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Richmond Dispatch.

BY COWARDIN & HAMMERSLEY.

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WEDNESDAY MORNING...APRIL 3, 1861.

VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION.

FORTY-FIRST DAY.

TUESDAY, April 2, 1861.

The Convention was called to order at 10 o'clock. Prayer by the Rev. Mr. PETIGRUE, of the Disciples' Church.

EQUALITY OF TAXATION.

The Convention proceeded to the consideration of unfinished business—namely, the resolutions on Taxation and Representation, offered by Mr. WILLEY, of Monongalia.

Mr. WILLEY being entitled to the floor, addressed the Convention. He protested against the consideration of the subject as a sectional question, asserting that not only the West and the Northwest, but all other sections of the State, were equally interested in it. He produced facts from the Auditor's report to show the large number of non-slaveholding taxpayers East of the Blue Ridge, whose interest it was to have the organic law changed in this respect. He particularly contended for justice to the Western people, who would be called upon to fight the battles, if the State were to become involved in civil war. The present policy, he argued, tended to divert capital from Virginia to the North, while her own natural resources remained undeveloped. He hoped the question would be taken, and that the resolutions would pass.

Mr. STUART, of Doddridge, desired to say a few words upon the subject. Gentlemen had not yet been talked to as plainly as he proposed to talk. He would avail himself of the opportunity to-morrow morning.

The subject was then passed by.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

The Convention went into Committee of the Whole (Mr. SCOTT in the chair,) for the purpose of considering the report of the Committee on Federal Relations—Mr. MONTAGUE, of Middlesex, being entitled to the floor.

Mr. FISHER, of Northampton, asked the gentleman from Middlesex to give way for a moment, to enable him to correct the report of his speech in the official organ of the Convention, the Richmond *Enquirer*. This having been done—

The CHAIRMAN requested the Secretary to read the 25th rule, prohibiting persons from walking about while a member was speaking.

Mr. MONTAGUE resumed his remarks, and proceeded to argue in favor of the right of secession. The doctrine had been sneered at by gentlemen on this floor as ridiculous and absurd, and those who advocated it had been denounced as traitors. In his own remarks he intended to be courteous and respectful to all. He believed the day was not far distant when every one here, and the whole people of Virginia, would rally to the defence of the rights of the State, and show to the world that man could and would be free.

He maintained that Virginia was the first to exercise the right of secession. On the 15th of May, 1776, before the Declaration of Independence, Virginia met, without consulting with the Border States, or asking anybody what she should do, and in the plenitude of her sovereignty and in the depth of her patriotism, severed her connection with Great Britain and exercised the right of secession.—Thus it was Virginia doctrine. It was referred to by John Quincy Adams, and applied as an argument in favor of the right of sovereignty. But a second time she exercised her sovereign right, by inaugurating the movement by which, in 1787, the Federal Constitution was amended, and the Articles of Confederation revised so as to render them adequate to the exigencies of the States and to the government of the Union. And yet we hear gentlemen denouncing the Convention at Montgomery for pursuing a similar course.

Mr. CARLILE asked if he understood the gentleman as contending that the Constitution of the Southern Confederated States had been referred to the people, as in the case of the Federal Constitution?

Mr. MONTAGUE.—It was substantially the same thing.

Mr. CARLILE said his information on the subject was that the Montgomery Convention refused to refer their Constitution to the people of the several States.

Mr. MONTAGUE replied that this was because the States had Conventions in session at the same time, representing them upon the subjects at issue, and hence it would have been nonsense to have referred it to the people. It amounted to the same thing.

The speaker then proceeded to show that a State in her sovereign capacity as one of the constituents of the Federal Government, has a right to judge for herself as to the mode and measure of redress, and never merged her individuality and sovereignty into the Government at Washington. He quoted from Madison's writings to demonstrate that a breach of the compact on the one side absolves the other, and that the compact might be then broken in pieces. Was the principle of the individuality of the States that broke up the old articles of confederation. It was the doctrine of Mr. Madison that when we, as the people of Virginia, failed in all other efforts for redress of the grievances, we had the right to denounce the Federal Government and resume our powers of sovereignty. He also read the opinions of Randolph, Pendleton, Nicholas, and other founders of Republican liberty in Virginia, to sustain the position which he laid down. If he was to be denounced as a traitor, let it be for proclaiming and upholding the principles laid down by these fathers, whose volumes he had read. [Applause in the east-gallery.]

The CHAIRMAN.—The Sergeant-at-Arms will clear the gallery.

The order was obeyed, the sovereigns there assembled reserving the right to make another demonstration as they retired.

Mr. WISE desired to know how long this order would last?

The CHAIRMAN was not aware of any limit to it.

Mr. WISE had asked the question because he wanted to ascertain the effect of it. There were many respectable citizens in the gallery who, he was sure, took no part in the disorder, while he believed that some on this floor participate in it. He thought it hard that the innocent should be made to suffer with the guilty.

The CHAIRMAN said that this constituted the difficulty. He was not aware that the applause proceeded from any other place than the gallery, and it was impossible to distinguish individuals who were engaged in it. He supposed the gallery could be again thrown open after a reasonable time.

Mr. WISE asked if they could return immediately? He would like to know how long a reasonable time was?

The colloquy here terminated, and the gallery door was re-opened in about a quarter of an hour. The occupants of the lobby were undisturbed.

Mr. MONTAGUE proceeded, arguing to show that not only had Virginia reserved the right to resume her powers, but that other States, including New York, and little Rhode Island, had which so much had been said, had declared that the powers of government might be resumed whenever the happiness and safety of the people of the States required it.—The Committee of Twenty-One had said that the States, when they went into this Confederation, were independent sovereignties—they must have gone in voluntarily, for no power existed to carry them in; and this being admitted, he would defy any gentleman to show that there was anything in the Constitution to keep them in. Mr. M. went on to show that the 10th amendment to the Constitution expressly made secession a great constitutional right, and that the Convention had power to declare Virginia out of the Union, subject to the decision to be referred, as stipulated, to the people. If this were to be deemed treason, he was perfectly willing to rest under the charge, with such men as he had quoted to sustain his position. Proceeding to consider the report of the Committee, he said he conceded the right of States to withdraw, but the other day they were denying that the States were sovereign at the present time.—He admitted it as a "revolutionary right," but he wanted to know what that term meant.

Mr. CONRAD, of Frederick, (Chairman of the Committee on Federal Relations,) said that he had expressly objected to the use of the word "revolutionary," because it implied a revolt against the Government. He fully agreed with the gentleman in his able argument in favor of the right of peaceable secession; and he did not conceive that any citizen maintaining that right should be regarded as a traitor. In one sense it was revolutionary, because it was an extra constitutional right, and he saw no authority in the Constitution to break up that Government. As the gentleman had shown, the right originated fifteen years before the adoption of the Constitution.

Mr. MONTAGUE was glad to have this assurance, for it showed that he had but one more step to take before they would shake hands with each other on the broad platform of Rights. It also relieved him of the necessity of pursuing the argument farther. He then proceeded to show the causes which should induce Virginia to withdraw at once from the Confederacy. Tracing the progress of the abolition movement from its inception to the present time, he asked if there was any principle of logic, reason or common sense, to induce the belief that a people who had pursued one object through a period of 75 years, would relinquish it at the time when the object was accomplished? He believed that every man at the North, ex-Chief Justice Charles O'Conor, entertained the opinion that slavery was a sin. It was taught in their pulpits, in their schools, in their pulpits. The people of Virginia, as a free people, had depended upon a separation from those who were hostile to their interests, and would continue persistently to war against them.—He closed with an urgent and forcible appeal to gentlemen on the other side to come over and aid in placing Virginia in a position of safety. Every consideration required that she should secede at once, and settle her difficulties, peaceably if she can, forcibly if she must. If he was in error, it was an error of his heart, and he meant to stand by it to the bitter end. Whatever might be Virginia's destiny, he would never forsake her, but would live here and die here, and trust to posterity to vindicate his course. [Applause.]

Mr. MACFARLAND, of Richmond, took the floor, but the Chairman requested him to suspend his remarks for a moment, while the Sergeant-at-Arms again cleared the gallery and the lobby.

Mr. MACFARLAND and Mr. WISE appealed to the Chair to withdraw the order, which the Chair consented to do, alluding to the pain which it gave him to enforce such an order, and admonishing the spectators that if the thing were again repeated, the order would be peremptorily executed.

Mr. MACFARLAND then commenced his speech with the remark that he entered upon the discussion with a painful sense of the responsibility which the position implied. When the secession movement began, the country was in the plenitude of its strength; yet the evils resulted from causes which had long been operating in the public mind. No Union could long exist, where the people on one side constantly exercised a spirit of hostility against the people of the other side, and to this constant agitation he attributed the present evils overshadowing the country. He proceeded to consider the question whether the sentiment of hostility at the North might be overcome and supplanted by a sentiment of kindness and friendliness to the South.—It was, he conceived, the part of wise statesmanship not to dismiss and abandon institutions like ours, without at least making one intrepid effort to retain them. There was neither courage nor intrepidity in despair.—The peace of the world was once placed in jeopardy far more imminent under the inflaming influence of a religious controversy, than it was now under the agitation of the African slavery question; and yet it was found that by toleration the Protestant and the Roman Catholic might dwell together in peace. He apprehended that in years hence it would be found that the people of this country might dwell together as peacefully as the people of any one county in either section. No suggestion of the futility of making an effort to this end should discourage us from making it. If success should fortunately crown the effort, there was not an individual here engaged in the work of endeavoring to restore the Union, but would establish a claim upon posterity for reverence and gratitude. If it were possible, by amendments to the Constitution, to close the door of agitation so that no human power could open it, was there not at least a prospect of annihilating the evils which have so wrought upon the feeling of the South?—He would not say that the report of the committee was sufficient, but he took the ground that amendments might be introduced which would satisfy, not only Virginia, but the whole South. The question is not whether Virginia shall go with either the Northern or the Southern Confederacy, but whether she shall continue in the Union restored and reconstructed as a whole. He could not consent to abandon the Southern States, nor the Border States; but believed that the whole Union should be preserved, and through judicious efforts the North might be brought to proper concessions, such as would satisfy the extreme South. Pennsylvania, according to reliable information, would consent to such a scheme, and with Pennsylvania would come the whole Northwest. With Pennsylvania and the Northwest united, it would be impossible to keep New England out of the Union.

On this point Mr. Macfarland argued until half-past 1 o'clock, when he yielded the floor at the request of Mr. PRESTON, who moved that the Committee rise.

The CHAIR could not entertain the motion, since the Committee had agreed to sit until 2 o'clock.

Mr. SPEED said that the object could be attained by the general consent of the Committee. Mr. Macfarland was laboring under physical disability, and under such circumstances he supposed no objection would be made.

The Committee then took a recess until 4 o'clock P. M.

Evening Session.

The Committee re-assembled at 4 o'clock, and Mr. MACFARLAND resumed his remarks.

He said he had, in the morning, invited the attention of the Committee to a practical view of the method by which the great question now agitating the country might be definitely settled. His object was to show that if the subject of slavery was to be taken out of the halls of legislation, and withdrawn from the fields of agitation, we might yet live on terms of friendship and respect with the North. Unless this could be done, he would not consent to remain in a Union with the people of that section, for it would be by no means desirable. He took the position that the Northern people were as much interested in perpetuating the institution of slavery as we were, and if the question of its extinction were presented to them, it would be decided in the negative.—They were dependent upon it for subsistence, and you might as well expect that the colleries of England would be abandoned, as that the Yankees would consent to their own impoverishment by the abolition of slavery at the South. There was, he assumed, a change going on in the sentiment of the world on the subject, as shown by the employment of coolies by France and England. We had a right to insist that the North should let us alone, and he believed that when the naked issue was presented, the North would recede from its aggressive position rather than encounter the evils which must result from a continued agitation of the slavery question. Alluding to the grandeur of the Union in the eyes of the world, he thought it would be time enough to pass sentence upon it after our best efforts for its preservation shall have failed. He looked upon it as altogether improbable, that war could be avoided in the event of separation; and one single war between the North and the South would entail upon each section an amount of suffering and waste which years of industry and successful commerce would in vain endeavor to repair. These considerations, he conceived, would have their due weight upon the Northern mind.—Bring them to the question, slavery or war, and no sensible man would decide in favor of the latter. He argued that the proper way to remedy existing evils was to close the door forever against agitation. If we could bring the North to agree that there should be no introduction of the slavery question in the halls of Congress, no effort to impair the relation between master and slave, the public mind would become quieted, and peace would return to the country. But suppose we were mistaken in this? Would anything be lost by making the experiment? Is it not as easy to separate twenty years hence as now? The relative positions of the two sections would not be changed. Everything encouraged us to make the effort. He conceived there would be no dishonor in saying to the North, we must have these guarantees, or disunion is the inevitable result. It may be said that this has already been done; but he apprehended it had not been done in the form and with the authority here proposed.

He argued that the Federal Government ought, and might now with propriety acknowledge the independence of the Confederated States, and that it was an indispensable step towards a settlement of the difficulty. He agreed with the gentleman from Middlesex, that the condition of the Confederated States was not to be disturbed by force. He held that the Committee ought to agree upon something that would speedily settle the pending difficulty, taking care to demand enough to meet the exigencies of the case.—He spoke highly of the resources of the Southern Confederacy, and the gallantry of her people, but must be permitted to say that he thought she acted with rather too much haste in going off without consulting with her Southern sisters. He was not, however, disposed to quarrel with her on that account.—He apprehended that, as strong as the Southern Confederacy was, she would not object to an addition to her strength, if it could be done with perfect security and without sacrifice of principle.

Mr. MACFARLAND went on with an elaborate argument on the question of the Tariff, to show that the Southern Confederacy was not entitled to any particular favor from Virginia upon the ground of her avowed policy of free trade; yet he was so firmly attached by every consideration to the Gulf States, that he would be unwilling, under any fair circumstances, to turn his back upon them. He was in favor of a further and final effort to reconstruct the Union; and whoever should have the good fortune to so shape the course of events as to bring about a peaceful solution of the great questions at issue, would be entitled to the lasting gratitude of posterity.

Mr. SCOTT, of Fauquier, said he understood the time had nearly arrived at which the Committee usually rose. He desired to give some views upon a subject so engrossing as the question under debate, but was reluctant to farther exhaust the patience of the Committee at this time. He therefore moved that the Committee rise.

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

IN CONVENTION.

Mr. EARLY, of Franklin, presented a substitute, which he proposed to offer, for the report of the Committee on Federal Relations. He did so with a view to place himself on the record in such a manner that there should be no possibility of misunderstanding his position as a Union man, here or hereafter. He moved that it be printed. Agreed to.

Mr. WISE inquired what had become of the question of taxation, which had been heretofore under consideration?

The PRESIDENT said it was now properly before the Convention, and the gentleman from Doddridge (Mr. Stuart) was entitled to the floor.

Mr. WISE desired to avail himself of the opportunity to correct a misrepresentation under which many persons now labored, in regard to his position on the question in the Convention of 1850-'51. It was charged that he was the author of the clause exempting negroes under 12 years of age from taxation, but this he utterly denied. He wanted to make the guarantee, in the taxation of slaves, quadrate with the taxation of lands. He wanted no exemption—asked none—but was forced to take it. He then gave a history of the transactions in the Convention of 1850-'51, and went on to say that if this question was to divide us now, he would advise its relinquishment, as he advised his constituents at that period. If the proposed change were to be made, it would only make a difference in his taxes of about three dollars and sixty cents, on his twelve slaves under twelve years of age. He disclaimed any recognition of a bargain with the Western men, but appealed to them, if justice was done in this respect, to return the guarantee with protection on their part to the East. If they proved disloyal, they would sting him with a sting so deep that all the stings of Yankeedom could not compare with it in bitterness. It would be the sting which a brother might give a brother—the sting of ingratitude; and if the war came between them, it would be more hostile than all the wars that hell itself could engender.

Mr. SUMMERS, of Kanawha, said he was sure the gentleman from Princess Anne did not need his testimony in regard to the gallant and patriotic service which he rendered, not to Western Virginia alone, but to all the Commonwealth, in the Convention of 1850-'51.—He proceeded to make some slight correction in the history of that Convention, which Mr. Wise accepted. Mr. Summers said he did not despair of the Republic then, nor did he despair of it now.

Mr. EARLY trusted the Convention would pardon him for making a few remarks.

Mr. STUART, of Doddridge, claimed the floor. He was willing to have the vote taken now, if there was to be no more discussion of the subject; but if there was, he desired an opportunity of presenting his views. He asked the gentleman from Franklin if he proposed to discuss the question under consideration.

Mr. EARLY only asked for a few moments.

Mr. STUART then yielded the floor, and Mr. EARLY stated some facts in connection with the Convention of 1850-'51. He now acknowledged the justice of the principle contended for, and advised the passage of the resolutions for raising a committee, who could report at the adjourned session.

Pending the consideration of the subject—

On motion of Mr. ECHOLS, the Convention adjourned.

AMENDMENTS *to the last report of the Committee on Federal Relations, presented by* Mr. WISE, *March 29th, 1861.*

Amendment 1st.—Amend by striking out the 1st and 2d sections of the report, and inserting:

In all the present territory of the United States, involuntary servitude, as it now exists, shall remain and shall not be changed; nor shall any law be passed by Congress or the Territorial Legislatures to hinder or prevent the taking of persons held to service or labor in any State of the States of this Union to said Territory; nor to impair the rights arising from said relation; nor shall said rights be in any manner affected by any pre-existing law of Mexico in the part acquired from her; but the same shall be protected as other rights, and be subject to judicial inquiry in the Federal Courts according to existing laws, and to the remedies and practice of the common law, so far as they may be consistent with each other.—And when any Territory, within such boundary as Congress may prescribe, shall contain a population equal to that required for a member of Congress, it shall, if its form of government be republican, be admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original States, with or without involuntary servitude, as such Constitution of the State may provide. In all territory which may hereafter be acquired by the United States, involuntary servitude is prohibited—except for crime—north of thirty-six degrees thirty minutes; but shall not be prohibited by Congress, or any Territorial Legislature, south of that line.

Amendment 2d.—Amend by striking out the 3d section and inserting:

Neither the Constitution, nor any amendment thereof, shall be construed to give Congress power to abolish involuntary servitude in any Territory; nor in the District of Columbia; nor in the sites of forts, magazines, arsenals, or other places ceded by the States to the Federal Government, within the limits of those States where involuntary servitude is established or recognized; nor within any forts, magazines, arsenals, or other places reserved within the limits of any Territory for the use of the Government of the United States; but Congress shall pass all laws necessary and proper to protect the property in persons held to service or labor in said Territory, District, or other places ceded or reserved to the United States. Nor shall any law be passed by Congress to hinder or prevent the taking of persons held to service or labor to or from the District of Columbia, or to hinder or prevent the retaining of the same within the limits thereof. Nor shall Congress have the power to prohibit the removal or transportation, by land or water, of persons held to service or labor in any State or Territory of the United States to any other State or Territory thereof, where it is established or recognized by law or usage; and the owner of property in persons held to service or labor, or his agent, shall have the right of transit through any State or Territory of the United States with such property—and persons, to and from any State or Territory recognizing said property by law or usage, and the right during transportation, by sea or river, of touching at ports, shores and landings, and of landing and sojourning with said property, in cases of need, temporarily, any law of any State or Territory to the contrary notwithstanding.—And Congress shall not have the power to lay on persons held to service or labor in any of the States or Territories of the United States any other tax than a capitation tax, to be apportioned as capitation or other direct taxes are directed to be apportioned throughout the United States according to the fourth clause of section nine of article first of the Constitution of the United States.

Amendment 3.—Amend, &c., by inserting after the 3d section of the report:

Sec. 3. In all cases where the property in persons held to service or labor in any State or Territory of the United States, or in the District of Columbia, has been or hereafter may be taken for public use, as in cases of impressment in war or otherwise, the owner thereof shall be justly compensated; as in cases of other property so taken; and in all cases involving questions of property in said persons, the rights of property in them shall be recognized and protected by the United States and their authorities as the rights of other property are recognized and protected.

Amendment 4.—Amend the 4th section of the report by adding thereto these words:

And it shall be the duty of all the States to pass all laws necessary and proper to aid, by their authorities, judicial and ministerial, in the execution of the laws passed by Congress for the delivery of fugitives from service or labor to the person to whom such service or labor is due.—And in case the owner, or his agent, of the person held to service or labor, shall be unlawfully deprived of his property in such person by force or violence, by mobs or riotous assemblages, or by secret associations or conspiracies, in the limits of any State, such State shall make just compensation therefor, and it shall be the duty of Congress to provide by law for the enforcement of such compensation.

Amendment 5.—Amend the 5th section by adding these words:

Provided, That nothing herein contained shall be deemed to apply to the Southern States which have declared, or may hereafter declare, their separation from this Confederacy, in case their separate independence shall be acknowledged and continued.

Amendment 6.—Amend by striking out the 6th section of the report.

Amendment 7.—Amend section 7th of the report by adding thereto the words:

And no person of the African race shall be deemed and held entitled, under the Constitution of the United States, to the privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States. And the several States are prohibited from passing any laws establishing equality of the African with the white race within their limits.

Amendment 8.—After section 7 insert:

Sec. 8. The second clause of the second section of the second article of the Constitution of the United States shall be so amended as to take from the President of the United States the power of nominating and appointing the judges of the Supreme and other Federal Courts of the United States, and their nomination and appointment shall be vested in the Senate of the United States alone; and three-fourths of the whole number of Senators shall be required to confirm the appointments.

Amendment 9.—Amend by inserting after the last amendment proposed:

Sec. 9. It shall be the duty of the several States, and of the Congress of the United States, within their respective jurisdictions, to pass all laws necessary and proper to protect and preserve the domestic tranquility of the people of the several States, by suppressing all attempts of individual persons, or of assemblages or associations, to excite any portion of the people of the States to acts which will cause, or tend to cause, animosity or hostility between the various sections, or any invasions of any of the States or Territories of the United States, or which will introduce or invite foreign influence to divide the Union, or which may tend to destroy the same.

Amendment 10.—Amend by changing section 8th of the report to section 10.

And it is hereby Ordained and Declared by this Convention, That the foregoing propositions of adjustment shall be submitted to the people of this Commonwealth for their approval or disapproval, at their elections, to be held next May. And that it shall also be submitted to them, at said elections, to decide whether, when said propositions in case of their approval by the people of this Commonwealth, shall be made to the co-States, they will not accept the same, or will not respond thereto in a reasonable time, or satisfactory manner, the people of this Commonwealth will or will not resume the powers granted by them under the Constitution of the United States. And, to that end, it is further ordained, that it shall be the duty of the officers conducting the election to be held for members of the General Assembly, in May next, to prepare proper poll books, the form of which shall be prescribed, and distributed throughout the Commonwealth by the Secretary thereof, and to see that a poll shall be opened at the several places of voting in every county; and the said poll-book shall have four columns—one to be headed "propositions approved," another to be headed "propositions disapproved;" a third to be headed "for resumption of powers," and a fourth to be headed "against resumption of powers."—And it shall be the duty of said officers conducting the election, to cause the names of the qualified voters, voting at their respective precincts for members of the General Assembly, to be recorded for or against the said propositions of adjustment, and for or against the said alternatives of resuming or not resuming the powers granted by the people of this Commonwealth, under the Constitution of the U. States, in case of the rejection of said propositions, or failure to answer them satisfactorily, or at all, by the co-States, under the respective heading, according to the vote of each voter. And said poll-books shall be certified and returned by said officers within five days after the election, to the clerk of the county or corporation Court, as the case may be, where the election is held. And it shall be the duty of the respective clerks to certify the result of the vote to the Governor of the Commonwealth, under their seals of office, within five days after the said poll-books shall have been returned to them by the officers conducting the elections, and the Governor and Secretary of the Commonwealth shall compare and count the said polls, and ascertain the result of the vote of the people of the Commonwealth; and the Governor shall make the same known by proclamation; and he shall communicate the result to the President of this Convention, who shall immediately assemble the members thereof, if not in session; and, if said propositions be approved by the people, or whether approved or not by the people, they shall adopt the alternative of resuming the powers granted by them under the Constitution, then this Convention shall proceed to act accordingly. And in case both the "propositions" and "resumption" are adopted by the people, this Convention shall await responses to the former, by the co-States, until the 1st day of October next; if the responses are satisfactory, they shall be accepted; if not, or insufficient responses or no responses at all are made, then the alternative of "resumption" shall be ordained by this Convention, and be made the supreme law of the Commonwealth; or, if the said propositions shall be rejected by the voters, and the alternative of resumption be adopted by them, then this Convention shall proceed immediately to ordain and proclaim that the people of this Commonwealth will resume the powers granted by them under the Constitution of the United States.

THE BELLONA ARSENAL GUNS—*Another Statement.*—A letter from the Secretary of War to J. M. McCue, of Virginia, was published a few days since, denying that any order had been given for the removal of the guns from Bellona Arsenal to Fort Monroe. The Enquirer publishes the following letter, showing that an order had been given:

ORDNANCE OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, March 22, 1861.

J. L. Archer, Sup't Bellona Foundry:

SIR—You will please forward to Richmond the cannon at your foundry which have been inspected for the United States, with as little delay as practicable; and as soon as they are shipped from that place the amount due on the last inspection will be paid.

The Quartermaster's Department has authorized Messrs. W. D. Colquitt & Co., Ship Brokers, to receive the guns and to attend to the re-shipment, and the delivery had better be made alongside the vessel that is to transport them to Fort Monroe Arsenal, for which the usual amount paid for hauling will be paid to you.

Respectfully, I am, sir,
Your most obedient servant,
H. K. CRAIG,
Colonel of Ordnance.

On the same day that the letter to Col. McCue was written by the Secretary, denying that any such order for the removal of guns had been issued, a letter was written to Mr. A. M. Barbour, of the Convention, by Capt. Kingsbury, of the Ordnance Department, informing him that, by direction of Col. Craig, the order for the removal of the guns had been countermanded. How could an order be countermanded that never had been given?

The Ordnance Bureau is a part of the organization of the War Department. Is General Cameron so ignorant of his duties as not to know what has been done in one of the subordinate Bureaus of his department, or is this a deliberate misrepresentation intended to operate on and influence the action of the Virginia Legislature?

A letter from Quartermaster Gen. Johnson, to Messrs. W. D. Colquitt & Co., dated 22d March, states that an agent of the Ordnance Department would deliver to them fifty cannon, which they were directed to forward immediately to Lieut. Taylor, at Fort Monroe, who would pay all charges.

HORRIBLE ACCIDENT.—Wm. Anderson, an old gentleman sixty years of age, and a prominent citizen of Littsville, N. Y., was killed at Utica, on Wednesday last, by being run over in attempting to leap on a train while in motion. He was standing on the platform and the train had moved off a few feet. The Journal says:

Mr. Anderson hurried out with his spectacles in one hand and a roll of bank bills in the other, and attempted to get aboard the first car. He caught hold of the railing of the rear platform of the first car with his right hand, and attempted to seize the iron railing of the other car with his left hand; but his left hand either slipped off or missed its grasp entirely, which caused his body to swing down between the two cars. The fall wrenched his right hand from its hold, and he fell across the inside rail. James Cole, the brakesman, was standing upon the rear platform of the first car when Mr. Anderson attempted to get on, and seeing him fall, made an effort to seize him, but before he could reach him Mr. A. had lost his hold and fallen beneath the ponderous wheels. Cole instantly sprang to the brake, which he put down with all his power, but with all the effort put forth by him and the engineer, the train moved some fifteen or twenty feet before its motion could be arrested.—Mr. Cole describes it as the most terrible scene he ever witnessed, for he could see, as he tugged at the brake, the body of Mr. Anderson shoved along on the iron rail by the beam of the brake, which would not allow his thighs to pass under the wheel. As Mr. Anderson fell under the car Cole heard him cry out twice, in a loud, distinct, yet frightened tone, "Hold on! hold on!" and then he was silent. He fell with his head and body lying between the two tracks, and his legs crossing the inside rail diagonally. His body was thus moved slowly along beneath the crushing weight of the car a distance of fifteen feet, when it came to a crossing which caught it and fairly ground it under, and the two forward wheels of the hind car passed over his legs, and his head and body were crushed between the brake and the crossing.

THE AFFRAY IN PRINCESS ANNE COUNTY, VA., in which Wm. Grimstead killed James W. Land, has been mentioned. The quarrel commenced about politics. The Norfolk Herald says:

The assault was made by Land, with a knife, on Grimstead, whom he severely cut, which was met by the latter with a bayonet, which he thrust into the body of Land, after which they were separated, and it was not known by any of the parties present that either was hurt until they were carried off from the place where the affair happened.—Land, after walking a short distance, said to one of his friends, "I am a dead man," and immediately fell. As soon as possible, medical aid was called, but it proved of little avail, for he died in a very short time. The cut on Grimstead was but slight. We learn that an investigation of the affair was held shortly after, and, out of fifty or more witnesses, not one could testify clearly as to how the wounds on either party were inflicted.—Both of the gentlemen engaged in the unfortunate affair are highly respected, and very much beloved in the county, and the sad result is a source of much pain to the relatives and friends of the parties.

WARSAW.—The news from Warsaw is not important. The substance of the Emperor's reply to the address of his Polish subjects is published. The Emperor says that he ought to consider the Polish petition as null and void, but, nevertheless, he graciously consents to regard it only as an "act of enthusiasm."—He devotes his whole attention to the reforms which are necessary throughout the empire, and his Polish subjects are as much the objects of his solicitude as are the Russians. But he has a right to expect that his sentiments and intentions shall not be "misunderstood or paralyzed by inopportune or immoderate demands, which he could not confound with the welfare of his subjects." He will not tolerate any serious disturbances, and "nothing can be raised on such a foundation;" for "aspirations which should here seek for support would condemn themselves beforehand." A dispatch from Warsaw says that the Polish deputation was "astounded" at the tone of the Emperor Alexander's reply, which has not abated the prevailing excitement. Prince Gortchakoff unofficially told the deputation that an Imperial manifesto would speedily grant reforms, and received from Count Zamoiski the answer: "We accept; but we are far from being satisfied."

INTERESTING FROM CHARLESTON.—The members of the South Carolina Convention visited the fortifications in the harbor of Charleston, Monday, in the steamers Carolina and General Clinch. The batteries played with great effect. Governor Pickens was not in the company, being engaged in more important official business. Great anxiety, says a dispatch, is felt as to the Administration's course about Fort Sumter. If nothing is done soon, the fort will be attacked and captured. The sentiment of the people is entirely in favor of action. The Governor's communication has not yet been acted on. Col. Lamon's return is hourly expected.

Massacre of the Crew of the American Whaling Ship Superior, by the Natives of Treasury Island, in the Solomon Group.

The Sydney Herald publishes a letter from Capt. Mair, of the schooner Ariel, giving the particulars of the murder of twenty six of the crew of the American whaling bark Superior, which sailed from New Bedford, by the savages of Treasury Island. Capt. Mair sailed to the island to inquire the truth of the reported massacre. The following is his account of the affair:

I found out that six of her crew were prisoners upon the island, and I at once set about trying to get possession of them. For three days more I cruised off the island, having the natives backwards and forward during that time. I went to the beach occasionally, and could see the men, but on every occasion they were strongly guarded. None of the principal natives coming on board, as a last resource I had to secure a native who was related to one of the head chiefs. I put him in irons, and next morning I took him ashore, and again offered the natives to pay them for the men.—They agreed at last to let me have one, who, on coming to my boat, gave me the dreadful intelligence that the whole of the crew of the Superior, with the exception of himself and five others, had been murdered and the ship burnt. It seems there are two chiefs implicated—Copan, the head man, and America, the next. My prisoner being a relative to America, I resolved to keep him until I got the two other men that chief had, (for each of the two chiefs had, it seems, two men,) and I was finally successful, after a great deal of trouble. The three men, however, whom Copan had possession of, I could not get either by persuasion or by threats. At night I proceeded to the anchorage, where the ship had been taken, and remained there two days. I saw no natives, but I found the ship's jibboom on the beach, together with pieces of burnt timber, staves, &c.

The bark Superior, R. D. Woods, master, (Woods owner) of New Bedford, sailed from that port on the 24th June, 1857, made Treary Island on the 12th of September, 1860, and came to anchor there on the same day. On the 13th, 14th and 15th of that month the crew were employed in wooding and watering, and, from the men's statement, were visited by a great number of natives, armed. On Sunday, the 16th, nine of the crew went ashore. The carpenter and two men went to the settlement and were murdered in one of the native huts. The natives then proceeded, in canoes and overland, to the ship, and those who came by land fell in with the remaining six close to the beach, and murdered them.—About 150 natives got on board the vessel and made a rush on the crew, who were all on deck except four, who were in bed. Those on deck were immediately tomahawked, only two escaping by jumping down the main hatchway, and joining the four below in the forecastle. One of the crew, whom I recovered, saw the captain and second mate murdered by a native called "Billy," who has been to Sydney, and speaks English well.—The chief Copan was the principal in this dreadful massacre. The six men below, being armed with lances, kept the natives from coming down the forecastle, until at last "Billy" told my informant that if they came up they should not be hurt. At length, therefore, they did so, and were at once surrounded, and by the chief Copan ordered to be put to death. The chief America offered to buy three of the men, and he persuaded Copan to keep the other three to till the ground. These three, as I have already intimated, I could could not recover.

The three men on board my vessel say they were well treated by the chief America, and they tell me that the native "Billy" was at the taking of the schooner Pearl, where I am now at anchor, about eighteen months before this happened. It is said that he went over to Treasuary Island in the Superior, and had an opportunity of seeing that there were no arms kept; there being only seven old flint guns, and none of them loaded when the ship was taken. Twenty-six men were butchered in cold blood, amongst whom was a poor lad ten years of age—the crew consisting of thirty-two souls when she anchored. The natives took five boats, with a quantity of cordage and sails, which were all cut up, and everything else was destroyed by setting the ship on fire. The Superior had on board 150 barrels of sperm and 150 barrels of right whale oil.

DISTRESSING CASE OF POISONING.—On Saturday afternoon a family named Stevenson, residing in a building on the Germantown road, Philadelphia, moved out of the house. Mrs. McGee, who occupied the lower portion of the premises, went up stairs with woman's curiosity to examine the vacated rooms, and was gratified at finding a package containing what she supposed to be saleratus. Being delighted with her prize, she immediately set to work to make up some bread, using the powder as freely as though it was what she supposed it to be. After the bread was baked Mr. McGee came home, and he and the wife, together with their son-in-law and daughter, named McVey, eat freely of the bread, and in a short time were taken violently ill. A physician was called in, who found the patients suffering very much, showing every symptom of having taken arsenic. The usual antidotes were administered, but they proved of no avail, as Mr. McGee died the next morning, and the wife died in the afternoon. The son-in-law and daughter are likely to recover.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND THE NATIONAL TROUBLES.—The New York Church Journal states that there will be no schismatical division of the Episcopal Church in consequence of the separation of the Confederacy. In the organization of that Church each State composes a Diocese, and each Diocese, like each State, is sovereign and independent. Their national organization resembles the Federal organization, and consequently, according to the Journal, not only will the effects of State secession upon the diocesan relations of the Church in the seceded States be at once recognized, but where, as in the case of the Bishopric of Alabama, the concurrence of the National Episcopate may be necessary to fill a vacancy, the promptest measures will be taken by the Northern Bishops to give the requisite sanction to the elections in Alabama, and to every other act necessary for the entire independence of all the dioceses in the seceded States.

THE CONFEDERATE FORTS AT THE MOUTH OF THE MISSISSIPPI.—Major J. K. Duncan, who has been for some weeks in command of Forts Jackson and St. Phillip, represents those forts as being now in good condition, well mounted and well manned, and ready to stop the progress of all hostile vessels that may attempt to come up the Mississippi river.—The trees on the point below Fort Jackson have been cut down, by which the range of fire in that direction is extended, and other improvements made which have much enhanced the efficiency of the forts.

MARINE LOSSES FOR MARCH.—The monthly table of marine losses for the past month, shows an aggregate of sixty-eight vessels, of which twelve were ships, eleven barks, nine brigs, thirty-five schooners, and one sloop.—The total value of property lost and missing was *two millions one hundred and twenty-five thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars.*—This is the value of the property totally lost, exclusive of damage to vessels not amounting to a total loss. The vessels reported are chiefly American.

U. S. MINISTER TO FRANCE.—Hon. Wm. L. Dayton, Minister to France, will sail on April 27th, accompanied by his family. He has been tendered and has accepted the compliment of a public dinner, to be given by the Bar of the State, at Trenton, on or about the 15th proximo. He has resigned the office of Attorney General of New Jersey, and Frederick T. Frelinghuysen has been appointed in his place.

POPULAR VOTE ON SECESSION IN LOUISIANA.—The New Orleans Delta of the 27th furnishes from the official records, in possession of the Secretary of the Convention, an accurate tabular statement of the popular vote upon the Convention question. The vote throughout the State for the "immediate secession" candidates was 20,448, and for the "co-operation" nominees 17,076, a majority in favor of the former of 3,372.

SLAVE RENDERED UP.—The Painesville (Ohio) Advertiser reports that a slaveholder from Nashville, Tenn., who had been stopping in that place for some time, made known the object of his visit one day last week, by instituting proceedings for the rendition of a negro woman whom he claimed as a fugitive slave. The necessary papers were made out and the parties left on the cars without meeting with any resistance or awakening any display of excitement.

LUSUS NATURÆ.—A child was recently born in Hempfield, Pa., having but one eye, and that situated in the centre of the forehead.—There was no nose, nor any appearance of nasal bones. The mouth was well formed, and where it should be. The ears were imperfectly formed, and situated on the cheek bones. The rest of the body was well formed.

CHAMPION WALKING.—Edward P. Weston, who lately walked from Boston to Washington in