



ALEXANDRIA: SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 29, 1860.

Hon. John C. Breckinridge, who has drawn up an address to the border slave-holding States, calling for a convention representing them, to be held in Baltimore, in February, for the consideration of their duty to themselves, and how to preserve the confederacy in the current crisis. It is said to have been signed already by all the Senators from those States, and will be signed by all their representatives in the lower House. This call leaves it to the authorities of said States how to appoint their representatives to the proposed convention.

The same paper states that if the House committee of thirty-three break up, as is now apprehended by so many, all its members except the republicans, and Messrs. Davis, of Md., and Etheridge, of Tenn., will publish an address in twenty-four hours thereafter, going to the country upon the Crittenden plan for the settlement of the troubles, which now bids fair to be accepted by the Baltimore Convention of border slave-holding States proposed by Mr. Breckinridge, as the terms upon which they will continue in the Union with the New England and other ultra abolition States, after the cotton States may have withdrawn from it. Their terms will, of course, include a stipulation that the North shall make no war on the seceding extreme South.

Amongst the latest English intelligence is the announcement of the death of the Earl of Aberdeen, an eminent statesman. He was born in 1784. In 1813, as Ambassador from England to Austria, he took a leading part in the negotiations by which Austria was induced to join the European coalition against Napoleon. In 1828, in the Duke of Wellington's administration, he was Minister of Foreign Affairs. A prominent member of the Whig conservative administrations of Peel and Wellington, he supported Peel in his great measure of the repeal of the corn laws. When Lord Derby's ministry fell in 1852, he became the head of a coalition ministry, composed of Whigs, Peelites, and Radicals. This Cabinet became unpopular through the feebleness with which the Russian war was conducted, and, on its being broken up in 1855, Lord Aberdeen retired to private life.

The positions that Gov. Letcher is reported as about to take in yesterday's (Gazette), are the subject of much comment—and are already roundly denounced in the Richmond Enquirer. It is said that he objects to the action of South Carolina, to the message of Governor Gist of that State in relation to the negroes of the border States, that he opposes a State Convention, and is in favor of a Central Confederacy, &c. All this, however, is but report. Let us wait for the Message, read what he says, and calmly judge his views.

Several citizens of Richmond, Va., have invited the retiring South Carolina delegation to the House of Representatives to a dinner in Richmond, in honor of the position of South Carolina. General McQueen writes a reply for himself and two of his colleagues, giving the reasons why the invitation could not be accepted, and closing thus—"We, of South Carolina, hope soon to greet you in a Southern Confederacy, where white men shall rule our destinies, and from which we may transmit to our posterity the rights, privileges, and honor left us by our ancestors."

Charles L. Scott, member of Congress from California, has addressed a letter to the Chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee of his State, totally dissenting from Senator Latham's statement that in the event of a dissolution and formation of two separate Confederacies, California would go with the North and Northwest. Mr. Scott says he warmly sympathizes with the South, and cordially endorses and fully justifies it, and not remaining in the Union under Mr. Lincoln. He wants California to set up for herself as a republic.

The Washington Constitution states that Major Anderson's troops in the removal of the United States arms from Fort Moultrie, &c., was taken solely on his own responsibility, and not in consequence of orders from the authorities in Washington. It was not occasioned by any threat of attack or hostile action on the part of the people or military in Charleston, and there was no reason to anticipate any change in their attitude in relation to the Federal troops.

The New York Times expresses its gratification at learning, in view of the threatened dissolution of the Union, and the consequent derangement of commercial and business enterprises, that leading members of the Republican party are already beginning to look forward to the acquisition of annexation of Mexico, as a means of at once indemnifying the North for the partial loss of Southern trade, and of thwarting the prospects of the extension of slavery in that direction!

William Wilkins, of Pittsburg, Pa., former Senator in Congress, member of the Cabinet, Minister to Russia, has written a letter, in which he takes decided ground against secession. He is over eighty-five years of age, and still displays an immense influence in Western Pennsylvania. Mr. Wilkins is an old Jackson man, and takes the Jackson ground that secession must end in coercion, and that disunion will produce civil war.

The Department of the Interior gives public warning against receiving or purchasing any of the stolen Indian Bonds and coupons, as the claim of the United States thereupon will be prosecuted to the utmost extent.

The Washington "Constitution" announces that the President is in no way, however remotely, responsible for the articles which appear in that paper.

The accounts from Washington, in relation to the efforts at conciliation, are mixed and contradictory.

The Republican "Invincibles" of Philadelphia, have determined not to attend the inauguration of Gov. Curtin, of Pennsylvania, in consequence of some recent remarks of his, in a public speech—and with regard to attending the "inauguration" of Lincoln, they "take time to consider." Some of them were quite "brilligant"—and there were others more "prudential"—but these were concerned to "hold in."

The late cold weather and consequent freezing of the Susquehanna, Patuxent, and other streams that flow into the Chesapeake, has closed the season for killing wild fowl in those waters, so it is said. The Potomac continues open, and numbers of red necks, shantlers, &c., are killed daily.

Consultations are being held in Baltimore, by leading men there, in relation to the present crisis in our National affairs. At one of them, Gov. Hick's refusal to call an extra meeting of the Legislature, up to this time, was approved, and a mass meeting of citizens recommended to be held next week.

The Pittsburg "Nullifiers," who raised the excitement about the sending of U. S. arms from that city, have cooled down. Major Symington was making arrangements to remove the guns—and the Mayor had called a meeting, at which it was thought the Nullifiers would be pacified.

The Washington Star asks how long can many things which are now transpiring or proposed, go on, without reducing the whole country into the condition of anarchy that has prevailed in Mexico, for so many years past? We have truly fallen upon evil times.

"Whither are we drifting?" asks the National Intelligencer. Alas, who can tell, even if we succeed in averting civil war, and in establishing new Confederacies! The future is unknown and dark, even to the most hopeful.

THE ABSTRACTION OF STATE BONDS.—It was mentioned yesterday that an injunction had been granted against the Bank of the Republic, in New York, at the instance of the Secretary of the Interior, to restrain the disposal of the abstracted bonds, supposed to be in the possession of the bank. The injunction sets forth the names of the treasury bonds, namely, the Tennessee six per cent. bonds for \$1,000,000; the Missouri six per cent. Pacific Railroad bonds, \$1,000,000; six per cent. Missouri and St. Louis and Iron Mountain railroad bonds, \$1,000,000; six per cent. State Missouri, North Missouri railroad bonds, \$1,000,000; each State of Missouri, Hannibal and St. Joseph, &c. The bank is allowed until Monday next to show cause why the injunction should not be made perpetual. The New York Herald says:

The opinions of leading lawyers have been taken on the question whether the government can reclaim the bonds or not. As usual, those opinions differ—some counsel that the bonds are safe in the hands of bona fide owners without notice, while others, apparently more correctly informed, have advised their clients that the government can follow and reclaim its bonds wherever it can find them.

We need not dwell upon the alarming nature of the prospect. By the confession of the clerk, \$1,000,000 of bonds of the States of Missouri, Tennessee, North Carolina and Virginia, are in circulation, which are really not worth one cent to the parties who have bought and now hold them.

It is actually impossible at the present time, and until further and more minute examinations have been made, to say that any State bond of the State of Virginia, Missouri, Tennessee, North Carolina, Maryland, Kentucky, Louisiana or Ohio, that has been bought within a few weeks, is worth anything. Even if it should prove that the robbery is not so extensive that Bailey has confessed, we fear that the event must give a blow to State stocks from which it will take them a very long time to recover. It is impossible to conceive a harder case than that of innocent parties who have invested their savings in State stocks, within the past few weeks, and who now find that their bonds are, to them, no better than waste paper. Henceforth no one can be expected to buy State stocks without an abstract of title, such as is given with a house or lot.

The Washington Star of last night says: "We have the Russell declares that he never saw Bailey until the latter came to him with the first batch of abstracted bonds, and proposed their application as they were applied, extravagantly and from his pecuniary embarrassments; and that he never admits that Bailey was induced so to do by the persuasion of his (Russell's) Washington city friends. Russell further declares that Secretary Floyd knew no more of the transaction than the man in the moon; and expresses entire confidence in his ability to restore the bonds to the Interior Department if the government will reduce its demand for bail for his appearance to answer any indictment that may be brought against him, to an amount which he can possibly obtain here."

MONTEGOMERY'S KANSAS RAID.—The Secretary of War has received a dispatch from General Harney, who has returned to St. Louis from his search for Montgomery and his band. We quote the following:

"I believe that Montgomery's band is fully as large as represented to be; that they are sworn to protect each other by perjury, assassination and in every way possible. Their object is, as declared publicly by themselves, to protect fugitive slaves in the Territory, to assist them to run away whenever an opportunity offers, 'making them east and receiving \$50 per head,' and to drive out of the Territory all who oppose them in so doing. A large portion of the population on the border either belongs to this organization or sympathizes with them, and those who do not, dare not oppose them, or give information concerning them. I am satisfied that the greater part, if not all of the donations which are sent to suffering in Kansas, goes into the hands of this band, and the greater portion of it is converted from the use intended, by purchasing arms and munitions of war for carrying out to their affairs by this band. A large force to thoroughly break up this band."

"Montgomery has a regularly organized band of about sixty men, who receive ten dollars per month, besides a portion of the robberies, &c., and also spies and runners all over the country, who give him timely notice of any movements set on foot against him. The day before the troops reached Mound City, Montgomery's men, to the number of between one hundred and five hundred, assembled and passed resolutions, a copy of which has been published in the black republican paper. I think the best and cheapest way to catch Montgomery and his party, will be to furnish the Governor with funds, and let him do it in his own way."

THE UNITED STATES STEAMSHIP PENNSYLVANIA.—The new propeller of this steamer was put in yesterday; it weighs 21,000 pounds and it is said to be a complete piece of work. The Pennsylvania will come out of the docks in a few days, and in command of Capt. B. Clair will be towed up to Washington, by the steamer Northampton, of the same company, and there will be her engines put in.—*Norfolk Day Book.*

WOOD! WOOD! WOOD!!!
WOOD SAWED, SPLIT, and delivered in any quantity, at short notice. Orders left at our Store will be promptly attended to.
C. F. SUTTLE & CO.

The Senate Ostrich Committee.
The Senate Committee of Thirteen had another meeting on Wednesday, and discussed further the general subject of reconciliation; but nothing was adopted, which would answer as a basis for permanent peace. Mr. Davis offered the following resolution, which he held to be necessary as an elementary principle of any adjustment that would satisfy the Territories;—

Resolved, That it shall be declared by amendment of the constitution that property in slaves, recognized as such by the local law of any of the States of the Union, shall stand on the same footing in all other respects, and federal relations in any other respects of property so recognized, and, like other property, shall not be subject to be divested or impaired by the local law of any other State, either by escape thereof, or by transit or seizure of the owner therein; and in no case whatever shall such property be subject to be divested or impaired by any legislative act of the United States, or of any of the Territories thereof.

The republicans voted unanimously against this resolution, and all the others for it. The following resolutions, offered by Mr. Toombs, were voted on, the republicans all voting in the negative, and the resolutions were defeated under the rule.

First.—That the people of the United States shall have an equal right to emigrate to and settle in the present or any future acquired Territories, with whatever property they may possess, including slaves, and be securely protected in its peaceful enjoyment until such Territory may be admitted as a State in the Union, with or without slavery, as she may determine, on an equality with all existing States.

Second.—That property in slaves shall be entitled to the same protection from the government of the United States in all its departments, everywhere, which the constitution confers the power upon it to extend to any other property; provided nothing therein contained shall be construed to limit or restrain the right now belonging to every State to prohibit, or abolish or establish and protect slavery within its limits.

Third.—That persons owning or claiming abstracted slave property in one State, and fleeing to another, shall be delivered up in the same manner as persons committing other crimes, and that the laws of the State from which such persons flee shall be the test of criminality.

Several members offered resolutions recognizing the duty of Congress to pass laws to suppress and punish invasions of one State by another, and the fitting out of hostile expeditions of one State against another. For this vote, the republicans were all willing to vote, but in consequence of an amendment brought in by the proposition by Mr. Toombs, the laws of nations, the republicans voted against it, and it was lost under the rule.

Mr. Toombs submitted another resolution, to the effect that fugitive slaves shall be rendered under the law of 1850, without being entitled to writ of habeas corpus, or trial by jury, or obstruction of any law by State Legislation.

Against this Mr. Seward and all his friends voted. The action was taken on the program of Mr. Douglas. It seems to be understood that his main proposition, in reference to the government of the Territories, will not be governed by either side.

Mr. Crittenden intimated a desire to modify his first proposition, the Missouri line.—The committee then adjourned to Friday to give him an opportunity to do so.

The Senate Committee of Thirteen and the Republican members of the House Committee were in caucus on Wednesday. In each assembling the following propositions, which originated with Senator Orin, were presented and presented in the Senate Chamber, and were adopted by the Republicans.

I. That the Constitution shall never be so amended as to permit the interference of the Federal Government with slavery in the States, and that this shall be secured by legislative enactment.

II. That the following Act be introduced into Congress and passed:

That upon the production of a person claimed as a fugitive from labor, before any court, judge or commissioner notified in the act of Congress, approved September eighth, eighteen hundred and fifty, together with the proof mentioned in the sixth section thereof, said court, judge or commissioner shall be of opinion that it appears thereby that such person so claimed does owe labor or service to the person claiming him, according to the laws of any other State or Territory, or the District of Columbia, and emancipate him, or the said court, judge or commissioner shall make out and deliver to such claimant or his agent, a certificate stating the facts, and shall deliver such fugitive to the Marshal of the United States of the State, to be by him taken and delivered to the Marshal of the State, whence the fugitive is asserted to have fled, who shall produce the same to the Federal judge of the Circuit Court of the United States for the last mentioned State, and it shall be the duty of the said judge, either forthwith or at the next term of the Circuit Court adjourned, to cause a jury to be empanelled and sworn, to try the issue whether such fugitive owes service or labor to the person by or on behalf of whom he is claimed, and a true verdict to render according to the evidence; and upon such a finding, the judge or court shall render judgment according to such finding, and cause said fugitive to be delivered to the claimant, or returned to the State from which he was removed at the expense of the United States.

III. Congress will pass a resolution asking Governors to revise State statutes, to ascertain if "Personal Liberty" laws exist, and to request their repeal, "as required by a just sense of constitutional obligations, and by a due regard for the peace of the Republic."

A fourth proposition, which will enable the people of New Mexico to enter the Union as a slave State, is advocated by the more conservative Republicans, but will not, in all probability, be adopted.

The garrison which evacuated Fort Moultrie, and are now at Fort Sumpter, consists of two companies of artillery, under command of Major Robert Anderson, of Kentucky.

The other officers are Capt. Almer Double day, Capt. Seymour, Lieut. T. Talbot, Lieut. J. C. Davis, Lieut. N. J. Hall—all of the first regiment artillery.

Capt. J. G. Foster and Lieut. G. W. Sawyer, of the engineer corps.
Assistant Surgeon S. W. Crawford, of the medical staff.
Major Robert Anderson, who now occupies the important position of commander at Fort Sumpter, is a native of Kentucky, and was born September, 1810. On the first day of July, 1821, he entered the Military Academy at West Point, whence he graduated July 1, 1825, taking a high position in a large class. He distinguished himself in the Florida war, and in the Mexican campaign, and was once an aide camp to Gen. Scott.

MEETING OF CITIZENS OF RICHMOND.—A meeting of citizens was held on Thursday in Richmond in the African Church, which was very largely attended.

The meeting was held for the purpose of taking into consideration the present condition of our national affairs.

John H. Elliott was appointed Chairman, and Wm. H. Claiborne and several others were requested to act as Secretaries.

A committee of twenty-five was appointed to read the preamble and resolutions expressed by the sense of the meeting, and by the charge of the citizens of Richmond, after a brief retirement, returned and read, through G. W. Randolph, the following:

Virginia having manifested her appreciation of the results of the Federal Union, not only by her active agency in its formation, but by her maintenance of her unwavering fidelity to the Constitution, but more especially still by her contribution of long and noble sacrifices upon the constitutional rights of herself and her sister States of the South, when it became necessary to the declaration of her independence, and to the preservation of her essential conditions as a free State.

A period has at length arrived, however, when compliance in the existing condition of things ceases to be patriotic, and moral obligations demand a re-assertion of the essential relations of Virginia to her sister States, and to the people of the United States.

We believe that it is no longer compatible with the duty of the State of Virginia to endure a condition, though made more palatable by the efforts of the Federal Government, which would deprive the people of the State of the rights which they cannot be expected to retain, in default of obtaining such guarantees in the Union, it believes this State and the South to look elsewhere for safety.

Resolved, That an express of the call of a State Convention for the purpose of considering and adopting such measures as are necessary to secure the rights of the State in the existing Confederacy, or out of it, and in the event of the failure of such express, to be held in the State, for the purpose of the discharge of the duties and obligations of the State, and for the purpose of the property, privileges and amendments of the United States.

That an elaborate in the strongest terms, as wholly incompatible with the present emergency, any attempt on the part of the Federal Government to exercise a vetoing States, and declare such an attempt null, in our opinion, and to nullify such attempt upon the spot.

Resolved, That we deprecate the commencement of hostilities by any seceding State for the purpose of capturing forts in her territory, before the formal declaration of secession, and to be considered as an act of aggression, and to be followed by the use of force, and to be followed by the use of force, and to be followed by the use of force.

Resolved, That the general government of the United States, in its capacity as a government of military power, be abolished, and that the United States Government within the territory of a seceding State, as now exercised by the Federal Government, be discontinued.

Resolved, That the reading of the committee's preamble and resolutions be followed by the election of James H. Russell, of Virginia, as a delegate to the Convention, to be held in the State of Virginia, on the 15th of January, 1861.

Resolved, That the committee be authorized to do all such other acts as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the resolutions.

Resolved, That the committee be authorized to do all such other acts as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the resolutions.

Resolved, That the committee be authorized to do all such other acts as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the resolutions.

Resolved, That the committee be authorized to do all such other acts as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the resolutions.

Resolved, That the committee be authorized to do all such other acts as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the resolutions.

Resolved, That the committee be authorized to do all such other acts as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the resolutions.

Resolved, That the committee be authorized to do all such other acts as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the resolutions.

The sailing down on Sunday morning last, at Petersburg, of a scow-pole and flag, which had been erected on the previous day, creating much feeling in that city. The pole and the apparatus, cost the owners of \$200, and the parties by whom it was erected expressed a determination of rearing a new one, and of defending it if necessary against attack; but the Mayor of the city fearing some disturbance, ordered a Union pole already erected to be taken down, and interdicted by proclamation the erection of poles in the public streets. The parties opposing the demolition of the pole have published a card, in which they denounce the proceedings as outrageous, and intimated that it was accomplished with the connivance of the police.

On Wednesday, a man named Owen Riley, a Baltimorean, thought on the last nine years a resident of Richmond, was arrested upon the charge of having down the pole and carrying off the flag, which he admitted. So proud was he of his complicity in the affair that on Tuesday he publicly stated that he had boldly and then there openly and boldly declared himself the author of the deed, and defied any man to resent it. It is also stated that he pinned the Lone Star, which had adorned the flag, to his back, and thus decorated, paraded several prominent streets. He was released on \$500 bail.

The next day he was tried. No counsel was employed, and the case was submitted to his honor, who held Riley to be guilty in the sum of \$1000 for his future good behavior, and Mahone and Meredith in the sum of \$500 each. As soon as the decision was rendered, Riley charged in contempt any one who might be charged in aiding and abetting in cutting the pole down, and said if any daggers had to be pointed, let them be pointed at him; he cut down the pole and called on the "Union" men to sustain him, which they did, as several gentlemen came forward and voluntarily went their security.

The Norfolk Day Book mentions the arrival there from Memphis, Tenn., on Friday and Saturday last, of 1,250 bales of cotton, the first instalment of a shipment of 25,000 to come from the same point. Another firm in the latter city has contracted to forward over the same route 12,000 bales, several hundred of which have already been received at Norfolk.

We understand that Dr. W. D. Quessberry, of Glasgow, has announced himself a candidate for the vacancy in the Senate occasioned by the death of the late incumbent, Frederick W. Coleman, esp. Dr. Quessberry is a gentleman of high intelligence and much familiarity with public affairs.

Mat Tredg, foreman of the boiler shop at the Tredegar works, Richmond, was killed on Thursday afternoon, by falling down a flight of steps. His neck was broken, causing instant death.

Wm. C. Piles, of Harrisburg, was severely injured in the steam mill on Friday night last. He was grinding mill, and was caught by the mill belt, and thrown with great violence against a post in the mill.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To smooth the very age and line of the rixes."

The following are the names of the gentlemen who have appeared as sureties for Wm. H. Russell, implicated in the loss of the State bonds from the Interior Department: Hon. James S. Green, of Missouri, \$25,000; Hon. Samuel H. Woodson, \$25,000; William L. Orr, of Kansas, \$25,000; Richard H. P. Orr, esp. of Missouri, \$20,000; W. D. Williams, esp. of Kansas, \$5,000; Hon. Thomas P. Akers, of Missouri, \$10,000; Hon. John R. Barrett, of Missouri, \$50,000; N. S. Reynolds, \$175,000. Resident—Cornelius W. Wood, esp. \$100,000, Total \$750,000.

On Tuesday night a girl named Ann Barr, who is laboring under aberration of mind, attempted to commit suicide by hanging herself while in a cell at the lockup, in Boston. Her life was saved with difficulty. The Boston Traveler says: "The girl, who is about twenty-two years of age, handsome and well educated, was brought from a house of ill-fame in Lowell street. She says that she was born at Norfolk, Virginia, and that her parents are dead."

A discovery for saving gold has been made by a man in the gold diggings. It is still a secret. He took a pan full of tailings from one of the quartz mills, supposed to contain little or no gold, and by subjecting it to the process three several times, he obtained 89.87 and \$2.70 worth of gold respectively.

One of the heaviest Spanish-American houses at New York has suspended. The liabilities are said to be large, though the operations in sugar had been mostly closed. It is stated that the house has nearly a quarter million of protested acceptances, so that their failure presented no doubt from the embarrassments of their banking business.

Great fields of ice floated down the Hudson river Wednesday, and nearly filled the harbor of New York. The cakes were two or three inches thick, quite rotten, and easily broken to pieces by scumbling wheels.—The river opposite the upper part of the island was crowded with ice from shore to shore.

News from all the States in the different sections of the Union of Alabama, thus far received, indicate that straight out secession has swept everything by fifty thousand, in East, West, Middle and Southern Alabama. The majority in the convention for immediate secession will be at least fifty.

The Democratic State Committee of Illinois have called a State Convention, to be held on the 15th of January, to confer as to the existing national crisis, and adopt a line of policy relative thereto.

Mr. Daniel E. Gronz, professor of the modern languages in Washington, has been arrested on a requisition from the executive of Pennsylvania, given up, and has proceeded to that State, to stand trial on a charge of bigamy.

Several very extensive Puebla claims in New Mexico have been sent to the Land Office, for the purpose of obtaining patents thereon. The aggregate amount is 180,709 acres.

A telegram from Fort Kearney (26th) says that the Pony Express going West was twenty-four hours late, owing to a new rider losing his way and freezing to death.

The assurance companies in New York have recently been consulting together in regard to the ruinous competition which has existed there to regard to fire-risk.

We are now in the most critical situation. 'Tis the impetuosity of December's sun, by the rashness and delinquency of South Carolina, our doom may be sealed, our country dismembered, and engulfed in an ocean of human blood. Would to God the manes of Washington would arise, to rebuke his degenerated sons! Would to God I were the custodian of the departed spirits of our fathers! I would descend into their tombs to awaken them to the pathetic cries of their countrymen.

The present deplorable and calamitous condition of this government can be traced to broken compacts, and direct departures from the meaning, genius, and spirit of the Constitution.

The North has made flagrant and violent invasions upon our constitutional rights, such as her Personal Liberty laws. We have, too, broken covenants, to lament, such as the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, the most fatal, and ruinous course that could have been pursued.

The repeal of the Missouri Compromise has, I fear, been the occasion of the present gloom that overshadows this government.—I had we adhered to that compromise, we should not have found in the last Presidential election the forces of the South, (disunited and discordant,) contending for supremacy upon a collateral question, with an united North.

The conservative mass of the North were induced to support the Republican party, in order to overthrow the Democratic party, who were, they contended, the movers and violators of the compromise that had adjusted amicably and honorably, the admission of slaves into territories. And it is strange that many advocates of secession and disunion—justly the course of South Carolina, upon the inconsistent ground, that no faith, or confidence can be reposed in any stipulation, token, or covenant the North may pledge.

The election of Mr. Lincoln is not, of itself, sufficient ground for a dismemberment of this government, consecrated to us, and secured to us, by the blood of those who achieved our independence. We should exhaust our forbearance, and use every honorable means to stay the tide of every sentiment against the Constitution, the palladium of our rights and our liberties.

Lincoln has not pledged himself during his administration to impede the execution of the Fugitive Slave law; nor has he committed himself to tamper with slavery where it exists under local law, or the Constitution of States. And I ask, why not wait for some "over act," before proceeding to extremities?

The argument of Mr. Buchanan, and those that justify the course of South Carolina, cannot be sustained, unless we denounce and discard, in toto, our entire system of jurisprudence. The idea of denying the constitutional right of secession, and yet contending that the General Government is without competent authority to secure itself from disobedience, and contempt, is, in my opinion, vain, and nugatory.

The message of Mr. Buchanan is conceded by the lovers of peace, and those inimical to usurp power, to favor of disunion, and a relinquishment of his constitutional obligations.

It is not most egregiously mistaken, Mr. Buchanan advocated the acquisition of Cuba, in the strongest and most uncompromising manner. He contended that should Spain reject the three hundred millions of dollars in exchange for Cuba, the war making power should be removed from the hands of Congress, and placed in that of the Executive. But in his late message he declines to exert any authority to prevent a dissolution of our government, lest war might ensue.

Should Lincoln prove himself unworthy of the position he will occupy after the 4th of March, by giving aid and countenance to the Northern vandals that have invaded our homes, our hearths, and constitutional immunities, then, (and not until then,) let the South, like the sons of Scotland, under the chivalric Wallace, with one arm, and one hand, strike for freedom! The Constitution, the creation of patriots of wise experience and commanding talents, has been prostituted to vile, and scandalous purposes, to the low ends of selfish ambition, avarice, and personal aggrandizement by rapacious politicians, who have jeopardized their homes, their country, and have parted through lust of power. They have bartered the sacred principles of the South, the sacred and hallowed receptacle of the bones of your, and my illustrious fathers.

Piedmont, Fauquier Co., Dec. 21, 1860.

I have been as ardent a lover of the Union as any man, but I now think it impossible for us to live in peace with a people who are educated, and taught by their false preachers, to look upon us as their enemies, and think of us as barbarians.

There seems to be two motives which influence a portion of the people of Virginia to desire the Union to continue unbroken, and a conversion for the Union, and a dread of the consequences of Disunion.

Ought we to permit ourselves, through the sole feeling of veneration, to remain in a position in which we have our rights trampled upon, and know that we are destined to be subjected to still greater losses and indignities? Is it rational to remain in the crumbling mansion of our ancestors, for the sole reason that they built it? Should we not rather desert it, though our hearts be torn with anguish that we are compelled to do so, and build for ourselves a grand and stately pile, of materials whose kindred nature render them susceptible of being more firmly cemented together, and thus be more fitted to withstand the shock of a tempest, than a noble feeling, but it should have a limit.

The disruption of the Union may be followed by civil war; and if such is the result, the North, as usual, will be the aggressor, for the South has no cause to attack the North first. From the dread of such a contingency, should the South fail to assert its just rights? Such a base, and no Southern justice! In no Southern bosom, and no Southern heart would shrink from shedding the last drop of his blood in defending his rights, when once asserted! All that we would ask, would be the natural right of a nation, as well as of a man, viz: the entire and undisturbed control of our own affairs; and if we were not granted this right, then we would be bound to "welcome Northern invaders with bloody hands to their native graves." Let those who fear a service insurrection, comfort themselves with the decided probability that such an insurrection would break out (if at all) upon the borders of the Border States, (for there alone would they be subjected to the influences which would tend to induce them to raise,) and the preponderance of the whites over the slaves is so great in such sections, that we would have force sufficient to overawe them, and, at the same time, repel fanatical raids from the North.

This is the far sark side of the picture, for the reasonable supposition is, that the Disunion will be a possible and bloodless.

And in such an event, what a glorious future is in prospect for Virginia! Her laboring classes would find abundant and

lucrative occupation in manufacturing the various and immense quantities of articles for which she would then find a certain market in the South, and in building railroads and digging canals. From the extent of her sea-coast, its facility for inland intercourse, and its proximity to a European market, commerce, that enricher of nations, would be inviolable, and there is not a doubt but that Norfolk would be the great commercial metropolis of the South. And of what incalculable benefit would the establishment of such a metropolis be to Virginia, for then would she find a large and constant market for all her productions.

If a rational man gives this question a calm consideration in all its lights, I cannot see how he can help coming to the conclusion that Virginia will be greatly benefited by the severance of the ties between the North and South. I can hardly see that many of the people of this country are coming to this conclusion, and I have not the slightest doubt but that a majority of our people of Virginia will soon be in favor of secession, preparatory to the formation of a Southern Republic.

A CITIZEN.
Clarke County, Va., Dec. 20.

COMMUNICATED.
I may I require if by the withdrawal of one or two States from the Union, that Union is dissolved? Take the broad ground that unanimous consent of all the States is given to ten or fifteen to withdraw, do not the remainder constitute the "United States of America?" Was it not the United States, when thirteen stars alone gilded the blue of our glorious flag; and if all should withdraw but two, they can constitute a Union—would not the United States still exist, with the army, navy, judiciary, foreign treaties and all, remaining with them? Because the territory is decreased does the binding obligation of those powers cease over the remaining United States, or do they not continue as when they are extended over an increased territory by the addition of States? Is a lump dissolved because a few particles fall or fly off—or only that the mass is reduced, and its power curtailed for good or ill by the reduction? I desire to cling to the Union—to stay in the Union, with all her powers, should they now exist, and break the back spots that would corrode and deface its fair surface, rather than separately, in particles, break off from the great mass, leaving the beautiful heart to be gradually corroded and cut out by the outside corroding process. I am not willing that the conservative heaven shall be permitted to go to decay. I would rather try the medicine that each day produces for the new diseases of the hour, to heal the body, than plunge a knife to its heart, to prevent a death that is the only alternative.

The questions I have asked above, should be calmly considered. A SUBSCRIBER.

HORRID OUTRAGE ON A YOUNG LADY.—Never in our life, says the Milton (N. C.) Chronicle, did we feel called upon to record a more brutal, fiendish and shocking outrage than the one that was perpetrated on the person of Miss Bella Brandon, a fair and beautiful girl of 15 or 16 years of age, and daughter of Thos. Brandon, Esq., (near the Red House,) in this county, on yesterday morning, just before day. It seems that some mor