



ALEXANDRIA:

TUESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 8, 1861.

CONGRESS.—In the Senate yesterday, Mr. Toombs made an eloquent speech in defence of the Southern Revolution, and Mr. Crittenden spoke ably in favor of adjustment. The House of Representatives passed one of the regular appropriation bills, and refused by a decided vote to admit the Border State compromise resolutions introduced by Mr. Etheridge. The House then adjourned until Wednesday.

The Culpeper Observer publishes a Sermon prepared by Rev. Philip Slaughter, for the Day of Prayer, which he was not well enough to deliver. It is an excellent production. Its concluding words especially, we cordially adopt—"Do nothing, say nothing rashly. The crisis demands profound thought, deliberation and charity of construction. Let what you do or say, be the expression of your honest conviction. Be not the mere echo of other men's thoughts. Suffrages thus collected will be true exponents of popular sentiment, or will, at least, approximate the truth. As our individual destiny will be that of our native State, we cannot be too solicitous that she should be right. But right or wrong we owe her allegiance, and as Ruth said to Naomi, I doubt not we are all ready to go to our Mother Virginia. "Where thou goest I will go, thy people shall be my people, where thou diest I will die, and there will I be buried."

The Richmond Enquirer, having denounced "a traitor" any man "who would dare disturb the harmony of the expected State Convention, by raising an issue about taxation in the State," is informed by the Lexington (Va.) Star, that the first notice it saw of this thing "was in the leading Breckinridge organ of the Northwest. Several weeks ago the Fairmont True Virginian declared that the West "would not submit" to any convention not called upon the "white basis," and would demand this very reform, the advocates of which the Enquirer now denounces as traitors." We hope that the "leading Breckinridge organ of the North West," and all others in that region, will lay aside their idea of reviving State disputes in the midst of National calamities. The public having been properly advised of the scheme, have given it no countenance.

The Savannah Republican gives full accounts of the capture of Forts Pulaski, and of a Revenue Cutter at Savannah.—The seizure of the Fort is justified on the ground that it was necessary to prevent it from falling into "the hands of a lawless collection of people"—but the Governor of Georgia instantly ordered the release of the Revenue Cutter, and says he will protect the Custom House and other Federal property until the State Convention directs what is to be done.

The Staunton Vindicator says, "The sun of the 4th of March, 1861, should never beam upon a single fort or arsenal on Southern territory which is not secure against the power of the Black Republican party. Especially should Virginia and Maryland be vigilant." At the same time that it makes this suggestion, it affirms that it is far from justifying what it calls the erratic, senseless, ill-digested, childish, peevish, and miserably foolish action of the State of South Carolina.

From South Carolina we have accounts of large donations to the State from wealthy citizens, (Benj. Mordecai gives \$10,000)—aid furnished by the ladies—offers of gratuitous service from the colored population—employment of hundreds of negroes in erecting batteries—and activity among the military, with accessions of volunteers.

Mr. Dickenson, the Commissioner from the State of Mississippi, addressed the Legislature of Delaware, last week, recommending and advising Secession. After his speech, the House of Representatives of the State passed unanimously a resolution disapproving of Secession—and in this resolution the Senate concurred.

Illegal occupations to effect either the prevention or the protection of the inauguration of the President, on the fourth of March, are idle and frivolous. They can do nothing whatever, except to create trouble and unnecessary excitement and to increase the hostility of the sections.

The New York Herald has another turn, and now flays some of Mr. Buchanan's late Cabinet, Messrs. Cobb, Floyd, and Thompson. It charges them with being conspirators—and with deceiving and betraying Mr. Buchanan. The Herald fires into the retiring Secretaries with a rim.

A desperate affray occurred in New Orleans, on the 31st ult., between Victor Marot and John Flathers, two respectable and wealthy sugar brokers. Pistols and "sugar augers" were used, and Marot was killed—having been shot three times, and wounded by the auger. Flathers gave himself up.

We are sorry to see that the Telegraph wires continue to be made the vehicle for scattering through the land incorrect and exaggerated statements of occurrences, calculated to increase the existing excitement.

The convicts concerned in the late attempt to burn the Maryland Penitentiary, have been detected. They will be tried for the offence. The punishment is death.

Hon. John S. Pendleton will address the people of Culpeper on the next Court day, in the Court house of that county.

It is said that the Convention in Florida consists of Immediate Secessionists, 38; Co-operationists, 22.

A printed "address to the Republican members of Congress, by one perhaps more opposed to slavery than themselves," is quite freely circulated around the capitol at Washington, and is said to be producing some effect in the Republican ranks, coming from the source it does. We do not know its author—though he seems to be known in Washington. His signature is "Illinoian." This address takes the ground that the North cannot constitutionally undertake to restrict slavery in the common Territories of the United States, without first amending the Constitution, as therein provided, and allowing the seceding slaveholding States to peacefully discontinue their share of the territories, on the incorporation of a new and material article exclusively affecting them in a matter existing and otherwise mutually understood in the original compact, up to the formation of which each State constituted a separate and independent sovereignty. The writer avers the position "that to diffuse and spread slavery over a larger area of territory, is to weaken its hold—to limit it, is to make it stronger." Hence his more ready acquiescence, as an anti-slavery man, in the proposition "that the people of the southern States are only contending for their original constitutional rights in claiming the privilege of settling with their slaves in the United States territories, purchased with the common blood and treasure of the north and south, and in demanding for this species of property the same Federal protection that is constitutionally extended to all other kinds of property."

If the conclusions to which this writer arrives, were adopted by the Northern States, the Southern States would not care much for the reasons or arguments which induced them. They (the South) have their opinions as to the institution of slavery.—Other sections may have theirs. The South only requires justice and to be let alone.

The "Cabinet makers" for Lincoln, continue to turn out their work—every day presenting a new list of the "Ministry." Greeley's last, has Seward as Secretary of State, Chase of the Treasury, Bates as Attorney General, Cameron of Pa., as Secretary of War, Robt. E. Scott, of Va., as Secretary of the Navy, Graham, of North Carolina, of the Interior, Gideon Wells, Postmaster General. The use of Mr. Robert E. Scott's name, we expect, is probably unauthorized—though if Mr. Lincoln acts as President, and the Union is restored, he could not have an abler man in his Cabinet. We are amused at the comments of the New York Herald on the report of Mr. Scott's being a member of Lincoln's Cabinet. It says—"Robert E. Scott, of Virginia, is the identical Captain Scott whose achievements in own hunting are well known. In 1852 Captain Scott brought down all the Presidential aspirants by opening a correspondence with them and spreading their views before the country. Now all the Presidents are bound to come down when summoned by Scott. They inquire: 'Are you Captain Scott—the Captain Scott whom poor Pierce sent to Rio? If so, don't fire; I'll come down.' The Herald mistakes altogether. It confounds our "Captain Scott," with another Capt. Scott—Robert C. of Richmond. There is all the difference, in the world, in this case, between an E. and a G."

The Postmaster General having addressed a letter to Col. Huger, Postmaster at Charleston, propounding certain questions to him, in regard to postal arrangements in that State, and whether the revenues were to be accounted for to the Post Office Department, has received a reply from Col. Huger, in which he states that he considers himself responsible for the revenues of his office, which will be accounted for to the United States as heretofore. He considers the ordinance of the Convention authorizes him to act thus. It appears that Col. Huger did not act in this matter until he had conferred with the present government of South Carolina.

The New York Herald says—"The plan of adjustment adopted at the Caucus of members of Congress from the Border States, appears to have at first met with considerable favor at the capital, and it was thought likely that the President would commend it to the attention of Congress. But the caucus of the republicans, yesterday, utterly extinguished the last hope of settlement through the instrumentality of the present Congress. The caucus, after a full and free discussion upon the merits of the border State programme, decided adversely to any and all compromises whatever, and agreed simply to press forward the regular business of the session, and then adjourned sine die."

The venerable Commodore Stewart, U. S. N., has written a letter in which he recommends "a rendition, not only to the South, but to all the States, of a full, fair and constitutional redress of all grievances of which they had a just right to complain, on their relinquishment of all oppressive or mischievous proceedings founded on the action of any State whatever, and a restoration to the charter articles of the constitution anything of which they may have been deprived through a violent, unfair or lattitudinarian construction of that instrument, or a revision of the constitution itself."

The Governor of Delaware, in his message to the Legislature that State, ascribes the cause of all the present trouble to be the persistent war of the Abolitionists upon more than two billions of property; a war waged from pulpits, classrooms, and schools, by press and people—all teaching that slavery is a crime and a sin, until it has become the opinion of a large portion of the section of the country. The only remedy for the evils now threatening is a radical change of public sentiment in regard to the whole question. The North should retire from its untenable position immediately.

Charles W. Russell, esq., of Wheeling, has written a letter pronouncing "absurd" the statement that Western Virginia was for division of the State in case of division of the Union. He concludes thus:—"We of the West will take care of our own rights, at all proper times, but we will also guard the rights of our Eastern fellow-citizens, as if they were our own. We will defend the rights of the State, because they are our own. In every fortune our great commonwealth will be one and indivisible."

Yesterday, the 7th day of January, five of the Southern States proceeded, in various ways, to take action, more or less decisive, in relation to the grave and all-important question of secession.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia, met at the State Capitol Richmond, yesterday morning, and received a message from the Governor. The message alluding to the condition of the country, says: "All see, know and feel that the danger is imminent, and all true patriots are exerting themselves to save us from impending perils. It renews the proposition in his last message for convention of all the States, and says it is monstrous to see a government like ours destroyed merely because men cannot agree about a domestic institution. It becomes our State to be mindful of her own interests. A disruption is inevitable; and if new confederations are to be formed we must have the best guarantees before we can attach Virginia to either."

He condemns the hasty action of South Carolina which he says has taken her Southern sisters by surprise. He would make no special reference to her course, had he not been invited to do so by her late executive in uncalled for references to Virginia. A desperate encounter took place at West Point, Miss., on Christmas day, between Mr. P. Cash and James Kinney, in which the former was killed. They fought with bowie-knives one of the most desperate fights ever witnessed. Kinney was literally cut to pieces, receiving eight wounds, but it is not thought he will prove mortal, as he was able to leave for home this evening.—Cash's throat was cut from ear to ear. He died instantly. Kinney was justified by the community. The affray was brought on by a frivolous matter.

On last Monday night, Mr. Lucius Woodruff, was taken from his bed, at his residence in Northampton county, N. C., by five of his own negroes, and brutally murdered. His body was then taken and deposited in the woods, near the residence of Mr. W. T. Stephenson. The negroes have been under arrest several days, have made a full confession and have marched deliberately with the officers and showed them where they had deposited the body. It was in a horribly mangled condition.

Hon. Robert McLane, United States Minister to Mexico, came passenger to New Orleans in the steamship Tennessee, which left Vera Cruz on the 23d ult. The capture of Degollado and other liberal generals by Miramon at Toluca—which is nearly fifty miles from the capital—is confirmed. The liberal army was advancing at a snail's pace and with extreme caution. The presidential canvass is proceeding very quietly, but it is too soon say to form an opinion as to the result.

Rev. Henry Anthon, D. D., rector of St. Mark's Church, in New York, died last week. Dr. Anthon was in the sixty-ninth year of his age. His father, Dr. G. C. Anthon, though a German by birth, was an officer in the British army, and at the close of the last century settled in New York. The late deceased was one of his six sons, of whom Charles Anthon, the classical scholar, and John Anthon, the lawyer, have become distinguished in their respective vocations.

The reports from Charleston represent the condition of affairs there as deplorable. The troops ordered into field by the Governor are said to be suffering severely from the exposure incident to their new mode of life, and much sickness prevails among them, while the merchants are without business and the mechanics without work.

Senator Cameron taking the place of Secretary of the Treasury, in Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet, will leave both Senatorial seats from Pennsylvania vacant. It is understood Hon. David Wilmot will fill one, vice Bigler, whose terms has expired, and Mr. Cowan, a distinguished lawyer of Westmoreland county, the other, vice Cameron.

Preaching the Gospel in the Northwest and preaching the Gospel in this section of country are very different kinds of business. The Nor' Western of November 15, gives the details of terrible suffering endured by a Catholic clergyman stationed at Pembina, who was travelling from St. Paul, Minn., to that place and lost his way near Grand Forks. The U. S. steamer Mohawk, L. Craven, captured the brig Tecon, and took her into Key West, last week. She was found completely fitted out for a slaver. The bark Mary L. Kimball, from New Orleans, was captured by the same vessel, under the same circumstances, the next day. She was also carried to Key West.

A dispatch from Richmond says:—"Large numbers of members of the Legislature have already arrived. From the sentiment of prominent members it is unquestionable that the Legislature will not act without mature deliberation. There is no excitement here, but all are calmly looking to future events." At a meeting of the House Committee on the Crisis, on Saturday, Mr. Hamilton, of Texas, submitted a proposition in favor of calling a national convention of delegates fresh from the people, with the view to amending the constitution so as to meet the requirements of all sections of the country.

The Express trains on the North Carolina Railroad ran together about twelve miles from Charleston, on Thursday, demolishing the engines. The thick bone of Engineer White was broken, and both legs of a fireman were severed. The passengers escaped with but very slight injuries.

Capt. Michael Baker died at South Dartmouth, Mass., on the 31st ult. The commercial and agricultural world will long hold his name in grateful remembrance, as the discoverer of guano on "New Nantucket," now called "Baker's Island."

Rev. Robt. J. Breckinridge, delivered a discourse on Friday last, in the Old Fellow's Hall of the city of Lexington, Kentucky, upon the state of the Union. Mr. Breckinridge takes the strongest ground in behalf of the maintenance of the Union.

The large granite building, No. 72 Long Wharf, Boston, was badly damaged by fire on Saturday. It was occupied by Van Pray & Co., commission merchants, and for storage by Alphonso Hardy and Elijah Williams & Co. The loss is \$16,000. Insured.

The fugitive murderer, Anderson, whose rendition has been recently on trial in Canada, has escaped from custody, and a public meeting has been held at Hamilton to sympathize with him.

There is no truth in the Telegraphic reports disseminated towards the close of last week of the seizure of the United States arsenal and forts in North Carolina.

New York has a new sensation. Rarely has arrived, has exhibited his wonderful powers, has made a great success, and will be the rage.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

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

At Fort Worth, Texas, on the 3d ultimo, R. C. Gillespie, son of Colonel Robert Gillespie, late of Tazewell county, Va., being assaulted by a man named Graves, used a revolver in his defence. The second fire proved fatal. Graves dying during the night. While Gillespie was awaiting his trial, a man named Brinson fired at him through a window, the ball striking and passing through one thigh, entered the other, and passing down, lodged near the knee. Gillespie, it is thought, will recover. Brinson has been arrested and jailed.

A desperate encounter took place at West Point, Miss., on Christmas day, between Mr. P. Cash and James Kinney, in which the former was killed. They fought with bowie-knives one of the most desperate fights ever witnessed. Kinney was literally cut to pieces, receiving eight wounds, but it is not thought he will prove mortal, as he was able to leave for home this evening.—Cash's throat was cut from ear to ear. He died instantly. Kinney was justified by the community. The affray was brought on by a frivolous matter.

On last Monday night, Mr. Lucius Woodruff, was taken from his bed, at his residence in Northampton county, N. C., by five of his own negroes, and brutally murdered. His body was then taken and deposited in the woods, near the residence of Mr. W. T. Stephenson. The negroes have been under arrest several days, have made a full confession and have marched deliberately with the officers and showed them where they had deposited the body. It was in a horribly mangled condition.

Hon. Robert McLane, United States Minister to Mexico, came passenger to New Orleans in the steamship Tennessee, which left Vera Cruz on the 23d ult. The capture of Degollado and other liberal generals by Miramon at Toluca—which is nearly fifty miles from the capital—is confirmed. The liberal army was advancing at a snail's pace and with extreme caution. The presidential canvass is proceeding very quietly, but it is too soon say to form an opinion as to the result.

Rev. Henry Anthon, D. D., rector of St. Mark's Church, in New York, died last week. Dr. Anthon was in the sixty-ninth year of his age. His father, Dr. G. C. Anthon, though a German by birth, was an officer in the British army, and at the close of the last century settled in New York. The late deceased was one of his six sons, of whom Charles Anthon, the classical scholar, and John Anthon, the lawyer, have become distinguished in their respective vocations.

The reports from Charleston represent the condition of affairs there as deplorable. The troops ordered into field by the Governor are said to be suffering severely from the exposure incident to their new mode of life, and much sickness prevails among them, while the merchants are without business and the mechanics without work.

Senator Cameron taking the place of Secretary of the Treasury, in Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet, will leave both Senatorial seats from Pennsylvania vacant. It is understood Hon. David Wilmot will fill one, vice Bigler, whose terms has expired, and Mr. Cowan, a distinguished lawyer of Westmoreland county, the other, vice Cameron.

Preaching the Gospel in the Northwest and preaching the Gospel in this section of country are very different kinds of business. The Nor' Western of November 15, gives the details of terrible suffering endured by a Catholic clergyman stationed at Pembina, who was travelling from St. Paul, Minn., to that place and lost his way near Grand Forks. The U. S. steamer Mohawk, L. Craven, captured the brig Tecon, and took her into Key West, last week. She was found completely fitted out for a slaver. The bark Mary L. Kimball, from New Orleans, was captured by the same vessel, under the same circumstances, the next day. She was also carried to Key West.

A dispatch from Richmond says:—"Large numbers of members of the Legislature have already arrived. From the sentiment of prominent members it is unquestionable that the Legislature will not act without mature deliberation. There is no excitement here, but all are calmly looking to future events." At a meeting of the House Committee on the Crisis, on Saturday, Mr. Hamilton, of Texas, submitted a proposition in favor of calling a national convention of delegates fresh from the people, with the view to amending the constitution so as to meet the requirements of all sections of the country.

The Express trains on the North Carolina Railroad ran together about twelve miles from Charleston, on Thursday, demolishing the engines. The thick bone of Engineer White was broken, and both legs of a fireman were severed. The passengers escaped with but very slight injuries.

Capt. Michael Baker died at South Dartmouth, Mass., on the 31st ult. The commercial and agricultural world will long hold his name in grateful remembrance, as the discoverer of guano on "New Nantucket," now called "Baker's Island."

Rev. Robt. J. Breckinridge, delivered a discourse on Friday last, in the Old Fellow's Hall of the city of Lexington, Kentucky, upon the state of the Union. Mr. Breckinridge takes the strongest ground in behalf of the maintenance of the Union.

The large granite building, No. 72 Long Wharf, Boston, was badly damaged by fire on Saturday. It was occupied by Van Pray & Co., commission merchants, and for storage by Alphonso Hardy and Elijah Williams & Co. The loss is \$16,000. Insured.

The fugitive murderer, Anderson, whose rendition has been recently on trial in Canada, has escaped from custody, and a public meeting has been held at Hamilton to sympathize with him.

There is no truth in the Telegraphic reports disseminated towards the close of last week of the seizure of the United States arsenal and forts in North Carolina.

New York has a new sensation. Rarely has arrived, has exhibited his wonderful powers, has made a great success, and will be the rage.

THIRTY-SIXTH CONGRESS.

In Senate, Monday, Jan. 7.

The galleries were immensely crowded.—Mr. C. C. Clay, of Alabama, appeared in his seat. Mr. Hamlin's resignation was received and read.

Mr. Ten Eyck presented the petition of citizens of New Jersey requesting Congress to pass an act authorizing the people to elect delegates on the 22d of February to a Convention to be held in Philadelphia, on the 4th of March next, to consider the welfare of the Union. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Bigler presented thirty-four memorials asking that Mr. Crittenden's resolutions be submitted to the people of the country. The Pacific Railroad Bill was made the special order of the day for 2 o'clock on Tuesday.

Mr. Crittenden moved to take up the resolution offered by him a few days since. The bill for the admission of Kansas was made the special order for Monday next.

Mr. Crittenden spoke in favor of the passage of his resolution to submit the question of our present difficulties to the vote of the people. It seemed to him to be necessary in the distracted state of the public councils, to submit the question to the people themselves, and he saw nothing improper in it. It does not conflict in any way with the Constitution. He referred to the proposed amendments to the Constitution and argued in favor of their adoption. He contended that the establishment of the line dividing the Territories was not so much a compromise as a far adjustment of mutual rights.

It was a question of national existence far above party strife. His plan proposed the to give all that was given to the North and so far as the portion south of 36° 30' was concerned, it only recognized the present status of that region. Slavery already existed in New Mexico. He urged upon the Republican members, the reasonableness, necessity and justice of his compromise.—Would they encounter civil war rather than deviate a hair's breadth from a particular dogma in a single instance? He besought them rather to let the dogma go, and save their country. This territorial question had been a great nursery for conscientious scruples, because the scruples benefited those who held them. It was as if a man who held land in common with him, should find a scruple on holding lands in that way, and answer the scruple by taking all the lands for himself. The South had more than equality contributed both in money and blood in the acquisition of this territory. What right had they to distinguish between the sections of the Union. The pulpits of the North had been filled with politicians in the guise of ministers of the gospel.

The hour of one o'clock having arrived, the chair called up the special order, being the report of the Committee of Thirteen, on which Mr. Toombs had the floor. Mr. Toombs having yielded for awhile, Mr. Crittenden, resuming, appealed to the Republican leaders to use their victory, to do that which was the most honorable and glorious of all results—save their country. It was due to the liberal spirit of Virginia that the anti-slavery cause had acquired a preponderance. He exhorted the Republican majority to emulate the generous example, and by timely concessions, insure peace to the country. He did not carry with her forts and arsenals, established for the common defence. The Constitution was an inviolable instrument, and could not be broken up without revolution, yet he besought the Republicans to balance the concessions they were called to make, with the evils of civil war.

Mr. Trumbull inquired if the Senator did not know that secession had already taken place. Mr. Crittenden responded that this plan would give peace and unite the country. He concluded by an appeal for the Union. Mr. Toombs said that Republicans had long been sowing dragon's teeth, and they had now a crop of armed men. The Union was already dissolved. South Carolina had boldly and nobly met the public danger. The case of South Carolina was the cause of the South. The South had appealed to the fraternity and justice of the North—and now they were voting what was called revolution, and were ready to appeal, if need be, to the stern arbitrament of the sword, and ere long the ground would echo to the tramp of armed men from the Capitol to the Rio Grande. The South had proclaimed to the civilized world that they had taken up arms because a power had been elevated to federal position which outlawed their property, stimulated insurrection within, and invasion from without. The Senator from Kentucky said that the right of secession, if long he would see it, was accomplished. They took up both ways South, regular as in South Carolina, irregular below that State, and there were armed men to defend both. As the Republicans deemed treason, there stood before them as good a traitor and as good a rebel as ever descended from revolutionary loins. (Slight applause.) He reviewed the demands of the South, and contended that such demands were only for an equality in the Union. Unless a government gave protection, it could not expect obedience. This was a reason for the armed men that were sprung up everywhere. The Senators from New York and Ohio had sworn to observe the constitutional compact—but no oaths could bind them—they had a higher law. They took oaths and broke them. A professional perjurer bought for fifteen shillings by an Old Bailey lawyer, would scarcely be less flagrant. He quoted the personal liberty bill of Vermont, as an indication of the acts passed in perjury. Continuing his detail of grievances, he cited the tacit encouragement given to invasions of the slave States, by the declarations of the Republican leaders. He denied that any blood had been shed to establish the Constitution. Not one drop. Many of the revolutionary patriots voted against it. It was adopted in Virginia by ten; in New York by three; and in Massachusetts by nineteen. The people of Georgia believed the Constitution to be the best form of government which could be devised. For himself, he did not share in that opinion. Had he been in the Convention, he would have voted with Henry and Mason against it. Every tribunal of the government had decided in favor of the Southern demands—yet they would not yield, and now the only arbiter was the sword.

He argued that the Chicago platform had logically declared that the treaties which acquired Louisiana and Florida as well as the decisions of the Supreme Court were void and no law. He himself was ready to defend the Constitution with the halberd around his neck. He quoted Mr. Lincoln's declaration that he would vote to exclude slavery from the territory, the Dred Scott decision notwithstanding. S. J. Breckinridge the tribunal which they themselves had declared to be the arbiter of disputes between the states, and declared their purpose to rule away. They sought to out-law four thousand millions of the property of the people of the South in the territories of the United States. Was this not a cause for war? He would not buy a shameful peace. He would rather have war. Georgia was on the war path, and she would have a final settlement. Mr. Lincoln had declared that the declaration of independence referred to slaves. It was a Madisonian reference. He declared slaves—held the sum of all villainies, robbed the slave of his wages and left them as slaves to their descendants.

He continued, quoting Vattel to show that the people of the North had violated the compact due the South by international law. He urged the manner in which John Brown's raid was received in the North as a token of Northern feeling. The people of the South had taken up arms to protect their rights under international law and they would never resign them unless they were wrenched from them by the frequent summary of his speech and a declaration that if the South was denied her rights, she would invoke the God of Battles.

Mr. Bigler moved that the Senate go into executive session which was agreed to—yeas 30, nays 23. So the Senate went into executive session, and having spent time therein adjourned.

House of Representatives. Mr. Cobb, of Alabama, rose to a personal explanation, in the course of which he said he was not present at the reported conference of certain Southern gentlemen on Saturday.

Mr. Houston suggested to his colleague that the conference was between the Senators of several of the States. Mr. Cobb did not wish to censure others. The people of his State were capable of acting for themselves. He had very little hope of anything being done to adjust the present difficulties, but appealed to gentlemen to make the effort. God knew his prayers have been for peace. Let blood be shed, a reconstruction of the Union cannot be effected. He said that unless there was an equality of the States, Alabama would not remain in the Union. He denied that the slavery question was settled in the late Presidential election. There were other questions—the Tariff, Internal Improvement, Homestead, the Pacific Railroad, and the alleged corruptions of the Administration. He repeatedly called upon gentlemen to do something. Bring out the old ship, and see whether she can be repaired and made seaworthy, and put on the bosom of the ocean.

Mr. Sherman, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported the Navy Appropriation bill, which was referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union. Mr. Carter, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, reported back the Senate bill authorizing the extension of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad into the District of Columbia.

Mr. Etheridge asked permission to submit a proposition in relation to the present political troubles. He said it was couched in such language as to be comprehended by the dullest understanding. His object was to have it printed that members might consider it. Mr. Jones, of Georgia, objected. Such things were calculated to deceive and entrap the South.

The House went into a Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union on the Legislative, Judicial, and Executive Appropriation bill.

Among the amendments agreed to, was one appropriating \$125,000 for completing the purchase of the Wendell building and materials for a Government Printing Office, provided that there shall be a good title.

On motion of Mr. Sherman, an amendment was adopted, appropriating \$20,000 for refurnishing the President's House, in addition to the proceeds of the meeting, the old furniture, and \$4,000 for carrying the Potomac water there. He remarked that for four years ago, the amount appropriated for refurnishing the President's House was \$28,000.

The Committee rose, the amendments were concurred in, and the bill passed.

Mr. Etheridge again asked unanimous consent to offer a proposition for alterations to the Constitution of the United States. He wanted it read and printed.

Mr. Barksdale objected, saying this was another attempt to hatch up a compromise, which would end in nothing. Mr. Stevenson desired to offer an amendment to the proposition, so that all territory north of 36, 30, shall be free, and south of that line, slave.

Mr. Etheridge, in response to a question from Mr. McClelland, said that the proposition was substantially that agreed on by the Committee representing the Border States.

The motion of Mr. Etheridge to suspend the rules for the reception of the proposition, was decided in the negative—yeas 83, nays 78.

Mr. Adrain asked leave to offer the following Resolved, That we fully approve of the bold and patriotic act of Major Anderson, in withdrawing from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter, and the determination of the President to maintain that fearless officer in his present position, and we will support the President in all constitutional measures to enforce the laws, and preserve the Union.

Several gentlemen asked him to withdraw the resolution, which he refused to do. Mr. Leach, of North Carolina, voted no; saying he would like to vote thanks to a man who would stand for a constitution.

Mr. McKean, of New York, said a few more men like Major Anderson would quiet the country. The vote was taken, and the House suspended the rules—yeas 134, nays 53. The resolution was then adopted—yeas 124, nays 56.

The House, in consideration of to-morrow being the anniversary of the battle of New Orleans, adjourned till Wednesday.

The Washington correspondent of the N. York Express says—"The secession feeling is increasing in Virginia at a fearful rate. Mr. Shackelford, late Union elector in the 7th District, writes to a friend here that a large majority of the people of that section are in favor of immediate secession, and that in the town of Warrenton, the county seat of Fauquier, there are but three men who are opposed to it." The secession feeling is said to be rapidly increasing in Culpeper. Several public meetings were held last week, at which speeches were made by Hon. O. R. Singleton, of Miss. David Funsten, and others. The Southern Rights Association is increasing its numbers. There was a supper given at Culpeper C. House by Mr. Singleton, at which he spoke. "Mr. B. H. Shackelford, an invited guest, and also, Wm. T. Patton, James G. Field, Jas. W. Green and George D. Gray, in response to calls, made speeches, all but one declaring themselves in favor of immediate secession, and a united Southern Confederacy; all denouncing any attempt to separate the Southern States, and any movement favoring a middle confederacy."

HENRY CLAY ON THE CONSEQUENCES OF ABOLITION.—In 1839, Henry Clay made a speech which has the air of a prophecy. One cannot read the following extracts from it without being struck with the presence of the orator, and it is another illustration in favor of the belief, advocated by philosophy, that the poetic and oratorical is akin to the prophetic. Reviewing the probable progress of Abolition, Henry Clay indicated the consequences of the success of a party based on its dogmas.

Abolition should no longer be regarded as an imaginary danger. The Abolitionists, let me suppose, succeed in their present aim of uniting the inhabitants of the free States as one man, against the inhabitants of the slave States. Union on the one side will beget union on the other. And this process of reciprocal consolidation will be attended with all the violent prejudices, embittered passions, and implacable animosities which ever degraded or deformed human nature. A virtual dissolution of the Union will have taken place, while the forms of its existence remain. The most valuable element of unity, mutual kindness, the feelings of sympathy, the fraternal bonds which now happily unite us, will have been extinguished forever. One section will stand in menacing and hostile array against the other. The collision of opinion will be quickly followed by the clash of arms.

The terrible future which now menaces us seems hardly more palpable to us who stand immediately under its shadow, than it did to the prophetic eye of Clay twenty-one years ago. He says:

"I will not attempt to describe scenes which now happily lie concealed from our view. Abolitionists themselves would shrink back in dismay and horror at the contemplation of the scenes which, if they succeed, will have been extinguished forever. A virtual dissolution of the Union will have taken place, while the forms of its existence remain. The most valuable element of unity, mutual kindness, the feelings of sympathy, the fraternal bonds which now happily unite us, will have been extinguished forever. One section will stand in menacing and hostile array against the other. The collision of opinion will be quickly followed by the clash of arms.

"Nor should the Abolitionists flatter themselves that if they succeed in their object of uniting the people of the free States, they will enter the contest with numerical superiority, that must insure victory. "All history and experience prove the hazard and uncertainty of war. And we are admonished by Holy Writ that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong."

"But if they were to conquer, whom would they conquer? A foreign foe—one who had insulted our flag, invaded our shores, and laid our vast country waste? No, sir, no. It would be a conquest without laurels, without glory—a self, suicidal conquest—a conquest of brothers over brothers, achieved by one over another portion of the descendants of common ancestors, who nobly pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor, had fought and bled, side by side, in many a hard battle on land and ocean, severed our country from the British crown, and established our national independence."

VIRGINIA NEWS.

Ashland Hall, Norfolk, was overflowed on Saturday night, with a very large and excited multitude of citizens, to take action for the defence of the city.

Ex-Mayor F. E. Ferguson presided.—Strong speeches, urging the citizens to arm themselves, and place the city in a state of defence for any emergency, were delivered by Messrs. J. D. Myrick, Chas. Sharpe, W. H. C. Ellis, Dr. Fitzgibbons, and Gen. W. H. Parker, which were loudly cheered. Charles Sharpe, esq., reported resolutions recommending and urging the Legislature to organize a thoroughly military power in the State, and prepare for civil war, should it occur; securing execution; pledging the lives and fortunes of the citizens to resist any attempt of the Federal Government or Northern Legislatures to invade the State, and denouncing and preparing to resist invasion.

Samuel Brownlee, esq., a well known citizen of Augusta, and for a long time of the firm of Robertson & Brownlee, live stock dealers, Richmond, dropped dead, of apoplexy, on Sunday, the 30th ult., while on his way to Bethel Church, in Augusta county.

The Fairfax News says—"The public hirings in this county took place as advertised. The rates which obtained at this place, Dranesville and Centreville were considerably below those of last year. The supply of servants seemed to be much greater than the demand for them."

Capt. J. D. Imboden, of the Staunton Artillery, and W. S. H. Baylor, of the West Augusta Guard, have notified Geo. L