Richmond Dispatch.

BY COWARDIN & HAMMERSLEY.

THE DAILY DISPATCH is served to subscribers at SIX AND A QUARTER CENTS PER WEEK, payable to the Carrier weekly. Price for mailing, $3 a year, or $2.50 for six months, in advance.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY DISPATCH is issued every Tuesday and Friday at $3, in advance.

THE WEEKLY DISPATCH is issued every Friday, and mailed to subscribers at $1 per annum.

MONDAY MORNING.....APRIL 1, 1861.

DAILY DISPATCH.

VOL. XIX.---NO. 76. RICHMOND, VA., MONDAY, APRIL 1, 1861. PRICE ONE CENT.

VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION.

THIRTY-NINTH DAY.

SATURDAY, March 30, 1861.

The Convention was called to order at 10 o'clock. Prayer by the Rev. Dr. JETER, of the Baptist Church.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

Mr. MALLORY, of Brunswick, presented a series of resolutions adopted by citizens of that county, in favor of immediate secession, disapproving a Border State Convention.

Referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. CRITCHER, of Westmoreland, rose to a personal explanation. He had been charged with withholding important political intelligence received by him from Dr. Wm. Wirt, of Westmoreland. He said that in compliance with Dr. Wirt's request, he consulted with his friends in the Convention, and at their suggestion sent the letter to Mr. Seward, with the distinct assurance that if the policy there indicated and attributed to Mr. Chase were adopted and carried into practice, he, (Mr. Critcher,) with his friends, would sign an Ordinance of Secession within ten days after the policy should be inaugurated. This, said Mr. Critcher, was the extent of my correspondence with Wm. H. Seward. I would disdain to notice the frivolous and malicious charges that have been made against me, if the public mind were more calm and serene.

LIMITATION OF DEBATE.

Mr. WILLEY, of Monongalia, took the floor to his resolutions, but the President said he had given way yesterday to Mr. Conrad, whose resolutions, terminating the debate on Tuesday next, were still before the Convention.

Mr. CONRAD, of Frederick, said, that after consultation with his friends, he was willing to change his resolution so as to fix Thursday instead of Tuesday next; and if there was no objection, he would make this modification.

Mr. HARVIE, of Amelia, said he had no objection to any modification of the resolution that the gentleman saw fit to make; but he was not willing that Thursday should be fixed at the time. He had conferred with his friends, in accordance with the arrangement made last evening, and with a sincere desire to shorten the session, they had come to the conclusion that it would require twenty hours of the secession party to give expression to their views. If this were conceded, the Convention could meet at 10, and take a recess at half-past 2 o'clock, until 7 P. M. Such an arrangement would satisfy his friends, but they could not consent to a shorter time.

Mr. STAPLES, of Pittsylvania, said he had announced his opposition to the resolution, as originally offered, but would not consent to an extension of the time beyond Thursday.—He had no wish to apply the gag, and was in favor of full and free discussion; but he would vote for the resolution as modified.

Mr. PRICE, of Greenbrier, alluded to the action of the Convention last evening, and, in consequence thereof, he had conferred with the gentleman from Amelia, who exhibited to him a list of those who desired to speak, with the time allotted to each. To this he objected. He was willing to agree to a reasonable time, and let any one get the floor who could. He was willing to extend the time to Thursday, but farther than that he could not go.—There were other matters to be discussed, in opposition to the pending report, and it is necessary that this debate should be brought to a close. He had desired to speak some length himself, but was willing to forego the privilege, believing that a termination of the work would be more acceptable to his constituents.

Mr. WOODS, of Barbour, said he would depart from his usual rule, since all speeches under the previous question were limited to ten minutes, and read what he had to offer on the subject. He referred to the persistent aggressions of the North upon the South, and to the constant disregard of Southern rights and interests by the Northern people. Seven States had, in consequence, withdrawn from the Union and established for themselves the foundations of their own security. Virginia, while the great heart of the nation was throbbing with excitement and anxiety, had assembled this Convention, with a view of ascertaining what position she would assume. She had appointed a Committee on Federal Relations, which, after deliberating twenty-five days, had made a partial report, and after another period of deliberation, had made another report. These reports disappointed the expectations of a great body of the people of the State. Members of that committee had taken upon this floor the strongest Federal grounds; had declared that Virginia was not a free and independent State; that slavery was not a vital principle in our political system, and were endorsed by the vote of the majority. The Black Republicans would find here their ablest advocates and apologists—nothing could make their assurance more perfect than the journal of this Convention.

At this point in Mr. Woods' remarks, the President announced that the hour had arrived for going into the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. PATRICK, of Kanawha, moved that the order be suspended.

The PRESIDENT said this could not be done unless the hour fixed by the Convention had arrived.

Mr. DORMAN, of Rockbridge, said that the order of the day might be dropped, discharged, postponed, or executed. According to rules which he had examined upon the subject, the order might be postponed until 12 o'clock.

The PRESIDENT said that he had given the subject consideration, and still adhered to the ruling that the order could not be postponed.

Mr. DORMAN said he would submit his motion to the Chair for private examination.

Mr. PATRICK gave notice that he would offer a motion to rescind the rule allowing members to speak ten minutes after the previous question had been moved.

The motion was then passed by.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

The Convention went into Committee of the Whole, (Mr. SOUTHALL in the chair,) for the purpose of considering the report of the Committee of Federal Relations, Mr. FLOURNOY being entitled to the floor.

Mr. BAGBY, of Petersburg, hoped the gentleman would give way for a moment, while he made a personal explanation. He had been not of his intention of offering an Ordinance of Secession, but with the advice of gentlemen more conversant with such matters than himself, he had consented to postpone it. It was, however, all ready, and he would offer it if circumstances should hereafter justify him in pursuing that course.

Several Members.—Offer it now.

Mr. PRICE said he understood his friend a few days ago offer a series of instructions from his constituents in Petersburg, and he subsequently gave notice that he would offer an Ordinance of Secession, but he was now instructed otherwise. He asked if these new instructions also came from Petersburg?

Mr. BRANCH referred him to his remarks for an explanation.

Mr. FLOURNOY, of Halifax, then took the floor.

He said that nothing but the duty which he owed his constituents would induce him to occupy the time of the Committee, after the manifestations of impatience that had been exhibited. He was no disunionist. From his childhood he had cherished a deep and abiding love for the Union, and he could not agree with those who had taken the ground that destruction was not desirable. He could not say that the Union as it was is not more desirable than the Union as it is. He glanced at the anti-slavery aggressions upon the South, and the election of a sectional President, which had led to the withdrawal of seven States from the Union, because they say it is not safe in connection with the North. We were here in debate upon the question at issue, and thousands of our people said we ought to side with the Cotton States, because the institution of slavery was at stake. The ground that he (Mr. Flournoy) was to present an ultimatum to the North—not to the politicians, but to the people. The argument that was used here to negotiate our demands would have to be used with the conservative people of the North in enabling them, and in bringing about a favorable issue. It would crush out the fanatical spirit, and place the country again on her wonted prosperity and glory. He asked if it was more honorable to make such an effort to rush out, and thus peril the existence of the very institution we sought to secure? Many were disposed to speak of Virginia's submission State. Virginia would do nothing wrong. She had been called a "disunionist," while she had succeeded in driving back the tide of fanaticism, and the hand of force. The peace of the country had been preserved through her, and all were now looking with anxiety to the result of our deliberations.—It was her duty to be firm, and to maintain her name as the "mother of Statesmen." It was her duty to make a resolute effort towards effecting the final step towards which she conceived that there was no want of patriotism. She exhibited the fullness of her devotion to that libertyloving mother, even with every filament of her children. If the Northern ultimatum, they would have themselves the damning guilt of the greatest political blunder of the wisdom. We would be overwhelmed, and

He did not distrust the loyalty of any of his fellow-citizens of Virginia. He believed that no man could be a Virginian and a traitor.—They might be separated by some differences of opinion, but if the State were threatened they would all unite for the common defence—all, from the Pan-Handle to the Dismal Swamp.

Immediate secession would be voted down by the people. His idea was for Virginia to present an ultimatum to the North, through this Convention; a Border Conference he opposed. The Old Dominion had elected a large majority of conservative men to this body; she had spoken in favor of the Crittenden propositions. It was due to the States of Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee, that their wishes, to the extent of making one more effort to reconstruct the Union, should be consulted. He urged the Convention to pursue the course he had recommended; he would ask nothing more than justice of the North, and would surrender no right to obtain it.

Mr. BARBOUR, of Culpeper, next addressed the Committee.

He proceeded to an examination of the report of the committee, some portions of which were acceptable to him, but which as a whole was inefficient. He objected to the unlimited time proposed for a settlement, during the pendency of which Virginia was to continue under the rule of a hostile Government. He disagreed with others in regard to the present sentiment of the people of Virginia, who, he believed, were now awake to the necessity of adhering to the stronger Government at the South, along with those who were identified with her interests. He regarded the Peace Conference as a *final* effort on the part of Virginia to restore the Union as it once existed, and argued that a majority of the people of the State concurring with him, were now in favor of uniting Virginia with the Southern Confederacy.

The argument of Mr. Barbour was marked by logical force and ability, taking a strong Southern view of the question; but he was physically unable to bring it to a conclusion, and yielded the floor, saying he would be pleased to have another opportunity of addressing the Committee if the courtesy should be extended to him.

Mr. GOGGIN, of Bedford, assured the gentleman from Culpeper, that his remarks would not prohibit him from resuming the floor in the afternoon, and proceeded to say that he was not one of those who could see no difficulty attending the proposed plans of adjustment; he was not one of those who could see no objections to the report of the committee, nor was he one who could see no difficulty in carrying out the doctrine of immediate secession. Troubles surrounded us which should make every patriot willing to sacrifice all his party prejudices, and come up as one man, and endeavor to rescue the country from perpetual disunion. He alluded to the patriotism of the party with which he had always acted, but in the present crisis he knew no party distinctions. He agreed with many things in the report of the committee, and agreed with others in respect to the many and great advantages of Union. But he thought they had shut their eyes to the fact that the Union was dissolved, and that Virginia occupied a peculiar position. His feelings were directed towards some plan of restoration of the Union, of which the seceded States will form a part. While he desired to restore the Union, yet, when it came to the question whether Virginia should take the North or the South, he would say, with all the responsibility attaching to the declaration, that his destiny was with the South.

Mr. GOGGIN adverted to the success of the sectional party, and quoted the opinions of Millard Fillmore and John Bell, in anticipation of such an event. He still stood upon their platform, and if others did not come to him it was their fault, not his. He could see nothing in the election of Lincoln, nor in any of his appointments, nor in the later elections at the North, calculated to encourage any hope of a reform in public sentiment in that quarter. He took a position upon the resolutions which he had previously offered, that Virginia should go neither to the North nor to the South, until she knew the terms upon which she was to go. He would provide for North Carolina and Tennessee the right of transit across our territory, in order that they might get to the Government at Washington; but he wished gentlemen to point out to him the manner in which Virginia was to get to her Government, in the event that she withdrew from the old Union without receiving the necessary assurance from those States as to their future course. He could not endorse the doctrine of secession as a legal right, and could not see how those who advocated it could escape the charge of treason. Virginia should place herself upon the ground of revolutionary right—of resistance to oppression. He was with the committee in the proposition that Virginia would regard any attempt upon the part of the General Government to coerce a Southern State as just cause of complaint. They had fairly stated the grounds of difficulty, but instead of remaining in the Union to wait for responses from the North, he would go out of the Union, not with a view to make war upon the North, not with a view to an immediate conjunction with the South, but to go with the border States in forming a Union with the South.—If the border States refuse to go into the Conference, then let the Governor make proclamation of the fact; call the Convention together, and decide with regard to the future.

Mr. Goggin spoke until 2 o'clock, when the Convention took a recess until 4 P. M.

Evening Session.

The Committee was called to order by Mr. PRICE, of Greenbrier.

Mr. GOGGIN resumed his remarks, and proceeded to consider the peculiar position of Virginia, as a Border Slave State, in connection with a Union of non-slaveholding States. This fact seems to have been kept in view by the Committee of Twenty-One, in their preamble, the sixth paragraph of which sets forth that the grievances complained of have affected the people of Virginia to a greater extent than any of the seceded States. He wished gentlemen would answer the question how this border interest of slavery was to be better protected in a Southern Confederacy? With Joshua R. Giddings as Consul General in Canada, would not the operations of the underground railroad be brought to our very doors? He thought Virginia would find better protection by taking a position outside, so far as she could, and acting as mediator between the two sections. He was ready to cooperate with the Committee in bringing about the results which they proposed, or with any one else, who could inaugurate a plan by which Virginia could protect her interests.—He was opposed to going with the Confederate States, without knowing the terms. He did not think it could be done without taking a position outside of the Union, and holding a consultation with the Border States. In leaving the Union, he would feel all the regret of one in parting from an old and cherished friend; but the old Union was now no more; it has not the power to enforce its laws for the protection of the commercial and other interests of the country. There was a Fugitive Slave Law; but such was the force of public sentiment at the North, it was but a dead letter upon the statute book. Should Virginia remain in such a Union as this?

Mr. CARLILE said he understood the gentleman to say that the Fugitive Slave Law was a dead letter upon the statute book. He desired to call his attention to Mr. Buchanan's last message, wherein he said that he had executed the law in every instance.

Mr. GOGGIN said the gentleman evidently did not understand his position on this floor. He was not a defender of Mr. Buchanan. He once said, he believed, that if he had a drop of Democratic blood in his veins he would let it out; but he (Mr. G.) did not believe him—Mr. Buchanan had said many things which he could not defend. After an allusion to the general courtesy of the gentleman from Harrison, (Mr. Carlile,) and to the distinguished ability which had marked the Convention as a whole, he said it gave him great pleasure to listen to the arguments of gentlemen here, with whom he had been politically associated all his life, but with whom he was now compelled to differ. He then went on to consider the arguments heretofore advanced by the gentleman from Augusta, (Mr. Baldwin,) in regard to the tobacco interest, showing that New York, instead of re-shipping tobacco to Southern ports, shipped it to foreign ports; to England and her possessions in the East, and elsewhere. He also demonstrated the impossibility of any benefit to be derived by Virginia in going into the Southern Confederacy, from the hope that had been held out of a relaxation of duties on tobacco by foreign governments. It is one of their great sources of revenue, which they cannot and will not abandon. In this respect, he conceived, Virginia was in a much better condition where she could ship her tobacco duty free, as she does now, to New York, than she would be in a Southern Confederacy.

With regard to the territorial question, he contended that slave labor would always go wherever it could be most profitably employed. The cotton fields of the South furnished the great market for this species of property, and it was important to the interest of Virginia that an open trade with the South should be maintained. It had been said that the wealth of Western Virginia could be better developed by the employment of slave labor, and that, therefore it was Virginia's interest to keep her slaves within her own borders. This position he controverted; for if it could have been profitably employed, it would have gone there long ago. He believed, however, that the people of the West were ready to stand by the East in defence of slavery.

He called attention to facts illustrating the course of the fanatical crew at the North, which, despite the efforts of Virginia to impede it, had gone on, until they had installed themselves in all the offices of the Government. It had ridden over and overwhelmed everything else, until the time had come when the South should take measures to protect her interests, if she would be true to herself. Yet we were told to wait, to see if these people of the North might not yet be brought to their senses. He would not co-operate with those who opposed a reconstruction of the Union; who maintained that if they went out of the Union, they would never come back to it. He did not believe that the report of the Committee, if adopted, would ever bring back the seceded States of the South, which was the object he had in view. He would consult with the Border Slave States, and if they refused to go with Virginia, he would say then, when the naked question was presented to her, that she should unite her destinies with the South.

In conclusion, Mr. Goggin opposed any plan to stifle debate, but hoped all would have a full and fair opportunity for the expression of their views.

Mr. BARBOUR, of Jefferson, moved that the Committee rise. He did so with a view of yielding the floor on Monday to the gentleman from Culpeper, (Mr. JAMES BARBOUR,) who had come here this evening for the purpose of continuing his remarks, but illness had compelled him to retire. He had no doubt, under these circumstances, that the courtesy he asked would be readily extended.

The motion was agreed to, and the Committee rose and reported progress.

IN CONVENTION.

The PRESIDENT said that the resolutions of the gentleman from Frederick, for terminating debate in Committee of the Whole, were now before the Convention, and that the previous question had been moved.

Mr. CONRAD, of Frederick, called for the yeas and nays on the main question.

Mr. WISE said he did not know but the resolution would help him very much, for his throat and lungs were in such a condition that he ought not to speak at all. But he called attention to the fact that he had just sent to the Printer a series of amendments as a substitute for the second report of the Committee of Twenty-One, in which he had modified his own report, and blended it with the report of the majority, and he humbly thought it presented the subject in such a light as to demand some consideration. It would be utterly impossible in five minutes' time to explain the substitute, and draw a comparison between it and the Committee's report. Reasonable time ought, at least, to be granted, and he thought the resolution required too much railroad speed, except, perhaps, in the case of those who had had opportunity for a full expression of their views in the Committee on Federal Relations. Yet even there, the propositions which he had now submitted were not considered. He did not ask for time to be wasted in incidental debate; but what he was pleading for was reasonable time, for comparison and examination.

Mr. CONRAD said he felt the force of the appeal, which he knew was made in perfect sincerity; but he (Mr. C.) was acting for others as well as for himself, and did not feel authorized to make an essential change in the resolutions. He knew the gentleman from Princess Anne possessed great power of concentration, and he would cheerfully vote for the suspension of any rule to give the reasonable time to express his views. He would, moreover, so modify the resolutions as to allow ten minutes for explanation and ten minutes for replication.

Mr. WISE felt sincerely grateful for the intentions of the gentleman from Frederick, but he could accept no such courtesy on his own behalf, unless it were also extended to those around him. If debate were to be cut off on Thursday next, he did not believe his health would permit him to express his views very fully; but he would try it, and if he did not succeed, he would go before his constituents, and the people of the State, and say that which he would have said here, had he been allowed.

Mr. SLAUGHTER, of Campbell, opposed the resolutions. Matters were yet to be brought in here, which required a more full exposition than could be made in ten minutes' speeches.

Mr. BLAKEY, of Madison, agreed with the gentleman who had just taken his seat. He thought it very strange that the Chairman of the Committee of Twenty-One should stand here as father of this gag operation. After he had had full opportunity for the expression of his views in committee, he could not see why he should desire to cut off others from the benefits of discussion. He hoped he was not afraid to have his work reviewed here.

Mr. STUART, of Dodridge, thought there had been speaking enough, and that the time for action had come. He supposed that the members of this body possessed a fair share of intelligence, and were capable of making up their minds without requiring aid from each other. There had been more said and more printed already than the people of Virginia could read and digest from this time until the blast of Gabriel's trumpet. He thought, with all respect, that the gentlemen on the other side had occupied the time of the Convention to good advantage. The gentleman from Barbour, (Mr. WOODS,) had read a speech this morning, telling us of anti-slavery aggressions, and urging that as a reason for protracting debate. The people wanted action; that was the way to meet the evils complained of.

Mr. HALL, of Wetzel, was anxious that the session should terminate as soon as practicable, for he wanted to get home; but nothing else had yet been considered but the report of the Committee of Twenty-One. Now, if that Committee and its Chairman were to come here and cut off debate, it would have been better for the Commonwealth just to have sent the Committee here to settle the whole business. The report of the Committee had two meanings, and they could not deny the fact that no two members of the Committee understood the propositions alike. He was opposed to a *double entendre*. He wanted to see what the prescription was composed of before he swallowed it.

Mr. SPEED, of Campbell, thought the passage of these resolutions would work injustice. He claimed no more from the Convention than he was ready to grant to others, yet his duty to his constituents required that he should ask for what he was entitled to. The Convention had been in session about six weeks, and the debate, thus far, had been mainly confined to some 20 members, so there were 132 who had not yet been heard. He had presumed that a fair opportunity would have been offered to all. Some ten days ago he had offered a resolution, which was referred to the Committee of Twenty-One. It was a peculiar resolution, which he preferred should pass through the alembic of the Committee.—It went there, and there it rested. No opportunity had yet been offered for him to say one word on that subject. He did not conceive it possible, even if he got such an opportunity, to express his views in ten minutes.

Mr. CONRAD reminded the gentleman that the resolutions did not apply to matter hereafter to be reported on.

Mr. SPEED said that in any event, if he were to be called on to vote blindly for the report as it stood, he should fail to discharge the duty that his constituents expected of him.—He alluded to the partiality which prompted a tender of courtesy to the gentleman from Princess Anne, and said he admired the manliness with which he rejected the offer. The course of the advocates of the resolutions was criticised with some severity.

Mr. MONTAGUE, of Middlesex, said no action ought to be taken here, calculated to engender angry feelings. The adoption of the resolutions could have no other result that to add to the excitement now distracting the Commonwealth. He regretted that the Chairman of the Committee on Federal Relations should have offered the resolutions, not at his own behest, but at the bidding of others. Much had been said here about King Cotton, but he had rather be ruled by any other King than "King Caucus." With regard to the amendments proposed by the gentleman from Princess Anne, he could say from a personal examination that they were entitled to far more consideration than could be given within the limit prescribed. The resolutions, he believed, would fail to effect their purpose, for they could only tend to distract our counsels.

Calls for "Question."

Mr. TURNER, of Jackson, occupied ten minutes in entering his protest against the resolution, and called attention to the fact that those who were now the greatest precipitators, were a few days ago the most anxious for delay.

The call for the previous question having been sustained, the main question was put, and the resolutions were adopted by the following vote:

YEAS.—Messrs. Janney, (President,) Armstrong, Aston, Baylor, Berlin, Blow, Boggess, Brent, Brown, Burdett, Burley, Byrne, Campbell, Carlile, Carter, Clemens, C. S. Conrad, Robert Y. Conrad, Couch, Deskins, Dorman, Dulany, Early, French, Fugate, Gillespie, Gravely, Gray, Eph'm B. Hall, Hammond, Haymond, Hoge, Hubbard, Hughes, Hull, Jackson, P. C. Johnston, Lewis, McComas, McGrew, McNeil, Marshall, Marr, Maslin, Masters, Moffett, Moore, Osburn, Parks, Patrick, Pendleton, Porter, Price, Pugh, Wm. C. Scott, Sharp, Shlington, Spurlock, Chapman J. Stuart, Tarr, Taylor, Walker, Wickham, and Willey.—54.

NAYS.—Messrs. Alfred M. Barbour, Borst, Boyd, Bruce, Coffman, Coon, Flournoy, Forbes, Garland, Graham, Gregory, Goggin, John Goode, Jr., Thos. F. Goode, L. S. Hall, Isbell, Marmaduke Johnson, Kent, Kindred, Lawson, Chas. K. Mallory, Miller, Montague, Morton, Neblett, Richardson, Robt. E. Scott, Scowell, Sheffey, Slaughter, Strange, Thornton, Tredway, Robt. H. Turner, Frank P. Turner, Wise, Woods, and Wysor.—38.

(Mr. BALDWIN had paired off with Mr. RANDOLPH, and Messrs. BAGBY, BOISSEAU, CRITCHER, SPEED and others announced that they had also paired off.)

The resolutions, as adopted, read as follows:

Resolved and Ordered, That on Thursday, the 4th day of April next, at 12 o'clock noon, all debate in the Committee of the Whole upon the reports from the Committee on Federal Relations, shall terminate, and the committee shall at once proceed to vote upon the propositions before it, giving ten minutes to the member offering any amendment, and the same time to one member opposing it, for explanation, and ten minutes for replication.

2. That hereafter no member in the Committee of the Whole shall be allowed to speak more than once on the same proposition.

Mr. CONRAD, from the Committee on Federal Relations, submitted the following report:

The Committee on Federal Relations, to whom was referred a resolution on the 2d inst., inquiring into the expediency of reporting to the Convention two Ordinances, to be submitted to a vote of the people for their approval or rejection on the fourth Monday in May next: one providing for a resumption by the State of the powers heretofore delegated to the General Government; and the other, as an alternative proposition, the series of amendments to the Constitution of the United States, which may be agreed on by the Convention to be submitted to the Northern States as an ultimatum, on the acceptance of which this State will continue in the Federal Union, with the proviso, that if not accepted by the —— day of ——, the Convention shall have authority to pass an Ordinance of Secession without referring it back to the people for their ratification—have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report as follows:

Resolved, That it would be premature and inexpedient to act upon the subject at this time, but it will be proper to consider and report upon the same after the Convention shall have decided upon the former report of this Committee.

Laid on the table.

Mr. SCOTT, of Fauquier, announced his purpose to offer an amendment to the 14th resolution of the report of the Committee on Federal Relations. He asked that it might be printed, for the purpose of placing it in the hands of the members. Agreed to.

The amendment makes a request of the authorities of the several Border Slave States to "assemble the people thereof in primary Conventions, to take into consideration the propositions of this Convention, and in the event that the non-slaveholding States do not within a reasonable time, to be indicated by the day which may be fixed for the re-assembling of this Convention, assent to the said propositions, and institute the measures necessary to carry them into effect, that the States aforesaid shall convene at ——, on the —— day of ——, a Congress of such States, composed of delegates to be appointed by the respective Conventions thereof, for the purpose of recommending a Constitution of Government upon which the Union of all the States may be safely reconstructed; to which Congress such of the non-slaveholding States as may concur in this proposition, and the Confederate States, shall be invited to send delegates."

On motion of Mr. HALL, of Wetzel, the Convention adjourned.

NOTE.—In the sketch of Mr. RIVES' remarks, on Friday, he was made to say that Senator Hunter, in his Petersburg speech, said that "he did not think the election of Lincoln would justify dissolution, and if any State went out, he would be among the first to endeavor to bring her back again." What Mr. Rives said was, that "Mr. Hunter would *not* aid in forcing any State back into the Union, should one have project to secede on account of Lincoln's election."

Important from Paris.

The Paris correspondent of the New York Times writes, under date of the 10th inst., as follows:

The French and English governments are fitting out a powerful fleet of war steamers for the United States. The suggestion came from England, and France will furnish on her part three of her first-class new frigates; the English contingent will perhaps be larger. The precise object of this fleet it will be impossible to ascertain, as it will probably sail with sealed orders. We may surmise, however, that it is intended as an audience for the struggle which is soon to take place between brothers and friends in the United States—as a sort of escort of honor for the funeral of the Great Republic. The idea is said to have been provoked in the English cabinet by the indignities offered to a British subject or subjects in the Southern States.

We do not suppose, of course, that the fleet goes out with any hostile intent; its ostensible errand will be the protection of English and French subjects. But it is the custom to send fleets "of observation" when any great war is going on in a foreign country, and while observing, to pick up any little advantages that may offer themselves; or when the sympathy of the fleet is all on one side, to send boats now and then accidentally between the contending forces, as England has twice done in the late Sicilian war, so as to protect a suffering friend at the right moment.

Spain, also, although not working in concert with France and England, is preparing to send to the waters of the Gulf of Mexico a formidable force in men, ships and material.

At a concert at the Tuileries, two evenings ago, the Emperor again had a long conversation with Mr. Faulkner on the present troubles in the United States. His Majesty confined himself, however, to the asking of questions, and did not express any opinions or sentiments of his own. As the trouble grows more serious, he no doubt finds it wiser to become more diplomatic. But his silence, supposing him to be well advised of the progress of affairs, is not a good omen in any sense.—Mr. Faulkner was able to inform the Emperor, in reply to his demand to that effect, that Mr. Lincoln had arrived at Washington, the news having been telegraphed through from Liverpool that day.

At this same concert at the palace a high officer of the crown said to an American official: "So it seems your republic is going to pieces?" "Oh, no, I hope not yet," was the reply. "Yes, but it will. No republic has ever stood so long, and never will. Self-government is a Utopia, sir; you must have a strong government as the only condition of a long existence."

The good people of Havre have been gratified with the sight of the Pelican Flag floating at the masthead of a Mobile ship, the Pilgrim, now discharging cotton at that port.—This flag was only hoisted as a show, however.

THE REVOLUTION IN BUENOS AYRES.—*Horrible Scenes.*—The Tribuna, of Buenos Ayres, of February 1, comes to us in mourning for the events in San Juan, the details of which are as revolting and heart-sickening as any that have ever disgraced the Spanish-American name. Col. Saa followed up his victory over Aberastain by causing that brave but unfortunate gentleman to be wantonly assassinated on the road, after having made him march barefooted and almost naked till he dropped down with fatigue, and because he was unable to walk further his savage guards murdered him and chopped his body into fragments. Saa continued his progress to the town of San Juan, which he delivered up to a three days' pillage. He had the three interesting daughters of Aberastain dragged into the street and publicly violated by his licentious soldiery. Every grown man found in the place he ordered to be shot; declared the town in a state of siege for a period of forty days; and then, in the midst of more than six hundred victims, he writes to acquaint the Government that "law has triumphed in San Juan." Gov. Mitre, of Buenos Ayres, immediately issued a proclamation to the people, who were perfectly furious with indignation, in which he endeavors to calm them by promising that the actors in that fearful tragedy shall be punished. Letters published in the Tribuna, by eye-witnesses of the scene we are speaking of, say the battle of Posito only lasted half an hour, and that for three hours subsequently Saa's men were engaged in deliberately murdering their prisoners, most of whom were mere boys. Urquiza comes in for a large share of abuse and indignation, and Derqui, notwithstanding his circular, is suspected of being privy to these monstrous proceedings.

THE STEAMER BIENVILLE RELEASED.—In the case of the steamer Bienville, of Livingston, Crocheron & Co.'s New Orleans line, which was arrested on her late arrival here by the Collector for not having a Federal clearance, it has been arranged that the matter shall be referred to the Secretary of the Treasury, and that she shall be permitted to leave on Saturday, with the mails, provided the owners sign the requisite bonds for the payment of the penalty. The Bienville had among her cargo some $1,600 worth of foreign goods, which had been duly entered at New Orleans, and reshipped here to sell. These goods are held by the Custom House authorities. Several other vessels have arrived here from Southern ports, without the appropriate clearance, and have been fined by the Collector, the Captains paying the penalty under protest in each case. The schr. S. C. Evans, from Fernandina, Florida, is of this number. Another schooner, from the same place, arrived the same day, but showing the regular clearance. It is probable that this vessel entered, and, anticipating the new order of things, cleared the same day, before any change was made at the Custom House. All these cases will early receive the attention of the Secretary of the Treasury.—*N. Y. Times.*

"BOLD SOUTHERN BUMMERS."—A company of young men paraded in Portsmouth the other day bearing the national flag, and small pennons inscribed B. S. B. The unfamiliar initials having provoked some inquiry, a correspondent gratified public curiosity by stating through the Day Book that their true signification is the "Bold Southern Bummers."

The Attack on the Diligence in Mexico.

The Extraordinary publishes the particulars of the attack on a diligence near Vera Cruz, and wounding of Capt. Aldham. Capt. Aldham's party consisted of Mr. Brett, Mr. Heslop, and a hardy sailor named Harris, all well armed. They were accompanied by Mr. Glennie, English Consul of Mexico, his family, his sister-in-law, Mrs. Kauffman, and Mme Maison, the companion in misfortune of Capt. Aldham. The whole company had two diligences, which were escorted for a part of the way, and they reached Orizava in safety. Here it was supposed all danger ended, and on leaving Orizava all the travelers appear to have been quietly snoozing away in their seats, when a short distance beyond Cordova they were alarmed by the diligence stopping, and the cry of robbers. The Extraordinary says:

Capt. Aldham and his officers being in the first diligence with Mrs. Kauffman and the unfortunate French lady, they at once seized their arms and prepared for defence. Capt. Aldham fired his pistol upon one of the assassins at the side of the diligence, and then made a dash to gain a position outside. As he was alighting he was fired upon and fell, the ball having passed through his thigh.—The same discharge wounded Madame Maison. A ball passed through the diligence and hit that unfortunate lady in the knee, breaking the bone in such a manner that her leg it is feared must be amputated.

In the meantime Harris, the sailor, on top of the stage, and Messrs. Brett and Heslop, the latter having safely alighted on the ground, were sustaining a warm contest with the assassins, who had retreated a short distance. The fight lasted until three full rounds had been fired by the officers of the Valorous, when the assailants availed themselves of the still prevailing darkness, (for it was about 4 o'clock A. M.,) to make off, taking with them such of their companions as were killed and wounded. The original number of the assailants is believed to have been nine.

Capt. Aldham and Madame Maison were taken to Cordova and quartered in the house of Mr. Legrand, where they received the attention of Dr. Carillo, of Orizava, and the good offices of Messrs. Grandison and Glennie. A letter from Puebla, the 13th, also records the following:

The diligence that left this place for Perote, on the 11th, was attacked two posts this side of that place by twenty-seven robbers. There were seven passengers in all in the diligence, among them two Americans, named McDye and Hailey, and a Frenchman, whose name I have not learned. The two Americans were well armed, each having a rifle and a pair of revolvers.

On the appearance of the robbers the stage was at once stopped, and the two Americans got out and commenced a sharp resistance.—The battle waged for about an hour, when the robbers—those whose remained—retired, leaving three dead in sight, two of whom were killed by Mr. McDye, and the other by the Frenchman. Two dead robbers were afterwards found in the woods, and it is believed that several more of them must have been severely, if not mortally, wounded.

On the part of the passengers, the Frenchman received the worst wound. He was shot through the body, and is considered to be in a dangerous situation. Mr. McDye received a ball in his side, after it had passed through his left arm. Mr. Hailey was not harmed.—The coachman is said to have received a ball in his hat. To the rest of the passengers nothing happened.

Another account says both of the Americans were wounded, and when the Tennessee sailed were at Vera Cruz. The files are filled with accounts of similar attacks upon travelers in all parts of the country. Some charge them upon the reactionary party alone, but others, with more justice, probably, find sufficient cause for them in the distracted state of the country and utter demoralization of the people.

THE SEIZURE OF ST. DOMINGO.—The news from Havana by the Quaker City yesterday is of the highest importance. Spanish intrigue for the annexation of St. Domingo has at length taken a visible shape. A concerted plan for causing disaffection in the island, by the emigration there of persons hired for the work, has been going on for some time, and no little consternation was created by the hoisting in St. Domingo of the Spanish flag on the 16th inst. Spain is ostensibly to create a protectorate over these emissaries, for which purpose three vessels of war, with troops, arms and munitions, have been sent to St. Domingo. The result will be the forcible acquisition of the island. Other vessels-of-war, with 10,000 troops, are to be sent from Cuba and from Spain. It is thought that by an arrangement with France, Spain will also acquire Hayti, while Mexico will not be forgotten. A Havana correspondent of the New York Herald says:

The Spanish steam frigate Blanca, with a full complement of sailors and marines for active service, left her anchorage in our harbor Saturday evening last for St. Domingo, having on board troops to enforce Spanish policy and to defeat any opposition that might be made by the Government or people of the Dominican Republic to the protective jurisdiction of Spain. Many thousands of people were upon the wharf to cheer this enterprise for the acquisition of new territory and the display of Spanish power upon their ancient domain, where were impressed almost the first footsteps of the pioneers of Western civilization. To-day leave for the same destination the Spanish steam frigates Barenguela and Petronella, with complete war fittings, munitions and men drawn from the army, to compel respect to Spanish power and to Spanish dictation. It is said that five or six thousand soldiers are to be sent to revolutionize, or to finish the revolution initiated by the Spanish Government, by a quiet introduction of emigrants, instructed in the game, and paid for their services by grants of lands which were to be acquired through their duplicity and treachery to the Government where they pretend to seek homes and protection.

Every demonstration tending to territorial acquisition on the part of Spain in St. Domingo, from the fraud, deception and tricks of the Spanish Consul Segovia in St. Domingo city, to defeat the policy of the United States—causing the refusal of confirmation of a treaty made in good faith with the Dominican republic, through their own commissioners under legal authority, and at their own suggestion, after the same had been thoroughly discussed and maturely considered on both sides, and ratified by the Senate of the chief of the high contracting parties—the United States—to the inducing tide of Spanish hired emigration to the Dominican republic, conducted by Spanish officers of high rank in the army and navy, and transported from various places in armed vessels of the crown, for the purpose of future action to construct a case for Spanish national intervention—has been already recorded.

The Havana correspondent of the New York Journal of Commerce says:

Spain sent in, this week, a large armament to St. Domingo, to secure the peaceable annexation of the Dominican Republic. The frigate Blanca left on Saturday, with her complement in crew, marines, &c., and a large detachment of soldiers. The Petronilla and Berenguela are to follow to-day or to-morrow, bound to Hayti. Spain has been sending emigrants there, for the purpose of revolution, during the past year or two, in order to be called in to protect her own citizens, or to assume jurisdiction. It is a matter accomplished, and Hayti will share the same fate. Spain and France are agreed upon the arrangement and division of the spoils. These republics, recognized organizations by the civilized world, *will be conquered by Spain*, and they will recognize no free colored people. So much for the first fruits of abolition abroad. It is only the beginning. Mexico will be attacked, as soon as it can be done safely.

HORRIBLE TRAGEDY.—A most terrible tragedy was enacted near Commerce, Miss., last Tuesday, by which three persons lost their lives. On Mr. Byrne's plantation, just back of Commerce, early on the day named, while the overseer, Mr. Allen, was standing near the negro quarters, he was approached from the rear by four negro men, one of whom knocked him down with a hand-stick. While down, Allen drew his knife, and two of the negroes, supposing he was dead, approached near, when they were seized, and their throats cut from ear to ear. Another negro, very powerful, then approached, and, catching Allen by the neck, choked him, and dislocated his neck, from which he died almost instantly. The two surviving negroes then ran off, making their way up to Harkel roads, about twenty-five miles below Memphis, where they stole a skiff and crossed the river, making their way to parts unknown.

COST OF THE CONFEDERATE ARMY.—As near as we can estimate from tables given, the salaries of officers, privates and musicians, to compose the army of 10,433 men, authorized by the recent Confederate act, will amount to about $220,000 per month, or, say $2,600,000 per annum. This is, of course, but a part of the aggregate, as forage, fuel, quarters, transportation, arms, equipments, &c., are to be added.

LOCAL MATTERS.

Rencontre.—The rotunda of the Exchange Hotel was the scene of an unpleasant rencontre Saturday evening at 6 o'clock. It appears that Mr. Hugh L. Gallaher, the owner of an extensive quarry, located on the canal, and contractor for supplying Fort Calhoun