Alexandria Gazette — Sic Semper Tyrannis — And Virginia Advertiser

ALEXANDRIA:

FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 7, 1860.

CONGRESS.—The Senate, yesterday, transacted no business of interest. In the House the special committee appointed, under Mr. Boteler's resolution, to consider the President's message and the state of the Country, was announced. Both Houses adjourned until Monday next.

A Richmond letter to the New York World says:—"I have just ascertained that one or two influential Georgia gentlemen are on their way to this city, to confer with some of our most prominent officials regarding the policy which Virginia shall pursue in the future, and to establish, if possible, a common understanding between these two leading States on the great questions now in issue. This movement is not understood to have any official sanction, and any definition of the course which Virginia is likely to pursue must, necessarily, be altogether conjectural."

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGES.—The telegraph brings reports of the meetings of the Electoral Colleges, in their respective States, on Wednesday last, and of their casting their votes, in accordance with the popular vote in the States in which they were elected. Abraham Lincoln is, therefore, elected President and Hannibal Hamlin Vice President.

The deserved reputation of Mr. Millson, of Virginia, his known and acknowleged patriotism, and abilities, and his conservative course and views, all point him out as a Member of the present House of Representatives, likely to exert much influence, and to be a leader in the great work of saving the Union, if possible.

The New York Tribune bitterly attacks the President's arraignment of the Northern States, but is of the opinion that what he says "of the alleged right of secession, and the expediency, if not impossibility, of coercion, is in the main forcibly and well said."

The Baltimore American quotes from the recent letter of G. W. Brent, esq., and says "it is one of the most forcible and patriotic yet given to the public, by the prominent men of Virginia."

Charles F. Engelman, who for forty-three years past furnished the principal calculations for the almanacs printed in the United States, died at his residence in Reading, Pa., last week, at the ripe age of nearly 79 years.

The Union men of Richmond, gave a grand supper to the Bell and Everett Electors, at the Exchange Hotel, in that city, on Wednesday night.

☞ We have a number of articles on file, for insertion, communicated and selected, which are unavoidably postponed, on account of the pressure of current news.

A Form of Prayer.

TO THE MINISTERS AND MEMBERS OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN VA.—*Dear Brethren and Friends:* In compliance with that rule of our Church which directs the Bishops to prepare special prayers to be used in the congregations, as occasions might arise, calling for the same, I have put forth the following, which I trust will be devoutly used in this our time of great need and danger.

WILLIAM MEADE, Bishop of the P. E. Church in Virginia.

PRAYER TO BE USED IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCHES OF VA.—Almighty God, who by thy Holy Apostle has commanded that supplications and intercessions be made for all men, especially for those in authority, look down we pray thee on the people and rulers of our land, in this our time of great need and danger. We know, O Lord, that nothing is impossible with thee. Thy power no creature is able to resist. Thou canst still the raging of the sea and the madness of the people. Raise up, O God, thy great power and come among us and with great might succour us. We have heard with our ears, and our fathers have told us, the noble works thou didst in their days for our land; O give not, now, thine heritage to reproach, but for the glory of thy great name turn from us those evils which we have so justly deserved. The hearts of all men are in thy hand, to turn them whithersoever thou pleasest. Thou alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men, and make us to be of one mind in an house. Pour into our hearts, we pray thee, the most excellent gift of charity, and grant us thy peace all our days. Make us to know that it is righteousness only which exalteth a nation, and that sin is the reproach of any people. We pray for all sorts and conditions of men in our land. May thy Holy Spirit incline their hearts to peace and concord. We pray for all who profess and call themselves Christians; that they may be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace and righteousness of life. We pray especially for the rulers and leaders of our country; that grace and wisdom be given them according to our present need. Save them from all ignorance, error, pride and prejudice. Direct and prosper all their consultations to the advancement of thy glory, the good of thy Church, the safety, honor and welfare of thy people. Nor pray we for this land only, but for all the nations of the earth. Look in pity on the whole human family. Overrule the commotions of the earth. Bring order out of confusion, light out of darkness, and hasten the happy time when men shall learn war no more, and all the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of Christ. We ask these things, O Heavenly Father, hoping only to be heard through the mighty intercession of our Lord and Saviour, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be the glory ever more. Amen.

MYSTERIOUS.—A week or so ago, while some boys were hunting through "Annapolis Woods," in Hill Top district, Md., they discovered a part of a human skeleton, the flesh and clothes all destroyed, and part of the bones missing. A pair of medium quality shoes, which had been half soled, were lying at the foot of a tree beside the skeleton. A truss, in a decayed condition, was also found with the bones, showing the person must have suffered from hernia. It is supposed to be the skeleton of a man, and the probability is that death took place within the past year. Who can throw any light upon the subject?—*Port Tobacco Times.*

NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and body of the TIMES."

A prize fight between John Woods and Geo. King, took place on Wednesday morning in the neighborhood of Bull's Ferry, N. Y. Mr. Woods was the victor, after a contest of fifty-five rounds, lasting one hour and fifteen minutes. The police did not get wind of the affair, and it was, in consequence, not interferred with. William O'Neil, of Worcester, Mass., and Michael Fritz, of Providence, fought a prize fight for $1,000, near Portland, Me., on Monday. After a contest of four hours and twenty minutes, Fritz was declared the winter.

Letters from Zanzibar, received at Salem, Mass., state that the ship Sunny South, with 846 slaves on board, had been captured by her Britannic Majesty's ship Brisk, in the vicinity of Mozambique, and sent to Mauritius. The Sunny South was built in New York in 1854 by the late George Steers, and was 702 tons burthen. She was cleared at the Custom House in New York, on the 5th of August.

The citizens of Charles county, Md., are invited to meet together in Port Tobacco on the first Thursday of the December term of the Circuit Court, to take counsel together as to the measures necessary to be adopted to the security of the rights and interests of the State, at the present imminent crisis in our Federal relations.

An intelligent and enterprising gentleman in Mechanicstown, Frederick county, Maryland, has purchased a tract of mountain land in the vicinity of that village, peculiarly adapted to the culture of grapes, with the intention of engaging in the business of wine making.

The vote on the Homestead bill in the House of Representatives, was about the same as on that which the President vetoed at the last session—the opposition thereto being from the Southern members, including those from the prospectively seceding States.

The cold weather has suspended all steamboat travel on the Upper Mississippi. The traveling public will now have to avail themselves of the four-horse stages which start daily from La Crosse, via Hastings and Red Wing, to St. Paul, Minnesota.

The prosecution against J. Egbert Farnham for piracy, in his well-known connection with the slave yacht Wanderer, has been discontinued, and a *nolle pros* entered in the United States Court in the district of Savannah, Georgia.

A man in Ross county, Ohio, states that he had made last season, from watermelons grown on one acre of ground, 18 barrels of syrup, which sold for 80 cents a gallon, giving $460 for the acre of land and the labor.

It is estimated that in the last fifty years the number of slaves who have escaped from the South is fifteen hundred annually, and the total loss about forty millions of dollars.

In Baltimore, on Wednesday, a smash-up occurred on the Northern Central Railway, which entailed a loss of $2,500, and severely injured two persons.

Mr. Ullman, the operatic manager, is the latest victim of the crisis. The people will not go to the opera in "the precarious state of affairs in general," and he succumbs.

Movements in the South.

The disunion movement in Alabama is speedily but quietly progressing. One half of the counties will send secession delegates without opposition. In the others the fight will be confined to those who advocate secession with the cotton States, and those who are in favor of separate State action. The latter will be largely in the majority. Four despatches from Washington in regard to the position of Mr. Curry, of that State, excited indignation among his friends. His speech, delivered before leaving home for Washington, was a strong disunion harangue. The Grand Jury of the Federal Court in Montgomery, before adjourning, presented the Union as a nuisance.

The Mississippi Legislature adjourned on the 30th ult. The convention bills, the secession resolutions and the bill authorizing the government to appoint commissioners to co-operate with the slaveholding States, were passed unanimously. The stay law and non-importation slave act were defeated.—The election is fixed for the 20th, and the convention meets on 7th of January. In a speech Hon. Mr. Lamar advocated separate secession and the simultaneous adoption of a federal constitution, and the Southern members and Senators to form a congress of the new republic and appoint electors for President of the Southern confederacy.

At Charleston, S. C., Dec. 4, the President's message was received, and its moderate tone surprised most people. It was supposed that the President would declare for coercion. Since the purport of the message has become known, many are in hopes that the separation will be peaceful. The volunteer companies who have old-fashioned arms, have ordered, at their own expense, Minnie muskets. By Jan. 1, the State will be on a complete war footing.

In the vote cast in the General Assembly of Georgia for electors to cast the votes of Georgia for President and Vice President of the United States, we find recorded the following: For President of Southern Confederacy, R. Barnwell Rhett, of South Carolina, 1. For President of Southern United States, Edmund Ruffin, of Virginia, 1.

Colonel Miles H. McGee and Charles Clark, of Mississppi, have each proposed to be one of one hundred to give one hundred bales of cotton to help arm the State.

The citizens of Texas have been urged in a circular letter, signed by a number of public gentlemen, to elect delegates to a State Convention on the 8th of January. It is said that the convention will assemble at the capital of the State on the 4th Monday of the same month. The movement appears to meet with popular sanction.

Hon. Bedford Brown, formerly a member of the United States Senate from North Carolina, has delivered an eloquent appeal in favor of the Union. He is opposed to disunion for existing causes. He is ready to give Mr. Lincoln a trial, elected as he has been according to the forms of the Constitution; and he is opposed to any measures at this time designed or calculated to precipitate North Carolina into revolution and civil war.

The dissemination of "incendiary publications" being justly regarded and punished as a great crime in the slaveholding States, we are at a loss to understand the conduct of the "minute men" of Jackson, (Miss.,) who have recently ordered ten thousand copies of an abolition article from the Chicago Democrat to be published for distribution.—The Vicksburg Whig, in commenting on this proceeding, remarks, that when such defenders of Southern rights "get to work circulating such matter, they may find themselves arraigned before the grand jury."

The Helena (Arkansas) Shield, says:—"There is a diversity of opinion in this community as to the right of a State to secede, but we believe there is none, or scarcely none, as to the expediency of such extreme measures at this time. We believe we hazard nothing in saying that out of perhaps one hundred persons who comprised the meeting held at the Court house on Monday last, there were not five in favor of immediate and unconditional secession."

VIRGINIA NEWS.

There are sundry insurance offices in Richmond that take risks on the lives of slaves. Some of the agents represent companies, the bulk of whose capital is located elsewhere. It has been suggested that it would be a popular move to insert provisos in the policies of such companies providing against the running off of slaves by Abolitionists. The insurance companies would thus become conservative institutions, pecuniarily interested in seeing that the laws of the country were duly carried into effect.

In the Circuit Court now sitting in Petersburg, the entire day of Monday, and until a late hour of that night, was occupied in the will case of Mrs. Mary Ann Jones, of Dinwiddie, who died some years ago leaving a large number of valuable slaves free, and the possessors of all her estate; the amount involved is estimated at between 25 and $30,000. The arguments on both sides were ably conducted, and the jury rendered their verdict in favor of the Executer, which makes the negroes free from this time.

On Wednesday afternoon, a party of gentlemen from the lower end of New Kent, arrived in Richmond by the Richmond and York River Railroad train, having under their special charge and safe conduct a man from their section of the country, who had been expressing abolition sentiments too freely. They intend to escort him to the North of Mason and Dixon's line, when he will be permitted to seek more congenial associations; but with the understanding that he is never again to return to New Kent.

The Petersbug Express says:—The spirit of Southern chivalry is displaying itself among the ladies, and among the gay hosts that adorned the streets on yesterday were to be seen a dozen or more with blue cockades upon their bonnets. This is the last feature of Southern fashions, and originating as it does in the "Cockade city" itself—a name that our city won in the Revolution and will win over again if need be—is destined, doubtless, to boundless popularity.

The Lynchburg Republican says:—"A country friend predicts that the present will be a very hard winter, from the fact that the bears are leaving their fastnesses in the mountains, and are taking up their abode in the lowlands. Several of the varmints have been seen within a few miles of this city in the last eight or ten days, and it is said they are so bold as to enter the farm yards in quest of food. There is very little mast in the mountains this year."

There was a large and enthusiastic Union meeting held in Marion County on Nov. 30th. There was a grand display of fireworks and an oyster supper at Kersley's Hotel, to celebrate the victory of Bell and Everett in Virginia. Strong Union speeches were made by W. T. Willy, F. H. Pierpont, Judge G. D. Camden and E. B. Hall. Judge Camden, although a Breckinridge Democrat, expressed strong Union sentiments.

Rev. H. S. Rogers, a talented young minister, who recently died in Loudoun county, Va., has left $2,500 to be divided equally between the five benevolent enterprises in which the Baptist General Association is engaged; also, $100 to Rev. A. E. Dickinson, General Superintendent of Colporatge, to be used in presenting to each Baptist Minister in the State a copy of Baxter's Reformed Pastor.

The Richmond Enquirer publishes a letter from Secretary Floyd in response to one addressed to him by Mr. Nat. Tyler, in which he favors the right of secession, though he would not exercise it before making further efforts at conciliation and harmony. The Enquirer says:—Mr. Floyd agrees with all of the gentlemen who have written to us, on the necessity for a speedy call of a Convention of the State by the Legislature.

The Census Marshall of Frederick County, gives the following as the population, &c., of the County: Whites 13,176, Free Negroes, 1,182. Slaves 2,258—Total 16,616. Increase since 1850: Whites 356, Free Negroes 272, Slaves 86—Total 714. Number of families, 2,588. Increase since 1850, 235. Winchester contains a population of 4,413—3,040 Whites, 655 Free Negroes, and 708 Slaves.

On Saturday last twenty three car loads of hogs reached Lynchburg, via the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad, all of which were driven to points east of Lynchburg. The drovers are asking $8 per cwt., but buyers do not show much disposition to accede to their demands.

Sixty thousand dollars are now subscribed to the capital stock of the Richmond City Rail Road, which is more than is required by law to authorize the commencement of operations. The work will be proceeded with as soon as timber is received from Florida.

The following gentlemen constitute the December term of the Loudoun County Court, which convenes on Monday next:—Asa Rogers, Presiding Justice. Beverly Hutchison, Newton Keene, Edward Hammat, Chas. L. Mankins, Associates.

The "Loudoun Guard" and the "Loudoun Cavalry," according to order, both paraded on Saturday last, and had their arms inspected by the Brigade Inspector, Col. A. T. M. Rust.

Rev. Joseph H. Riddick, with a competent Assistant, has taken charge of the Academy in Leesburg.

There have been several severe cases of typhoid fever in Leesburg recently.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The report at London of the Emperor Napoleon having arrived privately proved a hoax. The railroad station was beseiged by an anxious crowd to view the distinguished sovereign, but he did not appear.

The London Times hopes for an early reduction of the Bank rates of discount.

Count Morny is going to Rome, on a special mission, with an autograph letter from the Emperor.

It is stated that Count Walluskie will succeed Count Persigny in the London embassy.

There are no new movements of interest to record. The clergy in the Neapolitan provinces were engaged in paying their homage to Victor Emanuel.

The Archbishop of Naples was about to return to his See.

The rumors of a new Sardinian loan were contradicted.

The Dowager Queen of Naples, with the young Princess, had arrived at Rome.

The French were about to occupy Terracina.

The siege of Gaeta continued. The Piedmontese bombarded the suburbs on the 12th.

The further resistance of the Bourbon troops had been paralized by the insubordination of their chief. Confusion was prevailing. It was believed that the complete evacuation of Gaeta had been resolved upon.

A dispatch from Naples says that the ex-king had burst a blood vessel.

It was stated that negotiations for the cession of Venetia had commenced.

The Empress Eugenie returns to France on the 10th of December.

The Brazilian corvette Donna Isabel was wrecked on the coast of Barbary, and 100 seamen and 23 officers lost.

FOR SALE OR RENT.—The two adjoining SQUARES OF LAND, on Washington and Franklin streets, next west of "Yeates' Garden," at present occupied by Mr. Elliott as a Market Garden. There is on the land a comfortable two story BRICK DWELLING on one, and a small FRAME HOUSE, on the other square. Possession given 1st January, 1861. Apply to

nov 28—eo1m SAMUEL MILLER.

An Abstract of the Reports from the Departments of Government.

Report of the Secretary of the Treasury.

On the 1st day of July, 1859, being the commencement of the fiscal year 1860, the balance in the Treasury was $4,339,275.54. The entire expenditure of the government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1860, exclusive of the redemption of Treasury notes, which are otherwise provided for, and the interest on the public debt, was $59,848,474.72, and in that sum was included $4,446,000.26, to meet a deficiency in the Post Office Department, produced by the failure of the post-office appropriation bill at the second session of the Thirty-fifth Congress—thereby causing this amount to be paid and charged in the expenditure of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1860, though, in point of fact, the service was rendered, and the liability incurred in the preceding year.

It should be borne in mind that this sum of $59,848,474 72, included not only payments growing out of such appropriations as had been estimated for by the department, but all other sums appropriated by Congress. There is no reason why the expenditure for the present or next fiscal year should exceed that of the last year. Allowing, however, a margin for an increase, it may be safely stated that the expenses for the two years will not exceed $60,000,000 each—making the amount to be provided for, $120,000,000. The estimated means of the Treasury for the same period are, for the present fiscal year, $63,348,996.75, and for the year ending June 30, 1862, $64,250,000, which would leave an excess of estimated means over estimated expenditure of $7,598,996 75.

The estimate of receipts into the Treasury have been made without reference to the financial and commercial panic, which has assumed so threatening an aspect within the last few days.

It is impossible to anticipate the effects which this threatened revulsion will produce upon the country.

Already has the Treasury been seriously affected by these causes. The receipts from customs for the last few days have greatly fallen off, and the limited amount received is composed each day of an increased proportion of Treasury notes, not yet due.

The permanent public debt on June 30, 1860, was $45,079,203.08, and the outstanding Treasury notes at that date amounted to $19,690,500.

I have already stated that provision should be made at once to relieve the Treasury from its present embarrassments, produced by the causes referred to. To do this, Congress should authorize the issuing of an additional amount of Treasury notes, not less than ten millions of dollars. With these means the department will be enabled to meet all lawful demands upon it for the present. The extent of the financial crisis through which the country is now passing, cannot now be determined, and, until it is better known, no policy can be recommended of a permanent character.

The Secretary concludes by saying:

The general operations of the Treasury Department, since my last annual report, have been of the most satisfactory character. The country had gradually recovered from the revulsion of 1857, and its healthy and prosperous condition was felt in the relief thereby afforded to the public finances.—Until within a short period, I had confidently expected to present to Congress at its present session, a gratifying statement of the financial condition of the government. A different result, however, has been brought about by causes which could not be foreseen, and if foreseen, could not have been averted by any action of the Department.

Report of the Secretary of the Navy.

This document commences with the report of a board of officers appointed to examine into the expediency of converting the sailing ships of the Navy into efficient war steamers. The board consider it inexpedient to introduce steam power into any except ships of the line, all of which it is proposed to alter thus, except the Delaware, now too defective to permit it. These ships are to be razeed and converted into first-class steam frigates. Steamers like the Minnesota cost $725,000 each, whereas the proposed alteration would cost but $383,000 for each. Of the sailing frigates, the United States is not worth repairing. The Constitution has been repaired, and the remaining six should be converted into sloops-of-war, and finally into store-ships. The sloops-of-war built prior to 1840, and the brigs Bainbridge, Perry, and Dolphin, are not large enough for store-ships, and will soon have to be replaced with new vessels. Of the six new first-class steam sloops-of-war, five are at sea, and their performances have been satisfactory. The sixth, the Pensacola, will soon be completed.

The first-class side-wheel steamers Susquehannah, Saranac, and Powhatan, may, by introducing screw propulsion, be made effectual and economical war steamers. The Secretary recommends the gradual, substantial, and permanent increase of the Navy, accompanied by the universal introduction into it of steam as a motive power; as a policy essential to the protection of our coasts and commerce. He also advocates the resumption of the policy of appropriations for repairs, as well as for maintaining the navy-yards in a state of efficiency. He speaks of various reforms in the latter in the employment of operatives. That they were sadly needed, the Congressional exposures proved beyond the shadow of a doubt. The remainder of the report is interesting to the miscellaneous reader, but not of general importance.

Report of the Secretary of War.

The report of the War Department furnishes a cursory view of the operations of the army during the year. The Secretary says, that whilst appropriations have been made to sustain the army upon a peace footing, it has been obligeal to prosecute active and sanguinary war from the thirty-fifth to the forty-sixth parallel of north latitude, with very numerous tribes of hardy and warlike Indians, in the wildest and most remote regions of our mountainous territories. For these movements, the sum of half a million of dollars was required, the necessity for which was not, and could not be forseen in the War Department. In view of this embarrassment, the Secretary again urges Congress to restore to the War Department the superintendence and control of the Indians, as it is quite impossible to impress on these savages the idea of obedience by any other means than military power. He urges, also, that a large annual sum of money might be saved to the Treasury by using the officers of the army in discharging many of the duties now performed by civilians at high salaries.

The opening of the military road from Fort Benton, on the head of the Missouri river, to Fort Walla Walla, on the Oregon river, is dwelt upon as a step which ought to be followed up, as this line can be made available for moving large bodies of men from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and will constitute the means by which we can defend our Pacific possessions.

The experiments with ordnance have greatly improved, if they have not perfected, the fabrication of seacoast and garrison gun carriages of iron, the models and mode of casting heavy cannon, and the quality of metal for the same; the manufacture of cannon powder, rifling of cannon, &c.

Report of the Postmaster General.

This document abounds so much in statistics, that it is exceedingly difficult to condense its substance into an abstract. On the 30th of June last, there were in operation 8,502 mail routes, estimated at 240,594 miles in length; of which miles, 27,129 were by railroad, 14,976 by steamboat, 54,577 by coach, and 143,912 by inferior modes. The number of contractors was 7,445. There has been a decrease of 19,458 miles in the length of the mail routes, but this is made up of a reduction of 8,464 miles in the length of coach routes, and 4 233 in the steamboat routes, while the length of railroad routes has increased 1,119 miles. There are in the service 40 local agents, 1,649 mail messengers, and 68 railroad baggage-masters. The number of post-masters appointed during the year is 6,555, of which 1,140 were by the establishment of new post-offices. Whole number of post-offices in the Union 28,552.

As usual, there is an enormous deficiency in this department, reaching $5,656,705 49 as the excess of expenditures over the revenue for 1860, and for the ensuing year a deficiency of $4,566,600 is figured out by the Postmaster General, which, may be far below the real fact. The revenues increase very gradually, while the expenditures go up much more rapidly.

The Postmaster General has much to say about his experiments with the penny post, and he recommends the repeal of the provision of the act of last session, and that the Department shall have authority to collect such postage on all letters delivered by carriers as shall be deemed necessary to compensate them for the service, provided that it shall not exceed two cents per letter. He thinks the results of the experiment, under all the difficulties encountered, very gratifying, and advocates the supporting of the private expresses.

Report of the Secretary of the Interior.

We have on hand copies of the reports of the Indian, Land and other bureaus. These being under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior, and constituting the bulk of the business of that department, his annual report is a good summary of their operations for the year, so that in the present crowded state of our columns, we deem it unnecessary to give the complete bureau reports. We may say for them, however, that they are very elaborate, contain a vast amount of information on topics of great interest to the public, and reflect credit upon their authors. In the report of the Hon. A. B. Greenwood, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, he gives a history of our dealings with the red men during the year. The operations of his bureau cover an immense area of territory, and embrace a great variety of savage and semi-barbarous tribes. It requires much tact to conduct such affairs successfully, but Mr. Greenwood has done this. The report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office is much more extended. This bureau covers even greater area of country than the Indian bureau. It has to provide for the accurate survey and sale of all the vast public domain. Mr. Wilson, the Commissioner, has, in preparing to take leave of his duties, done himself credit by giving a full resume of the operations and conditions of the bureau during the year.

Methodist Episcopal Convention.

We published yesterday the preliminary proceedings of this body, now in session in Baltimore. On Wednesday Judge Bond reported the following gentlemen as permanent officers:

President, Col. John Summerfield Berry, of Baltimore Conference; Vice Presidents, Dr. G. C. Tyler, Philadelphia; Samuel McCubbin, East Baltimore; H. Clagget, Western Va.; Secretaries, J. W. Selby, S. Burnet, Baltimore.

The report of the committee having been adopted, Mr. Berry took the chair and addressed the body.

The Chair then announced that the Convention was ready for business.

On motion of Mr. Moses Walton, it was

Resolved, That a Committee, to consist of two members from each Presiding Elder's district represented in this Convention, be selected to take into consideration the action of the late Buffalo General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church upon the subject of slavery, and report by resolution or otherwise.

That the members of said Committee be selected by the respective delegations from the several Presiding Elders' districts—each of said delegations retiring; selecting two of their number, and reporting the names of the same to the Convention.

On motion a recess of fifteen minutes was taken, in order to allow the delegates an opportunity of selecting a Committee on Business.

The Convention was called to order after the brief recess, when the following named gentlemen were declared the Committee on Business, in accordance with Mr. Walton's resolutions:

Baltimore Conference, Winchester district—J. R. Bowen, T. Locke; Washington—J. C. Harkness, Dr. F. Howard; Lewisburg—Thomas A. Moore, Hugh E. Bond; Baltimore—Charles J. Baker, Joseph O. Fowler; Roanoke—D. G. Dowthat, A. L. Fitzer; Potomac—W. P. Conway, S. S. Dent; Rockingham—Moses Walton, Dr. Moorman.

Philadelphia Conference, Eastern District—S. T. Harrison, Edward Wilkins; East Baltimore District—James M. Lester, Charles Perrine; Accomac—T. S. Richardson, G. C. Tyler.

Western Virginia Conference—H. Claggett.

On motion, J. Armistead Carter was added to the Committee on Business, and declared its chairman.

An experience meeting, composed of a majority of the delegates, was held at night at the church, to interchange views in regard to the condition of the Church in the several conferences.

SECOND DAY.

The Convention re-assembled Thursday morning at a few minutes past 9 o'clock, and was called to order by the President, Col. J. S. Berry, when religious exercises were conducted by the Rev. Alpheus Wilson.

The first business in order was a report from the Committee on Rules, through their chairman, Wm. G. Young, esq., of Strawbridge Station. A clause in the rules presented, relating to the Reporters of the Press was adopted. After an amendment allowing local ministers a seat within the bar, J. B. Nicholas, of Severn Circuit, offered a motion, that no member be allowed to occupy more than twenty minutes, and to speak but twice on the same subject, when Rev. Jas. G. Henning, of Rockville, offered as an amendment, "if there be no objection," which was carried, when Wm. R. Woodward, of Washington, D. C., moved as an amendment to the original, "that no member be allowed to speak but once upon the same subject," which was adopted unanimously.

The Chair called for the report of the committee on business, when the Chairman announced that they were not yet ready to report.

Rev. James G. Henning, of Rockville, made a motion that the Convention meet on each morning at 10 o'clock, and adjourn at 1½ o'clock for dinner, which he (Mr. H.) considered a very important item, as it was calculated to keep a man in good humor.—By the offering of the above motion, quite a discussion ensued, which was finally closed by laying the same on the table.

The Chair announced to the Convention that the committee on business were not yet ready to report—having been engaged at the same during the whole of last night, and that the report would not be ready before 3 o'clock, and as there was no business before the Convention, on motion the body adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M.

Meeting of the Electoral College.

Wednesday being the day prescribed by the Federal Law for the meeting of the Presidential Electors, in the several States, a quorum of the successful Electors for the State of Virginia assembled in the Senate Chamber, at the Capitol, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Present: L. H. Chandler, of Norfolk city; Thomas Bruce, of Halifax; Marmaduke Johnson, of Richmond; Lemuel J. Bowden, of Williamsburg; Joseph Christian, of Middlesex; B. H. Shackelford, of Fauquier; Francis T. Anderson, of Rockbridge; John J. Jackson, Jr., of Wood, and A. B. Caldwell, of Ohio—9.

The College was called to order by Mr. Jackson, on whose on motion, Mr. Anderson was elected President, and Mr. John L. Eubank, of Richmond, appointed Secretary.

Mr. Anderson, on taking the chair, expressed his thanks for the "unexpected honor" conferred upon him.

He then presented to the College a communication from the Secretary of the Commonwealth, containing the names of the fifteen Electors declared to be elected; and, also, presented the following letters, all of which were read to the College by the Secretary:

RICHMOND, Dec. 5th, 1860.

To the Electors now sitting in the Electoral College of Virginia:

GENTLEMEN.—The undersigned have received from the Governor of Virginia certificates that they have been elected Electors of President and Vice-President of the United States. We feel constrained, however, to say, that although by technical law we may be entitled to those certificates and to cast our votes as Electors, we are satisfied that we were not elected in fact, and, therefore, we respectfully decline to take our seats in the Electoral College.

We are very respectfully, your obedient servants,

JOHN R. EDMUNDS,
JAMES LYONS,
R. A. CLAYBROOK,
WM. H. ANTHONY,
J. W. MASSIE.

NORFOLK, Dec. 3, 1860.

GOVERNOR LETCHER:

Dear Sir:—Your letter informing me of my election as one of the Electors for the State of Virginia was received Saturday.—My physician who has been attending me during a severe illness, positively forbids my visiting Richmond to-morrow; indeed, he has not yet allowed me to leave the house.

I regret, exceedingly, that I will not be able to attend the session of the College to vote, in accordance with the wishes of those who elected me, for John C. Breckinridge, of Kentucky, for President and Joseph Lane, of Oregon, for Vice President. Please communicate these facts to the Electoral College.

With kind regards, &c.,

Your friend,
WM. LAMB.

On motion of Mr. Chandler the roll of Electors was called, and the nine above recorded, reported themselves present.

On motion of Mr. Johnson the College then adjourned until half-past 1 o'clock to enable the members to confer and select suitable persons to fill the vacancies.

The college met pursuant to adjournment, F. T. ANDERSON, Esq., resuming the chair.

After the roll was called, and a quorum ascertained to be present, the Chairman announced as the first business in order the "filling of vacancies."

By motions severally made and seconded, Col. John E. Scruggs, of Fauquier, was nominated to fill the vacancy caused by the absence of Mr. Wm. Lamb, of Norfolk; Wyndham Robertson, esq., of Richmond city, was nominated to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of James Lyons, esq.; Mr. John D. Alexander, of Campbell county, was nominated to fill the place of Mr. R. A. Claybrook, of Northumberland; Waller R. Staples, esq., was nominated to fill the place of Mr. W. H. Anthony, of Botetourt; Travis H. Eppes, esq., was nominated to fill the place of Mr. J. W. Massie; and James F. Johnson, esq., of Bedford, was nominated to fill the place of John R. Edmunds, esq.

The vote was taken separately on the several nominations as made, and each of the nominees was unanimously elected.

The College being now full, as required by law, the Chairman requested gentlemen to prepare their ballots, to vote for President.

Mr. Johnson suggested that each Elector, as he deposited his ballot in the box, should declare the name of the person for whom he voted.

After the ballots were deposited, Messrs. Robertson and Johnson were appointed a committee to examine and count them.—They performed the duty, and reported that the entire vote (fifteen) had been cast for JOHN BELL, of Tennessee, for President of the United States.

Ballots were next prepared for Vice President, and Messrs. Bruce and Christian, a committee appointed by the Chair, reported that the fifteen votes had been unanimously cast for EDWARD EVERETT, of Massachusetts, for Vice President.

The Chairman stated that he was happy to announce that the Electoral vote of Virginia had been unanimously cast for John Bell, of Tennessee, as President, and Edward Everett, as Vice President. Would to God for the sake of our beloved country—for its future peace and prosperity—that that vote could be effective.

The Secretary stated that the old book, which contained the proceedings of the Electoral Colleges of Virginia from the time of Jefferson's election to the present, had been mislaid in the State Library, but that the Secretary of the Commonwealth had promised to make a search for it. If it could not be found, he desired to know if a new book would be necessary in which to record the proceedings.

Mr. Jackson hoped a new book would be purchased. The old one had fallen into the hands of the Phillistines and might not be recovered. He wanted a clean sheet for the proceedings of this College.

Mr. Johnson preferred the old one. He was for Union, and did not like to see a severence commenced here. He wished the proceedings to be recorded with those of better days, so that the history might be continuous.

Mr. Jackson was for Union. No man admired the history of the Republicans of old more than himself. He had taken Madison as his guide, and wanted none better. If the old book could be found, he did not object to the continuance of the history, though he was no admirer of Pierce and Buchanan.

The Secretary was thereupon ordered to get a new book in which to record the proceedings, and to transcribe them in the old one, if that should be found.

Mr. B. H. Shackelford, of Fauquier, offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this Electoral College take pleasure in expressing their high appreciation of the conduct of the Breckinridge electors, who by informalities were proclaimed by the Governor of Virginia as elected to this college, in resigning their position as such electors, and thus giving full effect to the popular vote of Virginia.

Mr. Johnson, of Bedford, nominated Jos. Christian, of Middlesex, as Messenger to deliver the vote of the College to the President of the United States Senate, and he was unanimously elected.

On motion, the College took a recess until half past 5 o'clock, to give the Secretary time to prepare the necessary certificates, which the Electors were required by law to sign, before adjourning.

The College re-assembled at 6 o'clock, and proceeded to business, F. P. Anderson, esq., resuming the chair.

On motion of Mr. Jackson, the three certificates, prepared by the Secretary, were read and compared, and then signed, in order, by the Electors.

Col. John E. Scruggs offered a resolution which was adopted, allowing Col. John L. Eubank $100 for services as Secretary of the Electoral College.

Mr. James F. Johnson, of Bedford, presented the following paper, which, on motion was spread upon the records of the College:

"The undersigned Electors of President and Vice President of the United States for the State of Virginia, relieved by the failure of six of the gentlemen (certified to have been elected by the Governor, in the official opinions of the Attorney General.) to attend the present meeting of the Electoral College, and by our consequent elections by our brother Electors as members of the College, from considering whether there was any mode or means of asserting upon grounds denying the legality and validity of that certificate our claim to set in the Electoral College, or what measure we might or should adopt in reference thereto: yet unwilling in justice to ourselves and to that portion of the people of Virginia by whose legal votes we believe ourselves to have been elected, instead of some of those receiving such certificates, to seem by silence to accept the decision of the law officer of the State as correct, desire to declare, and do so declare:

That we believe ourselves to have been duly chosen by the legal voters of the State of Virginia, as Electors of President and Vice President of the United States, and we respectfully ask that this, our protest and declaration be spread upon the records of this body.

JAMES F. JOHNSON,
WALLER R. STAPLES,
TRAVIS H. EPPES.

The certificates having been prepared, the members signed their names in order, as called upon by the Secretary.

The College then adjourned to meet again next morning at 10 o'clock.

Letter from Upperville, Fauquier County.

Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.

UPPERVILLE, Dec. 6.—PROTRACTED MEETING.—A protracted meeting has been in progress in the 2nd Baptist Church here during the past 10 or 12 days. Preaching each day at 11 a. m., and 7 p. m. Prayer meeting before preaching, morning and night. Considerable interest is manifested in the meetings. The attendance is large, particularly at the night meetings. Several have been admitted as candidates for Baptism, which ceremony I understand will be administered next Sabbath.

The zealous and indefatigable pastor of this Church, Rev. Geo. W. Harris, in the true sense does not "weary in well-doing," having been engaged almost without intermission for the last two months in a series of protracted meetings at his various churches, to each of which considerable additions have been made to the membership. At Long Branch 35 members, have been added to the Church.

CATTLE.—The supply of stock cattle is not equal to the demand, though prices are a shade lower than they were last season.—Many of graziers are yet unsupplied. R. H. Dulany, esq., purchased a lot of the finest cattle, I have seen for many years. He bought them, I believe in the neighborhood of Chicago; R. Carter, esq., also, got a very fine lot at the same place.

AUCTION.—Hall & Harper have been disposing of their stock of goods by auction.—The sale was well attended by both ladies and gentlemen, all being satisfied that they got "great bargains."

The stock is varied, and some of the goods have been sold at a great sacrifice, they being determined to close out their present stock. The auction has been suspended during the meeting at the Baptist Church, but I am informed, that it is their intention to resume at an early day.

POLITICAL.—The present condition of the Country is the all exciting topic here. A very large majority seem to favor a State Convention. The disunionists are few, all preferring to fight, (if fight they must) in the Union. IOTA.

Incendiary Language.

NEW KENT COUNTY, VA., Dec. 4.—On Tuesday last a party of gentlemen formed themselves into a Vigilance Committee, and waited upon a man named Peter Lufkin, who was engaged with Mr. Alexander Libby, of Maine, in the lumber and ship-timber getting. It seems that on Sunday he, the said Lufkin, in the presence of several gentlemen, uttered language to this effect: "That he was an abolitionist, and would head any party who desired to run off negroes; that he believed that the institution of slavery was contrary to all laws, both Divine and constitutional, and that he would ever contend—indeed, would take arms, in order to assist the slave to escape," &c. When confronted he did not deny, but reiterated the same sentiments. Whereupon the committee (one of whom I had the honor to be) informed the gentleman that he must leave immediately, and accordingly conducted him to West Point, and to-day he will start home, where sentiments like his may be expressed without fear. In the camp there are some forty, all of whom seem much exasperated against him.—*Corr. of Richmond Dispatch.*

MARRIED.

At the Wychoff Gold Mines, Fauquier county, Va., on the 19th ult., by the Rev. J. W. McMurran, Mr. RUFUS CLARK, of New York, and Miss ELVIRA MARSHALL, of Fauquier county