning this movement which we have yet received.

WHAT POSTAGE THE VARIOUS CITIES PAY.—Some very accurate tables of the postage paid by the various cities of the Union have been published. The following table, from the Auditor's report of the Post-Office Department, (the latest published,) shows the nett proceeds of the post-offices below mentioned, for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1859:

New York	$549,060 64	Louisville	$25,393 24
Philadelphia	188,085 80	Richmond	24,603 92
Boston	169,993 60	Albany	24,306 07
San Francisco	111,466 15	Buffalo	19,314 98
New Orleans	108,556 15	Memphis	14,656 11
Baltimore	89,222 96	Wilmington	12,818 54
Cincinnati	76,592 64	Nashville	12,738 53
St. Louis	75,144 91	Detroit	10,220 93
Charleston	35,647 63	Washington	9,436 12
Chicago	29,641 27		

M'ME PATERSON'S CAUTION.—An incident in connection with the Bonaparte-Paterson trial has excited some remark in Paris. Mme. Paterson, coming to France, did not bring with her all the papers which sustained her case, for fear they might be stolen. Some she left behind; while those she brought she had sewed into garments which never quitted her person. This indirect imputation upon the honor of her opponents and the French police, excited a sentiment of indignation which has found expression in various ways. Even her lawyer, M. Berryer, spoke of the apprehensions of his clients as illusory and ill-founded, while the defence made use of the fact to throw doubt upon the authenticity of the certified duplicates presented to the Court.

THE MISSING STEAMER AUSTRALASIAN.—The steamer Australasian is now twenty-four days out from Queenstown, and some anxiety is beginning to be felt for her safety. This ship left Liverpool on her appointed day, the 16th of February, and went into Queenstown on the 17th, and sailed the same evening for New York. She had on freight about $55,000 in specie, but we are unable to give even an estimate of the number of persons on her passenger list, and consequently a large number of persons in this country—who have friends who intended sailing last month for the United States—are unable to tell in what vessel they embarked, and they are daily growing more uneasy in regard to their safety. Many suppose that her machinery has been injured and that she has put back for repairs, as it is scarcely probable that she would attempt a western passage at this season of the year, under sail alone, when she would have a fair wind to return with. It is to be hoped that such is the case; but on the other hand, many contend that, should the ship have been crippled in her machinery during the prevalence of a heavy Atlantic gale, whose force would prevent her keeping sail on the vessel, she would fall into the trough of the sea, and almost inevitably swamp and go down.

FROM TEXAS—*Gov. Houston Refuses to Recognize the State Convention, &c.*—Gen. Houston has refused to recognize the Texas State Convention. He considers that its functions terminated in submitting the Secession Ordinance to the people. He tells the Convention that he and the Legislature, which meets on the 18th inst., will attend to public questions.—He favored the holding of a Convention to change the State Constitution, but opposes Texas joining the Southern Confederacy.—The Convention, in reply, have passed an Ordinance claiming full sovereign power, promising to consummate, as speedily as possible, the connection of Texas with the Confederate States. The Convention will at once require all officers of the State to take an oath of allegiance to support the new Government and carry out the Convention Ordinances. It is reported that Clark will be put in Gov. Houston's place, if the latter refuses to take the oath. It is also reported that Gov. Houston is raising troops on his own account.—Fifteen hundred Texan troops are at and near Brownsville.

NORTHERNERS IN FAVOR OF SECESSION.—A petition is being circulated in Boston asking Congress to consent to the secession of the Cotton States, allowing them "to form any other government which they deem best for their interests; provided that they declare freedom of navigation in the Mississippi river, and surrender all right to a district of territory of six miles square, bordering on the Mississippi and opposite to the city of New Orleans, as a port of entry of the United States; and further, that they resign all right and claim to participation of the Territories now belonging to the United States, and in consideration of which all forts, custom-houses, and other property of the United States, lying within the boundaries of the above named States, shall be made over and surrendered to them." The petitioners think this will prevent civil war, and restore confidence in the business community, while a conquest of those States would bring no benefits to the country.

RECLAIMING FALLEN WOMEN.—The movement in London for the reformation of fallen women has been attended with remarkable results. Similar measures have been adopted in other large cities of Great Britain with success. In Glasgow, over two hundred have been received into the Refuge and provided with employment, mainly through the efforts of a single lady, who devoted herself to this work; and many more have applied, but have been rejected, from the want of means for their support. Of 163 who had been received in over a twelvemonth, only twenty had relapsed, and nearly all of these had returned of their own accord, bitterly repenting their weakness, and desiring further opportunity of reformation. As the most insidious means were adopted to lure them back to vice, the secessions were encouragingly limited. In Dublin too, a similar movement has been inaugurated, and a very considerable number have embraced the opportunity of abandoning their evil courses.

ANOTHER TERRIFIC GALE IN ENGLAND.—On Wednesday, February 20th, a furious gale swept over London and the surrounding country. In fact, it amounted to a perfect hurricane, and great was the consternation generally caused by the falling of stacks of chimneys, walls, palisades, and everything which afforded a butt to the wind and was not of sufficient strength to resist its violence. The houses in the more exposed situations were shaken to their foundations, much to the terror of the inhabitants. A large destruction of property is reported. The North wing of the Crystal Palace at Sydenham was totally destroyed. In Gloucestershire and Worcestershire the loss of property was very great. Trees in hundreds were thrown down, and many houses were unroofed. At Southampton and other points on the coast great damage was done to the shipping. Throughout the west of England the trains were delayed and telegraphic communication seriously interrupted.

MORE HEAVY ORDNANCE AND AMMUNITION.—We learn that Gov. Pickens has six hundred and sixty kegs of powder en route, which was shipped from Wilmington on Monday morning for this city, having just arrived there from the North. A bill of lading for twenty-seven hundred other kegs of powder from the North, per order of Gov. Pickens, was also received at Wilmington on Monday morning—making in all thirty-three hundred and sixty kegs of powder. Two heavy ten inch mortars from Richmond, ordered by Gov. Pickens, in addition to those already arrived, were shipped from Wilmington on Monday morning on the Northeastern Railroad. Also, four hundred nine-inch shells and a large amount of shot, &c.—*Charleston Courier.*

A LOVING, BUT CHANGEABLE WIFE.—A prisoner convicted lately at Cleveland, Ohio, has a young wife to whom he was married only a fortnight before his incarceration for burglary. During the pendency of the case, the wife manifested an extravagant passion for her confined partner. Her affection continued unabated until the man was convicted. The day after the jury said "guilty," this young and loving spouse visited the jail to ask her husband's advice in regard to her second marriage, and presented to him the candidate for the honors of which he had the day before been the sole recipient.

AMALGAMATION PROHIBITED IN CALIFORNIA.—A bill introduced into the lower House of the California Legislature, on the 30th of January, to prevent the amalgamation of different races of men, provides that any white person who shall hereafter be convicted of marrying with a negro, mulatto, Chinese or Indian, shall be punished by fine or imprisonment, or both; and that a person who boards or intermarries with any individual of any of said races, shall be *prima facie* evidence that such a person is not a white citizen, and shall subject him to all constitutional disabilities imposed on persons of color.

FAST DAY IN CONNECTICUT.—Gov. Buckingham, of Connecticut, has designated Friday, the 29th inst., to be observed in public and private as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer, "that the President of the United States may have wisdom from above to direct him in the discharge of his responsible duties, and be sustained by a people loyal to the Government; that he will save us from further strife and contention, from revolution and civil war; that a fraternal spirit may pervade all parts of our land, binding us together in a common brotherhood; that our National Union may be preserved, and the blessings of a free Government be perpetuated."

RESIGNATIONS.—W. W. Gaines, of Louisiana, a $1,200 clerk, and H. C. McNulty, of Connecticut, and W. E. G. Keesee, of California, $1,400 clerks in the Sixth Auditor's Office, have tendered their resignations. Edward Stubbs, Jr., disbursing clerk of the State Department, was removed yesterday. Geo. E. Baker, of New York, has been appointed disbursing clerk of the State Department in place of Mr. Stubbs, removed. The salary is $2,000 per annum. Warren Corwin son of Hon. Thomas Corwin, of Ohio, has been appointed to a first-class ($1,200) clerkship in the Interior Department.—*Washington States.*

A PROMINENT EMIGRANT.—A letter-writer says that ex-Senator Pugh, of Ohio, has decided, as soon as he can close up his business at Cincinnati, to remove to some of the Southern States, where he intends to apply himself solely to the practice of his profession. As he was a Colonel in the Mexican war, and has seen some service, he will be quite an acquisition to the Southern Confederation. He is said to be wealthy, and has always stood up manfully for the South and her institutions.

ELECTION AT ABOLITION HEADQUARTERS.—At the Charter election held in Syracuse, New York, Tuesday, the Republicans elected the entire city ticket, and six out of eight Supervisors. The Board of Aldermen stands:—Republicans, four; Democrats, four. Last year year it was six Republicans and two Democrats.

THE COMMISSIONERS FROM THE SOUTH.—Secretary of State Seward, it is stated, has informed the Commissioners of the Confederated States that the Government of the United States, "from motives of high public consideration," declines to receive them.

LOCAL MATTERS.

Battle of the "Cats."—The adoption of a feline title for contending armies, would, we imagine, seriously impair the grandeur and dignity of mighty hosts on a field of battle.—History may speak glowingly of a lion-hearted soldiery, and even refer in terms of eloquence to the dogs of war; but what pen so bold as to undertake the task of writing a narrative of the Battle of the Cats? We have an example, it is true, in the famed cats of Kilkenny; but even here the historian tells us only that they ate each other up, and no catacomb encloses the remains of the carniverous quadrupeds. The world might look in vain for human examples to place in this category, if it were not for the eccentric taste of the small boys of Richmond, who, in years past, established sectional hostilities, and adopted the name of "Cats." Thus we had Basin Cats, Hill Cats, Butchertown Cats, and other cats as numerous as the various localities of the town, and many were the catastrophes resulting from the deep-seated feud. Broken heads and broken windows were common, for the weapons used were rocks, since the contending cats seldom got into quarters close enough to make use of their claws. The hostilities have been revived from time to time, by each succeeding generation of young ones, and at the present day are going ahead with considerable vigor. Regardless of the lessons imparted by their catechisms every Sunday, these fierce little cats assemble in the neighborhood of Seddon's Hill, after school hours, and, drawn up in battle array, throw rocks at each other, in defiance of both moral and criminal law.—On Wednesday last the police got wind of the matter, and pitched in with such fearful determination that the youngsters scattered in every direction, regardless of everything but their own safety. We understand that twenty-seven were captured, and possibly the fear of serious punishment hereafter may influence the cats to cease hostilities for a season, or transfer them to some field more remote from view.

Louisa County Items.—The following items are communicated by a gentleman from this county: Two negroes were lodged in jail at the Court-House, Wednesday, for attempting to kill Mr. Charles E. Jones, who keeps a grocery store near the gold mines. The negroes, who were from the Green Spring neighborhood, called at Jones' grocery at 11 o'clock at night, pretending to want something which he was getting, when they attempted to beat out his brains with a club. Though badly wounded, he made such a show of resistance that they took to their heels.—Eight negroes, part of the estate of Robert Morse, were sold Wednesday for $7,000.—Last week a plot was discovered among the negroes of Mr. Spotswood Atkinson, who lives about two miles from the Old Hopeful Church, (on the line of Louisa and Hanover,) to murder their master. Their object was to get possession of a lot of gold and silver, which he was known to have in the house. The negroes, after the plot was discovered, said they had intended to make use of the gold and silver themselves, and send the notes to Lincoln.

The Ordinance passed to exclude vagrants and other dangerous persons from the city, after providing for the payment of damages by railroad companies, steamboats, &c., for bringing them into the city, says that they shall be taken out by the same means by which they came in, and if, after being so carried out, they shall return, they are to "be placed in the chain-gang of the city, and compelled to work upon the streets." The law has operated very well thus far. The Mayor has appointed Alderman Sanxay to execute the law.

Of Good Quality.—Capt. Dimmock, an excellent judge of heavy ordnance and the qualities that go to make up first class cannon, gives the highest praise to the pieces owned by Virginia. Though the majority of them are small they were made of such excellent material that it would be a waste of money to cast them over again. After being re-bored they will be equal to any that could now be made. One of the small cannon taken from the Armory, was tried at the Tredegar foundry a few evenings since and found to be all right.

Quarters Provided.—The Colonel commanding the 179th Regiment has obtained Bosher's Hall as headquarters for the instruction of the officers of the Regiment in battalion drill, and for business purposes. For this they are indebted to the liberality of the City Council, the members of that body having voted $200 per annum for the above purpose. The executive officers of this thriving Regiment will not now be compelled to go about from place to place, as they have been doing for years past.

Speaking to Posterity.—Many of the members of the General Assembly of Virginia are in the habit of "speaking to posterity," as John Randolph's friend did in the U. S. Congress forty years ago. They certainly do not speak to any question now before them. "I am not speaking to the question now before us," said Randolph's friend; "I am speaking to posterity." "And if you speak much longer," said old Roanoke, "you'll have your audience before you."

Street Extension.—We learn that a scheme is on foot to extend 10th street, from its intersection with M street, northward, until it shall meet Valley or 17th street. It is believed that if such a street were opened and graded, that it would add immensely to the value of property along its borders, and open a valuable thoroughfare to the heart of the city. The owners of property in that section would do well to see to this matter, and lend their aid to its accomplishment.

Federal Officers.—The only Federal office yet vacated in this city, by resignation, is that of District Attorney, and the occupant, by operation of law, holds over till his successor is appointed. There are a good many rumors afloat as to who will, and who will not, be appointed to certain offices of trust in the gift of the President elect, but we are persuaded that no definite policy has been determined on in respect to any of them.

Miss Bateman's Benefit.—An excellent bill is offered for the occasion of Miss Bateman's farewell benefit to-night. The tragedy of "Geraldine," which succeeded finely last week, and the pleasing comedy of the "Little Treasure," are to be performed. We hope the young actress will be encouraged by the presence of a large auditory.

Dividing an Apple into Three or More Halves.—Under the rule which allows a member of the House to speak but twice on the same subject, some members claim the right to speak three times, or oftener. In this, they remind one of the Hibernian who offered to divide his apple into three or more *halves* among his companions.

The Poor.—The poor of our city still need aid. Many poor families are in need—husbands out of employment, and wives and children destitute of the necessaries of life. Will not the benevolent, who have means, aid them in their necessity? "He that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord."

Making Night Hideous.—Mr. Thompson, of Putnam, in his speech in the House of Delegates, yesterday, declared his sovereign contempt and detestation for the agitators in Richmond city, "who make night hideous by their abominable noises through the streets."

Declines a Re-Election.—Dr. Charles M. Hubbard, the present able Senator from the Williamsburg District, has announced his intention of retiring from public life at the end of the present session of the General Assembly.

Dull.—The Mayor's Court presented a dull appearance yesterday, only one stray colored subject having been apprehended, and he was let off with a reprimand. The Mayor was kept busy in the civil warrant business.

The Street Railway.—The lumber necessary to build the Street Railway arrived some weeks since, and the only thing that delays operations is the absence of the iron, which is daily expected.

Colds are very prevalent now, and considerable sickness, of a disagreeable though not fatal sort, prevails in the city. Yesterday was windy, cold, damp, and disagreeable.—Rain set in about 3 o'clock.

Leaf Tobacco is selling quite high in this market at the present time. A majority of the manufactories have gone to work again, though many of them operate with a diminished number of hands.

We understand that the Montgomery Guard will parade on Monday next, in honor of the birth-day of Saint Patrick. At night the Hibernian Society have a grand dinner.

The Courts.—The Hustings Court adjourned for the term on Wednesday. There is not a single Court of record in session in this city at the present time.

Hon Roger A. Pryor.—This distinguished gentleman will address the citizens of Richmond to-night, at the African Church, on the subject of secession.

Jas. E. Carter is to be examined before the Mayor to-day, for petty larceny and forgery.