Richmond Dispatch.

BY COWARDIN & HAMMERSLEY.

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TUESDAY MORNING....MARCH 19, 1861.

DAILY DISPATCH.

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VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION.

TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY.

MONDAY, March 18th, 1861.

The Convention was called to order at half-past 10 o'clock. Very few members were present, and it is a noticeable fact that among the absentees were a large proportion of those who voted for the resolution to change the hour of meeting.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. BROWN, of the Presbyterian Church.

TAXATION AND REPRESENTATION.

The pending question at the adjournment on Saturday was on a motion of Mr. SLAUGHTER, of Campbell, to lay on the table the resolutions of Mr. WILLEY, of Monongalia, viz:

Resolved, That taxation should be equal and uniform throughout the Commonwealth, and that all property should be taxed in proportion to its value.

Resolved, That a committee of thirteen members be appointed to prepare and report to the Convention such alterations of sections 22 and 23 of Article IV. of the Constitution of the Commonwealth, as shall conform said sections to the principle of taxation enunciated in the foregoing resolution.

Resolved, That a committee of thirteen members be appointed to take into consideration so much of Article VI. of the Constitution of this Commonwealth, as relates to the Supreme Court of Appeals, the District Courts, Circuit Courts, and County Courts; and that they report such amendments and modifications thereof as they may deem necessary and proper.

Resolved, That the basis of representation in the two Houses of the General Assembly should be the same. Therefore, be it further

Resolved, That a committee of twelve members, to be selected in equal numbers from the four great divisions of the State, be appointed to apportion representation in the Senate according to the number of the qualified voters in the Commonwealth, and that they report amendments of the 4th Article of the Constitution accordingly.

In consideration of the small attendance of members, Mr. BROWN, of Preston, appealed to the gentleman from Campbell to withdraw his motion to lay the resolutions on the table.

Mr. SLAUGHTER declined to withdraw the motion. He believed that the resolutions were like a firebrand thrown into the midst of the Convention, to inflame excitement and produce dissension.

Mr. CLEMENS, of Ohio, rose to a question of order. He said there was no quorum present, and it was incompetent for the Convention to proceed to the transaction of any business.

A call of the House was then ordered, and it was ascertained that, at 11 o'clock, 85 members were in attendance—sufficient to constitute a quorum.

Several members, it was announced, were on the sick list; some were engaged in other duties at the Legislature; some were in the Committee on Federal Relations, and some absent from the city.

Mr. SLAUGHTER now consented to withdraw his motion to lay the resolutions on the table.

Mr. BROWN proceeded to address the Convention upon the subject of the resolutions, commencing with a defence of the institution of slavery. He contended that the keeping of this property, so peculiar to the East, was much safer in the custody of the Western people, who were denounced here as abolitionists, than if committed solely to the care of the noisy crowd who went about the streets of Richmond, at unusual hours of the night.—His people had been called submissionists; and if submission to the laws of the land made them liable to the charge, they were submissionists. They admitted the right of revolution, which, however, ought to be exercised only after all measures of conciliation failed. They would defend the people of the East against aggressions of their enemies, but they desired that justice should be done to them. They wanted a law by which the citizen in taxation would fall equally upon all. He hoped the resolutions would pass, for the proposed inquiry ought to be made.

Mr. FISHER, of Northampton, made an argument upon the question of taxation. He had supposed when the Convention was called, that it was called to consider no other than the great question before the country.—He did not doubt the patriotism of the gentlemen from the Northwest, but if they would give us an Ordinance of Secession, pledging themselves to go before their people and urge the same, he was willing to go into the question of taxation, and concede to them what they asked, though he deemed it foreign to the purposes of the Convention. He said there was no gentleman here so stultified as not to recognize the fact that we were degraded by Northern aggressions; and he appealed to the Northwest to come up and redeem the Commonwealth, and whatever was right and proper would readily be conceded. The people of Richmond, to whom the gentleman from Preston had alluded, might, by the inaction of this Convention, be driven to the necessity of bread riots, such as would be witnessed in the streets of Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York within the next sixty days. Mr. FISHER renewed the motion to lay the resolutions on the table, but withdrew it at the request of

Mr. TURNER, of Jackson, who proceeded to relieve the Northwest from the charge of unfair dealing in introducing the question of taxation. He showed that the act calling the Convention contemplated a change in the organic law of the State. Mr. TURNER raised a question of order, to the effect that similar resolutions, offered by himself, some time ago, were now upon the table; but the question was not pressed.

Mr. EARLY, of Franklin, spoke of the newspaper report, that there existed a bargain among the members from the different sections; that if the Eastern men would vote on the side of Union, the Northwest would yield the question of taxation. He knew nothing of such a bargain. He was not prepared to vote for a change in the organic law of the State; his people were interested in the great questions now agitating the nation; but he was willing to vote for a resolution to confide the subject to a committee. They could report at an adjourned session of the Convention, for it was pretty well understood that the Convention would adjourn over.

Mr. WILSON, of Harrison, alluded to the constant charge of disloyalty and abolitionism, brought against the people of the Northwest. It was time it should be stopped. He admitted that there were abolitionists in that quarter of the State, but expressed his belief that there were more in the city of Richmond than in his whole Congressional district. It was his belief that if something were not done in regard to the taxation of slave property, there would be a conflict—not between sections of the State—but a dire and irrepressible conflict between the laboring man and the slaveholder. He strongly maintained the loyalty of Western Virginia, and if a settlement could not be obtained, he would go for severing the Gordian knot which binds us to the Union; but he thought with a little time and patience the whole difficulty might be adjusted.

Mr. BRANCH, of Petersburg, thought that slave property ought to be taxed according to its value to the owner in Virginia, not according to its value in Louisiana and Mississippi. If the Convention were to pass an Ordinance of Secession, he thought the organic law in respect to taxation ought to be changed. The mercantile class of the East, he contended, bore a proportion of the taxes more than equivalent to the taxes paid by the West, of which they so much complained. He was opposed to action upon the subject now. The Convention had no right to change the Constitution while Virginia remained in the Union.—He believed, that in the event of withdrawal, every slaveholder in Eastern Virginia would willingly submit to an equalization of taxes. He denounced upon the law taxing the income of labor as unjust and oppressive.

Mr. CARPENTER, of Monroe, alluded to the speech of the gentleman from Franklin, proposing to confide the subject to a committee, and postponing action thereupon to an adjourned session of the Convention. He conceived that such a course would show to the people of the North that we were involved in difficulty upon a domestic question, and consequently retard any action proposed by the Convention upon the National difficulties. He thought the subject of taxation should at once be laid upon the table, and that it ought not again to be agitated. The people demanded no such action, and the Convention was called for no such purpose. The Constitution, as remodeled in the last Convention, provided for the continuance of the existing order of things until 1865, and the people having ratified that instrument, the inference was that they were satisfied that the arrangement should not be disturbed previous to that period. The present time, he contended, was the most inopportune of all others for the agitation of the question. At the proper time he would unite with them in an effort to render the organic law acceptable to all sections; but the present he did not consider the proper time, and he hoped the resolutions would be laid upon the table.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Richmond city, said he would not have participated in this debate, but for the extraordinary remark of the gentleman from Harrison, (Mr. Wilson,) that there were as many abolitionists in the city of Richmond as in the whole Northwestern portion of the State.

Mr. WILSON corrected the member from Richmond. He had expressed his belief that there were as many abolitionists in the city of Richmond as there were in his Congressional District—not in the whole Northwest. He relied upon common reports in forming this opinion, having no personal knowledge of the fact.

Mr. JOHNSON said he hoped there were none, either there or here. He would, however, caution his friend from Harrison to seek for his information in a field beyond the calumnies circulated in the newspapers of Richmond. He repelled the statement that there was any abolitionism among the people whom he represented. One thing was certain—that, upon the poll-books of the section represented by the gentleman from Harrison were recorded votes for Abraham Lincoln, while the poll-books of Richmond exhibited no such record. He thought it a condescension in the Convention to be indulging in crimination and recrimination, and in appeals to local prejudice. There was a higher duty to perform.—The country was in danger, and the fair Temple of Liberty was tottering to its foundation. He protested against the complication of that great question by meddling with the subject of taxation. What good could it produce? If we became alienated now upon minor questions, how could we look for harmony upon the great national question on which the people expected the Convention to act? He had heard from the lips of the gentleman from Northampton a proposition for a bargain to the West; that if they would come over and help to dissolve the ties which bind us to the Union, they should have all they wanted; and he had the temerity to say he did this without consultation with his constituents.—He (Mr. JOHNSON) hoped that the constituents of that gentleman would not sustain him in this, and that he would find himself solitary and alone. He would vote to lay the resolutions on the table, for he believed their consideration now would embarrass the primary question which the Convention was called to consider.

Mr. WOODS, of Barbour, said he had hoped there would have been magnanimity enough among Eastern gentlemen to have proposed a plan for equalizing the taxes, without waiting for it to come from the West. He regretted the latitude that the debate had taken, and that there was so much excitement on the question, which merely proposed the raising of committees to make inquiries. Every grievance complained of by any portion of the citizens of the Commonwealth, he thought, ought to be removed by this Convention.—With regard to overtures to be made to the North, he did not believe that the Convention would rise to the dignity of making any demands about which there was any doubt of acceptance, even by Massachusetts. He came from the much despised Northwest, and though he loved the Union, he did not love it well enough to be willing to lay down all his rights as a man—not well enough to say to Virginia, the good old mother, lay down your imperial robes, clothe yourself in sackcloth, and bend the suppliant knee to Abraham Lincoln.

The PRESIDENT here announced that the hour had arrived for going into Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the report of the Committee on Federal Relations.

Mr. DORMAN, of Rockbridge, moved that the execution of the order of the day be postponed in order to give the gentleman from Barbour an opportunity of finishing his remarks; but directly withdrew the motion.

THE MARYLAND COMMISSIONERS.

The PRESIDENT.—Before going into committee, I beg leave to lay before the Convention a communication from Hon. Wm. Mitchell and others, Commissioners from Maryland.

The communication was read by the Secretary, as follows:

To the Honorable, the President of the Convention of the People of Virginia:

The undersigned, citizens of Maryland, have been appointed a committee on behalf of a Conference Convention, representing a portion of the citizens of the city of Baltimore, and of nearly all the counties of Maryland, to communicate with the Convention over which you preside, in reference to a matter in which they deem themselves deeply concerned, and which is now occupying the attention of your body. It is upon the subject of the proposed Conference with the Southern Border States.

It is especially to be understood, that in anything we may say, there must be no inference that this particular measure, or any other, is, in our judgment, or in the opinion of those persons whom we represent, to be preferred. We entirely disclaim any purpose even to suggest what would be the judgment of our constituents, did the occasion make it proper to express it. Our design is solely to invite the attention of the Convention to the importance of one particular consideration, if, and when, the proposed Conference shall be found acceptable to your Convention. In that event believing (as those whom we represent have instructed us to say they do believe,) that the people of Maryland will accept such an invitation, it becomes, as we respectfully suggest, a matter of equal interest to each and all the Border States, to secure, as far as it may be done, a full, fair, and accurate expression of the popular will, in such a form as to leave no doubt either of its character or of the authority of those who may be selected as its agents and representatives.

The proposition before your body requires the delegates to the Conference to be selected by the "proper authorities of those states."

If any existing organized department of the Government of Maryland should attempt the selection of delegates to such a Convention as is proposed, it would undoubtedly be resisted by the people, and, in that event, conflicting claimants would present themselves as rightful exponents of the popular sentiment, duly entitled to be received as such.

Our sole object is to avoid, by the terms of the invitation, all occasion for such collision; and, with this view, we respectfully suggest such an alteration in the language of your resolution as will express its object to be that delegates to the proposed Convention shall be *elected*, either *directly by the people*, or through the agency of a sovereign State Convention.

In the hope and expectation that this request will be favorably considered by your Convention, we have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servants,

W. MITCHELL,
E. F. CHAMBERS,
WM. HENRY NORRIS,
ISAAC D. JONES,
J. HANSON THOMAS.

Mr. FISHER, of Northampton, moved that the communication be laid on the table and printed.

Mr. SAMUEL MCDOWELL MOORE, of Rockbridge, hoped the order to print would not be adopted. The Convention was already annoyed enough by the proceedings of county meetings and other matters, without being burdened by the printing of communications from other States. The Convention had received no information as to who had sent those Commissioners here, and he looked upon the proceeding as rather an assumption on their part.

Mr. CONRAD, of Frederick, differed with the member from Rockbridge. He at least knew enough of the character of the gentlemen composing the Commission, to say that they were entitled to respect. He suggested that the member from Northampton modify his motion, and let the communication be referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.

Mr. FISHER accepted the modification, and the paper was so referred and ordered to be printed.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

The Convention resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, (Mr. SOUTHALL, of Albemarle in the chair,) and proceeded to consider the report of the Committee on Federal Relations.

Mr. RANDOLPH, of Richmond City, resumed his remarks. He read from the opinion of Judge Curtis, the exponent of Black Republicanism on the Supreme Bench of the United States, that slavery was only a creature of municipal law, and could have no existence beyond the circumference of the law so creating it; also, from the opinions of Lord Mansfield and Lord Stowell, showing how slavery is treated by those governments which do not recognize it. After an argument in relation to the difficulty of the recovery of a slave by his master, in the Territories, he resumed his exposition of the view advanced on Saturday, that the industrial interests of Virginia—the mining, manufacturing and agricultural interests—were intimately connected with the States of the South, and would find no protection in the North. He produced voluminous statistics of productions and trade, prepared with much care, and gathered from reliable sources, showing, by a comparison, that a deficiency in the South gave Virginia a good market for her surplus, while, in the North, there could be no such market, for they had a surplus of their own.—The experience of thirty years was reviewed to show that prices were better under a low than under a high tariff. Tobacco fell every time the tariff was raised, and whenever it was lowered tobacco rose in the market. It was proposed to admit leaf tobacco to the Southern Confederacy free of duty, while the manufactured article had to pay duty; and he mentioned the fact that agents from the State of Georgia had been in Richmond, within a few days past, purchasing leaf tobacco, which they carried home and manufactured on their own soil, thus avoiding the duty, while Virginia was in the same proportion losing one of her great branches of labor. He argued at length upon these points, touching upon the salt, iron, and coal interests, and upon the trade in live stock. The competition in the Northern Confederacy would be ruinous to Virginia manufacturers. Only two days after the gentleman from Rockbridge made his speech, apprehending the disastrous result of secession upon the iron and other interests of the State, a furnace, some five miles from Richmond, established by citizens of his own county at an expense of $100,000, went out of blast, and is offered for sale to the highest bidder, under deed of trust.—He (Mr. Randolph) also alluded to the establishment of a glass manufactory in Richmond, when the market was immediately flooded with cheap glass from the North, the result of which was that the establishment closed, and then glass went up to its old prices. It is protection from the North that our manufactures want. The people of Georgia were going into manufacturing operations, which would be developed under their system, and between the upper and nether millstones Virginia would be crushed. He argued that the manufacturers in Virginia, unable to find protection at home, would transfer their extensive operations to the Southern Confederacy; and if Virginia held aloof and remained with the North, the sceptre of manufacturing and commercial supremacy would never be restored to her.

In the course of his remarks, Mr. RANDOLPH was interrogated by Mr. CLEMENS, and very promptly answered. Mr. CLEMENS indicated his purpose to reply hereafter to some of the positions assumed by the member from Richmond.

The speaker drew a distinction between a condition of free trade with the South and free trade with the North, showing that in the former we were in less danger from foreign competition. In the Southern Congress Virginia would have a larger representation than any other State; she would have a leading voice in the councils, but he hoped to God she would not use her power as the large Northern States use theirs in the Federal Congress.

With regard to the interest of labor, he spoke at some length, denouncing the doctrine of an "irrepressible conflict" as a base coinage for vile party purposes. He presented in a strong view to the people of the Western section of the State, the question of their true interest in a Southern Confederacy, where their labor would meet its full development, while in the North it would meet nothing but competition and oppression. Mr. RANDOLPH was arguing this point, when

Mr. CHAMBLISS, of Greensville, said it was apparent that the gentleman from Richmond was physically unable to proceed, and as his argument was a very able and interesting one, he desired to give him an opportunity of going into it fully to-morrow. He therefore moved that the committee rise.

Mr. RANDOLPH expressed a sense of delicacy at throwing himself upon the indulgence of the Convention for another day; but Mr. JOHNSON, of Richmond, assured him that there was no necessity for being influenced by such a feeling.

The Committee then rose, and the Chairman reported progress.

FEDERAL RELATIONS.

Mr. DORMAN, of Rockbridge, offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee on Federal Relations inquire into the expediency of amendments to the Constitution of the United States being submitted by this State to the other States of the Union, providing and declaring, first, that Electors of President and Vice President shall be chosen on the District system; and second, that persons of African blood, in whole or in part, are not, and shall not be, citizens of the United States, or citizens within the meaning of the 2d section of the 4th Article of the Federal Constitution; and, further, whether such amendments should form part of any ultimatum laid down by Virginia or the Border States of the South, or should be submitted separately and distinct from such ultimatum.

The resolution was referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.

On motion of Mr. HAYMOND, the Convention adjourned.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA.

[*EXTRA SESSION.*]

SENATE.

MONDAY, March 18, 1861.

The Senate was called to order at 10 o'clock, Mr. JOHNSON in the Chair.

A message was received from the House, announcing that that body had disagreed to the amendments of the Senate to the militia bill, and had passed a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee of conference, in which they asked the concurrence of the Senate. The latter concurred, and the Chair appointed Messrs. BRANNON, AUGUST, and WICKHAM, on the part of the Senate.

Senate Bills Passed.—A bill authorizing the Treasurer of the State to destroy certain notes now on deposit in his office, and such as may be received in the future; a bill authorizing the Petersburg Railroad Company to increase its capital stock; a bill authorizing the appointment of an Inspector of Leather for the county of Hampshire.

Order of the Day.—Mr. BRANNON called for the order of the day—the bill imposing taxes for the support of Government.

On reaching the 24th section of the bill, a discussion arose as to the tax to be placed on the game of Keno or Kino.

Mr. BRANNON proposed a tax of $100 on a single table, $50 on the second, and $10 on every other.

Mr. TOWNES thought, from all he could learn from those who are acquainted with the game, that it ought not to be legalized. On his motion, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the Committee for Courts of Justice be instructed to inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill prohibiting the game of Keno or Kino.

So the matter rests in the hands of said committee.

The tax bill was then proceeded with, and various verbal and other amendments made thereto. In the 31st section the words which provide that no auctioneer shall pay more than $1,000, was stricken out, and a tax of one-half of one per centum imposed upon the amount of sales of all auctioneers.

Pending the further consideration of the bill, on motion of Mr. NEWMAN, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

MONDAY, March 18th, 1861.

The House was called to order at 11 o'clock, by the SPEAKER.

The Senate bill incorporating the American Agency was laid on the table.

Bills Passed.—Senate bill for the relief of Edward Johnson, of Giles county; for the relief of the securities of Reese Browning, late Sheriff of Logan county; incorporating the Bank of Parkersburg, in the county of Wood; refunding to Lynn and Campton a license tax improperly collected of them; amending an act incorporating the town of Portsmouth; authorizing the town of Portsmouth to issue coupon bonds; incorporating the trustees of the Parkersburg Classical and Scientific Institute; relieving the securities of Thos. K. Davis, late Sheriff of Prince William county; for the relief of Joseph N. Harper, of Brunswick county; for the relief of Enoch Atkins, of Giles county; for the relief of Moses G. Booth, of Franklin county.

Lost Coupons.—Senate bill paying the amount of a lost coupon to Jas. C. Maguire, was read in regular order and put on its passage.

Mr. DUCKWALL opposed the passage of the bill, as it established a dangerous precedent. If the House continued to pay coupons lost or affirmed to be lost by the carelessness of bondholders, the State at some future period would be victimized to a lage extent, when members would, when too, late, see the propriety of arresting such legislation.

Mr. BURKS said the bill drew an analogy between coupons which had been endorsed and negotiable notes. When the latter were lost, they could be recovered. Coupons stood upon precisely the same footing.

Messrs. MYERS and JONES of G. favored the bill on the grounds of justice to the parties.

The bill was amended on motion of Mr. HAYMOND, by requiring resident security on real estate.

Mr. CHRISTIAN said he should vote against the bill, as it established a precedent that must inevitably create carelessness on the part of coupon holders.

The bill passed—ayes 90, noes 11.

Committee Reports.—Adverse to the passage of Senate bill refunding a sum of money to Silas Reese, of Hampshire, and directing the payment of certain interests to E. J. O'Brien. Adopted.

State's Prison.—The Committee of Finance were granted permission to send for persons and papers in reference to the report of the Committee on the State's Prison.

Re-Charter of Banks.—On motion of Mr. GIBSON, of Hampshire, the bill for re-chartering the Bank of Virginia, and all similar bills, were made the order of the day for Tuesday, (to-day,) at 12 o'clock.

Militia Bill.—A Committee of Conference was appointed on the subject of the disagreement between the two Houses relative to the bill "amending certain laws in respect to the Militia of the Commonwealth, so as to render the same more effective." The subject of disagreement was an amendment of the Senate.

Adjourned.

A NAVY FOR THE CONFEDERATED STATES.—The New York Leader says:

"Our enterprising fellow-citizen, Alderman F. I. A. Boole, has been awarded the contract, being the lowest bidder, for the construction of the forty gun-scows required by the Southern Confederacy. These boats are to be seventy feet long by twenty-two wide and five feet deep, double planked, and with sides of the regular naval thickness. Mr. Boole has hired a new ship-building yard at Greenport, Long Island, close to the Tenth street ferry. Each scow is to mount one central ten-inch pivot gun and two thirty-four pound carronades. They are to be anchored in the mouths of the Mississippi, and at various exposed points up the river—thus guarding alike against attack from the sea, or a descent from the Northwestern States. With their full armament on board they will draw thirty-six inches of water, thus presenting but a very narrow target to the enemy.

"The plan of these boats, as a cheap substitute for a Southern navy, is due to Commander Hartstein, and they are to be completed for $3,200 each—the armaments to be furnished by the Richmond foundry. Twenty of these scows are to be delivered on or before the 31st of next July, and the balance by the end of October. Three of them are now in progress, to be called respectively the South Carolina, Mississippi and Georgia, and Mr. Boole is confident that he can easily complete his contract within the time specified. There were two ship-builders in this city amongst the bidders, the bid of one being $3,750 for each scow, and that of the other $4,200. Commander Hartstein believes that these vessels, almost wholly submerged in the water, will prove of more use and receive far less damage than Lieut. Hamilton's costly and dangerous iron-plated battery."

The Points in the Constitution of the Confederate States.

Vice-President Stephens was enthusiastically received at Augusta, Ga., Friday, on his way to Savannah. In a speech acknowledging the reception, he took occasion to explain the benefits of the Constitution of the Confederate States as contrasted with that of the Union from which they have withdrawn.

In the first place, Congress is forbidden from fostering one branch of industry at the expense of another. Thus, the merchant, the mechanic, the business man, and the laborer, are all placed upon the same footing in that respect—one interest has no more claim to the protection of the Government than another: and, therefore, honest labor can now work its own reward, by energy, industry, and perseverance. This he considered a wise provision; it settled the question of protection forever.

In the second place, the question of internal improvements was also settled. Under the old Constitution, the improvements in one State were made often at the expense of another. Thus, for instance, Georgia, which had acquired the title of Empire State on account of her numerous improvements, had to pay several millions of dollars to the General Government, by way of duties, on the very iron which she used in those improvements; and out of these duties money was taken to improve Northern harbors and rivers. This was manifestly unjust, and was entirely obviated by the new Constitution. Under this one, each section can make its own improvements, and is authorized to levy a tax upon those who are benefited by such improvements.—Thus, if Savannah desires to improve her harbor, she can do so, and then levy a tax or duty upon the commerce benefited by such improvements. If Mobile or New Orleans, or any other port, desires to make improvements, they all have the same privilege, and hence Georgia will not have to pay for improving Mobile harbor, and *vice versa*. In a word, those who receive the benefits, will have to pay for them. This provision he considered wise and just.

In the third place—and this is a very important improvement upon the old Constitution—the public money is protected. We have been accustomed, in the old country, to hear the Presidents charged with the extravagance of the public expenditures. Thus we had heard of the extravagances of John Quincy Adams, of Andrew Jackson, of Martin Van Buren, and, finally, of Jas. Buchanan; but these extravagances were not really chargeable to the Presidents. Their estimates of the probable expenditures had fallen short of the reality; thus, in some cases, the expenditures had increased two or three millions over the estimates; and, in the case of Mr. Buchanan, as much as twenty millions. His estimates were sixty millions, and yet Congress had appropriated eighty millions. It was generally the fault of the Congress, and the result of logrolling by the members. As, for instance, on the last night of a session, it frequently happened that in the hurry of finishing the business of the session, and passing the appropriation bill, some member would succeed in fastening upon it an appropriation of a million here, and another a million somewhere else—all done without reflection, and often by an irresponsible body of men—men whose time of service was completed, and who would, perhaps, never return to Congress. But all this is obviated by the new Constitution. The Congress of the Confederate States can only make such appropriations as the President recommends; or, if they exceed these, it must be done by a vote of two-thirds of both Houses.

Thus you see, my countrymen, that a very important point is gained. You have the public treasury well guarded, and you can hold the President responsible at the ballot-box, if he rushes the Government into extravagant expenditures. It makes no difference how much business a merchant transacts—no difference how much profit arises—if there are too many hands in the till, he is bound to be ruined. As mercantile men, you will understand and appreciate this illustration. And the illustration applies to the Government Treasury as well. But that, I think, is now properly guarded—and so we have another improvement upon the old constitution.

In the fourth place—and this is the principal and most important point of all—we have settled, and, I trust, settled forever, the great question which was the prime cause of our separation from the United States—I mean the question of African slavery. The old Constitution set out with a wrong idea on this subject; it was based upon an erroneous principle; it was founded upon the idea that African slavery is wrong, and it looked forward to the ultimate extinction of that institution. But time has proved the error, and we have corrected it in the new Constitution. We have based ours upon the principle of the inequality of races, and the principle is spreading—it is becoming appreciated and better understood; and though there are many even in the South who are still in the shell upon this subject, yet the day is not far distant when it will be generally understood and appreciated—not only in the South, but everywhere else. The world is rapidly progressing in its views on this subject, and in a very few years we may witness great changes in respect to this institution.

AFFAIRS AT FORT PICKENS.—A Washington dispatch in the New York Herald, gives the following intelligence purporting to have been received from Fort Pickens:

Dispatches were received here to-day from Montgomery, indicating a momentary apprehension of a collision at Fort Pickens. It appears that the commanders of the Brooklyn and Sabine can land no supplies or have any further communication with the shore. There are five hundred Government troops and marines in the various vessels laying off the harbor. Should they disregard this notification and attempt to land, a fight will at once come off.

Fort Pickens is invested with thirteen full batteries, including Fort Barrancas and McRae, all of which command Fort Pickens and the offing. Gen. Braxton Bragg is commanding officer of the troops of the seceding States. The Government, it is understood, have this information, and this is one of the subjects which have engaged their attention for the last forty-eight hours.

Rumors are current that the destination of the troops now in Texas, for whom transport ships have been sent, is Fort Pickens. It is known that an officer, with sealed dispatches, is on one of the vessels which left New York the day before yesterday, and another officer was dispatched overland to Col. Waite, commanding the troops in Texas. The vessels had the unusual supply of three months' provisions. These movements have been duly telegraphed to Montgomery and Pensacola.

MASSACHUSETTS PERSONAL LIBERTY BILL.—The bill modifying the provisions of what is called the "Personal Liberty Law," which passed the Senate of Massachusetts last week, was ordered to a third reading in the House of Representatives of that State on Wednesday last, by a vote of 81 to 45. The Boston Journal, in reference to this new act, of the final passage of which it has no doubt, says:

"The obnoxious features of the old act are done away with. The custody of the United States Marshal of the fugitive is unimpaired, the honest claimant is protected to the extent of his constitutional rights, and the peace of the community is not deprived of that security which it always ought to find in a well-regulated militia. Thus Massachusetts puts herself into unquestioned accord with the Federal Government and her sister States on this delicate and too often disturbing subject. She acknowledges in full the rights of all other powers under our complex system of Government."

MURDER OF AN AMERICAN.—Ogden York, son of a highly respectable citizen of New Orleans, was murdered by bandits on the 3d inst., while on his way from Vera Cruz to the city of Mexico, in a stage, with a number of ladies and gentlemen. The stage was stopped by robbers, who compelled every passenger to descend from the coach, and, while obeying the order, one of them, Mr. York, was struck on the back of the head with the hilt of a sword in the hands of one of the bandits, and he (York) becoming enraged by the unwantoned and unprovoked assault, immediately drew a revolver, which was concealed, and fired five shots at his assailant, each one taking effect and killing him instantly. The others, in revenge for the loss of their comrade, attacked Mr. York on all sides, and in a few moments cut him down with their swords—killing him almost immediately, and also wounding slightly one of the other stage passengers.—They then administered a chastisement to the children, and compelled every passenger to lay on the ground, with their face downward, for an hour or more, when they were permitted to place the body of Mr. York in the stage and proceed to the village of Perote.

NEGROES SEEKING PROTECTION FROM SLEMMER.—The Montgomery Advertiser, of the 14th inst., states that four runaway negroes, belonging to citizens of Florida, went to Fort Pickens recently, and demanded the protection of Lieut. Slemmer. That officer promptly returned them to their rightful owners.

NATIONAL CONVENTION.—The proposition for a National Convention, introduced in the Legislature of Indiana by Mr. Stotsenburg, of Floyd, on the first day of the session, passed on the last day of the session by a decided majority in both Houses.

THE SOUTHERN COMMISSIONERS.—The Washington coorespondent of the Baltimore Sun says:

The Montgomery Commissioners, Messrs. Crawford and Forsyth, presented the subject of their mission to the Secretary of State two or three days ago. No answer had been given yesterday, but the Commissioners were informed that a reply would be sent very soon. Mr. Roman had not arrived yesterday, but was expected last night. He had been detained in Montgomery by indisposition.

The letter of the Commissioners is said to be brief, and to express a desire for amicable relations between the two Governments. It proposes to treat upon the subject of an equitable division of public debt and property. As the reply will be made in a day or two, it may be presumed that it will be furnished to the Senate. It is not expected that any proposition to enter into treaty stipulations will be entertained.

RUMORED DIVISION OF ARKANSAS.—The Memphis Avalanche says:

We have been aware, for several days, of the deep-seated feeling amongst the delegates from Southern and Eastern Arkansas, to divide from the other portion of the State, if the State does not separate from the dominion of Abraham Lincoln. The proud spirits, who know no such word in their vocabulary as "vassalage," are bent upon relieving themselves from any such degradation. The following dispatch from Little Rock, received yesterday afternoon from a highly respectable source, confirms the formidable existence of such a purpose:

LITTLE ROCK, March 11, 1861.

To E. M. Apperson & Co.: Nothing done yet.—Propositions to form a new State of southern and Eastern Arkansas and West Tennessee, with Memphis as the Capital. Send this to Avalanche.

TIT FOR TAT.—At St. Paul, recently, a Rev. Mr. Fisk declared "that John Brown was a second Jesus Christ." Some sensible men assembled to consider certain political matters concerning the domestic interests of Minnesota, and in view of the above adopted the following:

Whereas, the Rev. Mr. Fisk, of St. Paul, has declared from the pulpit "that John Brown was a second Jesus Christ," therefore,

Resolved, That Mr. Fisk has made himself a *second Beadin's Ass*; Provided, however, nothing herein contained is intended to slander the original Ass by intimating that Mr Fisk is his lineal descendant.

TRAGEDY IN MISSISSIPPI.—The McNutt (Sunflower county, Miss.,) Sentinel, of last week, gives an account of a melancholy tragedy, enacted on Jones' Bayou, a few days ago, in which two men were killed, and the wife of one of the parties shot through the hand. A man named Murfree got into a difficulty with his overseer, named Young.—Murfree attempted to shoot Young, when Mrs. Young came forward and begged him not to shoot her husband. Murfree fired and the ball took effect in the woman's hand. Young then rushed upon Murfree, and in attempting to wrest the pistol from his hand was shot in the abdomen; he then beat Murfree to death with the pistol. Young has since died. Murfree was supposed to be laboring under effects of *mania-a potu*.

HORRIBLE CASE OF POISONING AT ROCKFORD, ILL.—*Thirteen Persons Dead.*—The Cincinnati Gazette has reports of a horrible case of poisoning at Rockford, Ill., by which a whole family, consisting of father, mother, and eleven children, have been destroyed. The poisoning was produced by eating pork, in the curing of which some deadly substance, (probably blue vitriol,) had been used by mistake for saltpetre. The father, who died first, was buried on Saturday, on which day the rest of the family died. They were buried on Sunday, hearses having to be procured from the neighboring towns.

ATTEMPT TO KILL.—A daring attempt to kill was made by a negro man, named Abner, belonging to Col. Langhorne, on Friday night. One of our most respected citizens, Capt. M. R. Bohannon, in company with his wife, was passing the factory of Col. Langhorne, when the negro deliberately fired at them twice, with, as is supposed, a pistol loaded with shot. Fortunately neither the Captain or his wife received any injury. As soon as the negro had fired he ran off, but not before he was recognized with sufficient certainty to be identified.—*Lynchburg (Va.) Republican.*

VALUABLE POST-OFFICES.—The Augusta (Ga.) Sentinel thinks the determination of the Southern Congress to discontinue some of the little Post-Offices is wise, if not carried too far. Some of them, it says, are merely Post-Offices in name. For instance, we find that, for the year ending September 30th, 1859, the net proceeds of each of five offices in Florida was under ten cents. Three of them received four cents each, and one of them three cents. Certainly, these offices could be lopped off without any great harm.

SURRENDER OF FORT BROWN.—Advices from Texas to the 15th state that Fort Brown was evacuated on the 12th, and the United States troops had been taken on board the steamship Daniel Webster for transportation to Key West and the Tortugas. The steamer Rusk had been chartered to convey the remainder of the United States troops in Texas to the same points. President Davis had sent an officer to Texas to enlist one thousand men for the defence of the frontiers.

A POSTMISTRESS BY POPULAR VOTE.—An election was held in St. Clairsville, Ohio, a few days ago, in compliance with what has been announced to be the wish of Mr. Lincoln to determine who should receive the appointment of Postmaster. There were three candidates, two very respectable and popular gentlemen, and a lady named Mrs. Ramsey.—The latter was elected by about twenty-five majority.

BURNED TO DEATH.—On Tuesday, the 19th ult., Mrs. Costello, living near Upperville, Fauquier county, Va., was found lying dead in her yard. Her clothes are supposed to have taken fire as she was in the act of lighting her pipe. She was altogether alone, and not being able to extinguish the flames, ran for assistance from her son, who was working near by, but perished a short distance from the house.

AFFRAY.—A difficulty occurred at the University of Mississippi, last week, between two students from Hinds co., named Watkins and Miller. Watkins fired six shots at Miller, four of which took effect, doing some very serious damage, but did not prove fatal. Miller fired one shot at Watkins, but missed his aim. The difficulty originated in a ball-room, about a misunderstanding with a young lady, whom both the young gentlemen claimed as a partner for a set.

A SENTENCE.—Lord Campbell said he himself heard a Judge at Stafford thus sentence a prisoner to death for forgery: "And I trust, through the merits and mediation of our blessed Redeemer, you may experience that mercy in another world which a due regard to the credit of the paper currency of the country forbids you to hope for here."

FOREIGNERS NOW.—Passengers for Savannah by the steamship lines were notified, says the Philadelphia Ledger, that their baggage would be subject to the scrutiny of the Savannah Custom-House officers. The officers, it is said, make a very rigid examination, and allow nothing but the strictly personal effects of the passengers to pass.

SHERMAN M. BOOTH RELEASED.—The Milwaukie Sentinel says Sherman M. Booth appeared upon the streets of that city on Sunday, and was present at one of the churches. It soon became known to his friends that he was released by order of the President, who signed his pardon March 2d. Mr. Booth looks remarkably well, considering his long confinement.

GEN. BRAGG.—Gen. Braxton Bragg arrived at Pensacola on Saturday, the 9th inst., and assumed the direction of affairs at the Navy-Yard. The Observer says that he was greeted on his arrival with the most vociferous demonstrations of applause by officers and soldiers.

A MISQUOTATION.—A Philadelphia lawyer, famous for his misquotations, was once attempting to pay a compliment to a friend named Bayard, at a large dinner party, and said, "Like his illustrious namesake, the accomplished chevalier, he was *sans cour et sans culotte*."

WANT US TO FIGHT.—The Montreal Herald is opposed to the abandonment of Fort Sumter, and, like Senator Chandler, of Michigan, would like to see a little "blood-letting."—The Toronto Leader talks much in the same way.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN PENNSYLVANIA.—The Democrats carried the day in the election for city officers at Harrisburg, Pa., on Saturday. At West Chester, a conservative Republican was elected Chief Burgess by 200 majority over an ultra Republican candidate.

RESIGNED.—R. B. Tucker, Esq., postmaster at Amherst Court-House, Va., has resigned his office for the reason that he will not consent to serve under Abe Lincoln.

LOCAL MATTERS.

Mayor's Court.—Yesterday the court-room was thronged with an auditory of interested spectators, and the prisoners dock (as usual on Mon