



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY EDGAR SNOWDEN.

ALEXANDRIA: SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 31, 1860.

CONGRESS.—Both Houses of Congress were engaged yesterday in the consideration of private bills.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.—A number of bills were passed by the Senate on Thursday. The Committee of Conference on the Bank redemption law reported their inability to agree.

DISTRICT CONVENTION.—The Democratic Convention of this district, met at Warrenton, on Thursday last, and nominated, as may be seen in the report published in another column, Jas. Fairfax, of Culpeper, and Alfred Moss, of Fairfax, Delegates, and C. B. Tebbis, of Fauquier, and John Seddon, of Stafford, Alternates, to represent the District in the Charleston Convention.

THE PRESIDENT has felt it his duty to send to the House of Representatives a formal protest against a resolution of the House, of the 9th instant, ordering an investigation whether the President or any other officer of the Government had used money or patronage, or other improper means, to influence the action of Congress or of any committee.

Speaking of the late Democratic Convention, in the Petersburg District, the Petersburg Intelligencer says:—"After a session of some ten or twelve hours, they finally elected Messrs. Lewis E. Harvie, of Amelia and Dr. Thompson, of Dinwiddie, as delegates to the Charleston Convention."

The Newburyport, Mass., Herald states that the majority of the "strikers" in the shoe trade in Massachusetts, are "surrendering at discretion and making the best terms they can with the employers, and that in Haverhill, Lynn, Newburyport, and elsewhere, the workmen are applying for work, and the best of them obtaining it—many, however, being thrown out of employment altogether.

A Havana letter says:—"We have in our port, waiting speculative business, two celebrated vessels, the 'Grape Shot,' of las Palmas and George Law, of musket memories, and the African yacht Wanderer, which has created so much excitement from Charleston, S. C., to Boston.

The evidence against the men arrested in New York, charged with murders on board of the oyster sloop Johnson, and the Spray, seems to accumulate. The prisoners are in jail, awaiting their arraignment before the proper tribunal.

The Democrats of Portsmouth, Va., have held a Convention, and nominated their candidates for the Town Offices.

NEW ORLEANS, March 29.—The Juarez steamer Wave, from Vera Cruz on the 22d, bound to New Orleans for supplies of ammunition, but compelled to put into Berwick Bay for coal, brings the following important intelligence.

The letter writers and telegraph reporters from Washington, are endeavoring to prepare the public mind for a recess of Congress, in order that the Members may be able to attend the Charleston and Chicago Conventions.

The K. G. C.'s are again beginning to be heard from. General George Bickley, the Grand Master of this mysterious order of warriors, has been beating up for recruits in Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, and Texas, and we are told, that in those States various lodges have been organized, whose aggregate number of members reaches many thousands.

The steamer Indianola—then plying between New Orleans and the Brazos—was accordingly chartered, at an expense of two thousand dollars, for the express purpose of conveying, by the hands of a special agent, the important document to Vera Cruz.

An observer of New York fashions says the most graceful spring hat worn is the simple straw (void of the silk or lace crown) trimmed with budding green, or violet tints, and clusters of spring flowers.

The steam fire engine just built at Richmond, Va., for the Russian government, had a successful trial on Wednesday.

The valuable farm, located on South River, recently sold by M. Bird, esq., commissioner, for the benefit of certain creditors of N. J. Burner, was purchased by Israel B. Burner, who resides upon the premises, for the sum of \$6,000.

At Easton, Pa., March 28, the locomotive Excelsior burst her boiler just as she was starting up the Lehigh Valley railroad with a train of cattle cars.

A serious accident happened on Wednesday morning, to a little girl of Mr. Seydell's who lives about three miles from Brentsville Va. The little girl was playing about near a large broom wagon using a hoe in the garden, when the hoe descended upon her head, and knocked her insensible.

The bill incorporating the Alexandria, Georgetown and Baltimore Steam Packet Company, passed today, and is a law. (Columbia steamer line) the bill authorizing the Bank of the Valley in Virginia to establish a branch in Richmond, a bill authorizing the Central Bank of Virginia to establish a branch in Princeton, in Mercer County, (a bill authorizing the Monticello Bank to establish a branch at Palmyra, in Fluvanna passed a day or two since.)

Both Houses of Congress have agreed to the bill authorizing publishers to state in the address, the date when subscriptions will expire, and also providing that the carriers in the cities and towns shall charge but one cent on delivery of drop letters.

It is proposed to exhume the remains of Roger Williams, who died a century and three quarters ago, in North Providence, and bury them in some suitable public place.

At New Orleans, March 29, Messrs. Fell & Marsh's grocery store on Gravier street was burnt. Loss \$60,000.

News of the Day. "To show the very age and body of the times." The despatches of Capt. Jarvis do not materially differ from the published statements concerning the collision with and capture of the Mexican steamer. They state that one American marine was killed and two wounded. It is admitted that the Saratoga was towed down to Anton Lizardo by the Indiana and Wave, which are called American steamers for effect, though notoriously in the service of Juarez, and were sent to ascertain the character of Marin's steamers, which had passed the Castle San Juan and the United States ship Savannah at noon without exhibiting their colors. The collision occurred after midnight.

"Occasional" of the Philadelphia Press, (credited to Mr. Forney himself) says:—"The friends of Douglas grow more defiant every day. They claim that he is the best negotiator or legislator necessary to promote the tobacco trade with foreign countries—Messrs. Hughes, Tompkins, Bristow, Thomas, Ferry, Leake, and Leach, of N. C.

The Spring term of the Circuit Court of Fauquier, Judge Tyler presiding, commences on Tuesday next, April 3d. The Warrenton flag case is the first case to be tried will be that of the Commonwealth vs. Phillips, for showing and thereby causing the death of C. R. Ayers sometime last fall.

The quarterly term of Orange County Court commenced its session on Monday last, and adjourned on Tuesday. The day was a fine one, and a very large number of persons were in attendance. A considerable amount of business was transacted in Court.

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On the 22d inst., a barn belonging to Mr. Rodefer, residing near Luray, Page county, caught fire and burned down. It contained sixty barrels of corn, two wagons, two cows, ten hogs, and a lot of farming utensils—much property they were unable to get out. Loss \$1,000. No insurance.

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M. Gaillardet writes from Paris to the Courier des Etats-Unis, that when Mr. Faulkner, the new American Minister, went to the Tuileries to present his letters of credence, he entered the hall where the Emperor was waiting for him, and was passing on to the next, not knowing that he was in the imperial presence. The Emperor laughed and said, "Never tell me again that the majority of my person shows itself to every one."

Old Senator Clarke of Rhode Island, speaking of California, and the constant demands of Dr. Gait and others upon the Treasury of the United States, used the homely figure that the Commonwealth reminded him of a cross baby—it was alternately crying and sucking.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives has appointed the following gentlemen to constitute the committee to inquire what negotiation or legislation is necessary to promote the tobacco trade with foreign countries—Messrs. Hughes, Tompkins, Bristow, Thomas, Ferry, Leake, and Leach, of N. C.

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President's Special Message. To the House of Representatives. After a delay which has afforded me ample time for reflection, and after much and careful deliberation, I find myself constrained by an imperative sense of duty, as a co-ordinate branch of the Federal Government, to protest against the first two clauses of the first resolution adopted by the House of Representatives, on the 9th instant, and published in the Congressional Globe on the succeeding day. These clauses are in the following words: "Resolved that a committee of five members be appointed by the Speaker, for the purpose (first) of investigating whether the President of the United States, or any other officer of the Government, has, by money, patronage, or other improper means, sought to influence the action of Congress, or any committee thereof, for or against the passage of any law pertaining to the rights of any State or Territory, (and 2d.) also, to inquire into and investigate whether any officer or officers of the Government have, by combination or otherwise, prevented or defeated, or attempted to prevent or defeat, the execution of any law or laws now upon the statute book, and whether the President has failed or refused to compel the execution of any law or laws."

It is solely in reference to the first or impeaching portion of the resolution, that I propose to make observations. Except in this single case, the Constitution has invested the House of Representatives with no power, no jurisdiction, no supremacy whatever over the President. In all other respects he is quite as independent of them as they are of him.

The House of Representatives possess no power under the Constitution over the first or impeaching portion of the resolution, except as an impeaching body; whilst over the last, in common with the Senate, their authority as a legislative body is fully and cheerfully admitted.

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At such a spectacle, I am to appear before Mr. Corvode, either personally or by a substitute, to cross-examine the witnesses which he may produce before himself to sustain his own accusations against me; and perhaps even this poor boon may be denied to the President.

And what is the nature of the investigation which his resolution proposes to institute? It is as vague and general as the English language affords words in which to make it. The committee is to inquire, not into any specific charge or charges, but whether the President has, by "money, patronage, or other improper means, sought to influence, or the action of Congress, but the action of the entire body "of Congress" itself, or any committee thereof."

Had Mr. Lawless asked an inquiry to be made by the House whether Judge Peck, in general terms, had not violated his judicial duties, without the specification of any particular act, I do not believe there would have been a single vote in that body in favor of the inquiry.

Since the time of the Star chamber, and of general warrants, there has been no such proceeding in England.

The House of Representatives, without consenting to hear a word of explanation, have endorsed this accusation against the President, and made it his prerogative to inquire of the President's answer what were the specific charges against him.

In the institution of a prosecution for any offence against the most humble citizen, I claim for him the right to be heard in his own defence, and to be tried by a jury of his peers.

I again declare, emphatically, that I make this protest for no reason personal to myself, but because I cherish an inviolable confidence that the gracious Being who has hitherto defended and protected me against the shafts of falsehood and malice, will not desert me now, when I have become "old and grey headed."

I can declare before God and my country that no human being (with an exception scarcely worthy of notice), has at any period of my life dared to approach me with a corrupt or disreputable proposition, and, until recent developments, it had never entered into my imagination that any person, even in the storm of exasperated political excitement, would charge me, in the most remote degree, with having made such a proposition to any human being.

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Democratic District Convention. [REPORTED FOR THE ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE.] MORNING SESSION.—The District Convention of the Democratic party of the Ninth Electoral District of this State, assembled at the old Episcopal Church, in the town of Warrenton, at noon, on Thursday, the 29th inst. Delegates present, represented the counties of Alexandria, Culpeper, Loudoun, Fairfax, Shenandoah, Stafford, Fauquier, and Rappahannock.

The Convention was temporarily organized by calling H. G. Moffitt, of Rappahannock, to the Chair, and requesting the Democratic editors of the District to act as Secretaries.

W. D. Wallach, of Culpeper, moved that a committee of one from each County in the District, be appointed to nominate to the Convention its permanent officers, which motion having been amended on the suggestion of Col. Minor of Loudoun, so as to provide that the delegation from each county make respectively their member of the committee, was agreed to.

The delegates from each district were then called, and the delegations having generally consulted, appointed the following committee: David Funston, of Alexandria, W. D. Wallach, of Culpeper, R. H. Cokerly, of Fairfax, B. F. Carter, of Loudoun, Basil Brawner, of Prince William, L. Eastford, of Rappahannock, J. H. Lacy, of Stafford, S. J. Tebbis, of Fauquier.

Mr. Hutton hoped that the Convention would adjourn for dinner.

Col. Payne suggested that it would expedite the business for the committee to report at this time.

The committee retired, and then returning, reported the following nominations for officers of the Convention, which report was adopted:

President, David Funston, of Alexandria; Vice Presidents, Thomas Hill, jr., of Culpeper, R. H. Cokerly, of Fairfax, W. D. Wallach, of Loudoun, J. Moncure, of Stafford, C. H. Hutton, of Prince William, W. Payne, of Fauquier, Thomas Deady, of Rappahannock.

Secretaries, R. M. Smith, of the Virginia Sentinel, and M. L. Johnson, of the Flag of '78. H. T. Williams, of the Virginia Democrat, and H. M. Garland, of the Blue Ridge Republican.

On motion, the Convention then adjourned to meet at 3 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.—The Convention re-assembled at 3 o'clock, and Messrs. W. W. Payne, Z. Turner, and J. Seddon, were appointed to inform Mr. Funston of his election. The committee conducted Mr. Funston to the Chair.

Mr. Funston, on taking the Chair, addressed the Convention in some eloquent and appropriate remarks, dwelling upon the importance of the nomination to be made at Charleston, and urging the delegates to work harmoniously to secure the great ends of the Democratic party.