Alexandria Gazette AND VIRGINIA ADVERTISER

SIC SEMPER TYRANNIS

ALEXANDRIA:

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 30, 1861.

THE STATE CONVENTION.—The resolution to close debate in Committee of the Whole, on the report of the Committee on Federal Relations caused a lengthy and spirited debate in the Convention yesterday. Tim Rives made a lengthy speech.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.—The Senate on Thursday, agreed to House amendments to bill for the relief of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad. The bill for the sale and transfer of the James River and Kanawha Canal was passed. The House of Delegates agreed to Senate amendments to the bill for the voluntary enslavement of free negroes.—Senate bill for the relief of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad was passed. Mr. Robertson, of Richmond city, offered a preamble and joint resolution respecting the endangering of the public peace likely to be brought about by the attempt of the Administration to convey arms or troops across the soil of Virginia, for which substitutes and amendments were offered, their merits being debated at length. At the evening session, Mr. Robertson's preamble and resolutions passed—ayes 93, noes 21.

RECONSTRUCTION.—Whilst all men should lament and deplore the disruption of our former government, and the dissolution of our former Union—whilst all should see the folly of attempting to restore that Union by hostile or coercive measures—whilst the moving cause of the present disastrous condition of affairs must be admitted to be the course and conduct of the Northern States for the last eight or ten years—whilst the precipitate action of South Carolina, and the separate State proceedings of the other seceded States, in our opinion, were unwise, impolitic, and unjust towards the Border Slave States, it is, nevertheless, looking in the face the actual condition of things—and acknowledging the difficulties that surround us, and the great difficulty, especially, created by the formation of another Confederacy and another Government out of what was once the United States—it is, we say, surely not *unpatriotic* to indulge in the fond *hope*—even if it be hoping against hope—and to unite in efforts—even though they may be unsuccessful,—of seeing and endeavoring to secure a "Reconstruction" of our old government and Union. The hope and the efforts may be, as they are, decried and denounced—and yet this Reconstruction, if possible, is, in truth, the earnest desire of the great mass of the people of the country—at least, with the exception of three or four States. As an evidence of this on the part of even those who have been looked upon as not very strong "Union" men, take the following from the Baltimore Sun—a journal whose decided course, and whose sentiments throughout the troubles, are well known. That paper says in its yesterday's issue:—

"We believe we interpret the true feeling of this State when we say that this desire for a reconstruction of the Union, with more plainly expressed guarantees of the rights of the Southern slave States, animates in reality the great body of our people this day. But these desires are scattered, smouldering and inactive. They must be massed together to make their effort unmistakable. If a party is to be formed, therefore, which proposes to itself any beneficent result, it ought to be organized for the purpose of enabling the people to act effectively in this work of reconstruction. The time between this period and the meeting of the Legislature is not too long for so good a work; and we shall have, after it has elapsed, time enough to do our appointed task well. Nations broken asunder do not adjust in a year their shattered parts to all the needs of a separate life; nor do they lose in that brief space the adhesive quality which enables skillful hands to reunite them. In our case, all external influences favor such a reunion. There is not a nation upon the earth which rejoices in our disaster. There is not a people which would not contribute to the re-establishment of our national existence. There is not a King in Europe who is not more sensible of the evils which our disorders will bring upon the commerce of the world, than gratified by the fatal tribute which we pay to royal prophecies concerning the instability of popular governments. Is it possible that the unyielding obstinacy of the North will perpetuate the ruinous divisions of this country?"

In furtherance of this, and in evident condemnation of precipitate secession and separate State action, and in favor of the mediation of the Border States, the Sun adds:—

"We, adhering to the Union, even after these outrages have been perpetrated, must demand from the magnanimity of these Northern States, if not from their justice, such amendments of their local laws as will suffice to maintain our rights, and such change in the constitution and federal laws as will prevent discords from springing up hereafter between them and ourselves. We have a right to expect such guaranties as we require to be accorded from the justice and magnanimity of the Northern States. If these concessions, so indispensable to us, are made—as they ought to be—the Northern States would enable us to approach the seceding States as mediators, bearing in our hands the fruits of our fidelity to all sections of the Union. Yielding to us our reasonable demands would involve no sacrifice of the honor of the free States, for we have not resisted the exercise of their legal powers. Yielding to us needful changes in the constitution would imply no submission, for we are not in revolt. But with these concessions accorded to ourselves, and engrafted upon the fundamental laws of the land, with what force could we not thus appeal to the seceded States, pleading for their return to that Union in which we and they alike may, thereafter, safely live."

On Monday last, at Delhi, Carroll Parish, La., James Wright shot Dr. J. H. Scruggs through the heart, killing him instantly, in front of a saloon. It is said that Scruggs had forbidden Wright his house, and having some words about it, Wright drew a pistol and shot him dead. The murderer made his escape.

A citizen of Virginia, in a letter published in the Baltimore American, says:—"As surely as the *whole* South separates from the North, the fate of slavery is settled. The whole North becomes then one vast 'Anti-Slavery Society.' The return of fugitives will be impossible. The knowledge of this will continually stimulate to flight—every discontented slave will be for making to the border; his family and friends will want to follow him; white laborers will have to be brought in to replace these losses; and so the institution will die out, if not by a violent and bloody, at least by a gradual and peaceful death. I tell our friends, therefore, that they make a great mistake in favoring disunion." We do not agree with the writer in his opinion as to the full results of separation on the institution of slavery; but it would, doubtless, have the effect spoken of, to some extent. It would give us much additional trouble, and great additional expense. Ten years ago, it is said that Mr. Boyce, of S. C., and other distinguished *Southern* men, declared that they would regard disunion as fatal to slavery. It is *their pronunciamento*, and it is for *them* to disprove their own statements, correct their own opinions, or "eat their own words." The subject is, however, a very grave and important one, and ought to attract the attention and examination of intelligent and reflecting men, on both sides of the question. This is the time for reason and argument—not for passion, rant, clap-trap, hurrahs, and foolishness generally.

The Fredericksburg News well says, "as to our quarrel with the North, it is idle for rabid secessionists to say we side with Northern foes, because we differ with *them* as to the best means of settling the difficulty and securing our own safety." It might have added that it is *worse* than idle to say, that the only issue now presented to the people of Virginia is, "whether they should *go* North or *go* South." Every intelligent man should know that it is precisely *not* that issue, in truth, which is before Virginia. The question is simply, shall we precipitate *Secession*, or shall we consult first with the Border *Southern* States, and endeavor, before we do any thing else, to form with them a union of sentiment as to what we shall propose as *guarantees*, and effect a concert of action as to future proceedings, either in or out of the Union. We beg leave to add that we consider North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky, to say nothing of Maryland and Missouri, quite as much a part of "*the South*" as the Seceded States, or the Southern Confederacy—and that if we should act with *them* we should be "going" just as much *South*, as if we were to "go" with South Carolina, or Florida! All this, however, is well understood, even by the "goers," notwithstanding much that is spoken and written.

Mr. Fillmore, in one of the letters which were elicited from him during our national troubles some years ago, said: "Really, these Southern Whigs are noble fellows! Would you not lament to have the Union dissolved, if for no other cause than that it has separated us from such true, noble, and high-minded associates?" A glowing and genial tribute from a genial and high-souled man! And as just and truthful as it is beautiful and noble! The Baltimore American makes the remarks of Mr. Fillmore the text for some interesting remarks upon the Whig party and its great leader. It says, "Mr. Clay predicted that the annexation of Texas would be followed by the precise train of evils, the crowning catastrophe of which is now casting its dismal shadows across the land;" and it calls attention to the historical record that for twenty five years has the Slavery hobby been ridden in the South by the Democratic party, and for twenty-five years have the Southern Whigs, owning the largest amount of that property, resisted that agitation; adding, that the American people will see in the history of this great party, and the consequences that have resulted from neglecting its policy, the value of conservatism to all the interests of a country, and to none more than to its Liberty and Union.

We annex, for the convenience of our readers, the two resolutions which have been adopted by the Virginia Convention in Committee of the Whole:

1. *Be it resolved and declared by the people of the State of Virginia in Convention assembled*, That the States which composed the United States of America, when the Federal Constitution was formed, were independent sovereignties, and in adopting that instrument the people of each State agreed to associate with the people of the other States upon a footing of exact equality. It is the duty, therefore, of the common Government to respect the rights of the States and the equality of the people thereof, and within the just limits of the Constitution to protect with equal care the great interests that spring from the institutions of each.

2. African slavery is a vital part of the social system of the States wherein it exists, and as that form of servitude existed when the Union was formed, and the jurisdiction of the several States over it within their respective limits was recognized by the Constitution, any interference to its prejudice by the Federal authority, or by the authorities of the other States, or by the people thereof, is in derogation from plain right, contrary to the Constitution, offensive and dangerous.

The Front Royal, Va., Gazette, a State Rights paper, says, that while it confesses its hopes are dim, owing to the previous conduct of the Republican party, in the Northern States, "it cannot be denied that the *reunion* sentiment is gaining ground in the South, as evinced by the tone of the press; and should a peace policy be adopted by the present Administration, we may hope for an amicable settlement of existing difficulties and a happy reunion, and hail the day when "Our Flag" shall again become the national emblem of the United States of America, re-united and more firmly bound than ever by the memory of past dangers."

That excellent paper—true to the South, but conservative—the Port Tobacco, Md., Times, advocates a Border State Convention, so as to secure unity and concert of purpose and action, in any further proceedings that may be had. It wisely contends that the course of the Border States should be such as to prove to the whole world, that whilst they will not submit to an unequal or unconstitutional union, they are determined to be *right*—and will, therefore, first endeavor to secure or obtain the "rights" they agree together to demand.

The Lexington (Miss.) Advertiser, in commenting on the summary and perfunctory processes of the secession movement, holds the following language:

"W. S. Barry, President of the Convention, has issued a proclamation to re-assemble that body on the 25th instant. The Convention, we presume, intends to put the Constitution offered for the Confederate States through in short order. This act will show the civilized world that 'some things can be done as well as others.' A great Government can be dissevered, National Conventions held, Presidents elected, a Southern Congress established, and a 'mighty' government put in 'permanent' working order, fully by the people, simply through a little 'jumped up' election for Delegates, clothed with limited powers, to a State Convention!"

ARKANSAS was warmly pressed to join the Southern Confederacy. President Jeff. Davis sent a letter to the Arkansas Convention and an agent, urging Secession. Arkansas stood firm, rejected a Secession ordinance, and then adopted, as a compromise for all parties, an ordinance providing for an election throughout the State on the first Monday, in August next, at which the people are to vote on the question of "co-operation" or secession, and another ordinance, in the form of a resolution, providing for the sending of five Commissioners to a Conference of the Border States, proposed to be held at Frankfort, Kentucky, on the 27th of May next, with a view to endeavor to effect an adjustment of the pending troubles. The Convention then adjourned to the 17th of August.

The "Dispatches to the New York papers," from Washington, have become so utterly unreliable, that people have learned to pay little or no attention to them. These dispatches frequently profess to give to the public the most important and private reports of Government and State agents, before they are communicated officially, according to which the agents must be all scoundrels, and the dispatch writers better informed than the governments either at Washington or Montgomery.

The Daily (Montgomery) Confederation referring to recent appointments to office under the new Southern government, says:—"Amongst them we notice that of Mr. N. W. Baker, of Virginia, but who has resided in this city for some time past. He has a clerkship in the Treasury Department, and a better selection could not have been made. He has gained many friends by his uniformly good walk, and his many gentlemanly qualities." Mr. B. was formerly a resident of Westmoreland County Virginia.

Mr. James L. Towner has received the appointment of postmaster at Shepherdstown, vice Wm. Moulder, removed.

L. Scott & Co., New York, have republished the March number of Blackwood's Magazine. It has articles on the India civil service; Geography of the Sea; Church of Scotland; Iron clad vessels of war; the war in China; Natural History; German Campaigns, &c. The articles are interesting.—Robt. Bell, Agent.

We have received the April number of the American Farmer; also, The North and South misrepresented and misguided—a pamphlet on the present troubles, printed in Philadelphia; also the address of the Commissioners of the Southern States to the Virginia Convention.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—The President and his political family convened in Council this morning, and they were together two or three hours. The evacuation of Southern Military posts is believed to have been the principal subject under consideration.

A few Senators yet remain in the city, exerting their influence with the President and the heads of Departments, to secure offices for their beloved constituents. The Massachusetts Senators are particularly active in endeavoring to obtain the Post Office at Boston for Dr. Palfrey, of Cambridge.

Carl Schurz, the newly appointed Minister to Spain, was serenaded last evening at the "Germania Hotel." After inspiring music, there were loud calls for Schurz.—Soon a gentleman appeared at the window of the Hotel, and apologized for the non-appearance of the hero of the evening, which was ascribed to serious indisposition.—Speeches followed from Mr. Amor, of Maryland, and Dr. Rabe, of California, who pronounced the most fulsome panegyrics upon the distinguished Red Republican German. The addresses of both of the speakers were in lamentable taste, and the sentiments uttered wholly unsuitable to the latitude of Washington.

Before leaving Washington, Judge McLean, of the Supreme Court, addressed a letter to the President, bidding him adieu, and earnestly requesting, as the last favor he had to ask of him, the appointment of his friend, Wm. A. Bradley, to the Post Office of this city. Dr. Bradley, the father of this gentleman, was for many years connected with the General Post Office, and he was one of Judge McLean's most devoted friends.

The President informed some friends, last evening, that he would not take up and examine the claims of the different aspirants for the offices in the District for some days. In the meanwhile, applicants do not eat the bread of idleness, but are constantly on the *qui vive*, and I regret to say that efforts to defeat some of them, of the most disreputable and calumnious character, are being made.

It is understood that the appointment of collectors, postmasters, marshals, &c., in Virginia, will not be made for a month or two, unless in cases where the commissions of the incumbents expire.

It is believed that the 1st proximo will prove to be a day of terror to many clerks in two or three of the public Departments. Proscription will be the rule, magnanimity the exception. It was an evil day for the country when this proscriptive policy was inaugurated; but it is well known it had its origin upwards of a quarter of a century ago, and it would now, perhaps, be expecting too much of those now in authority to apply the only remedy, namely: falling back and practicing upon the time-honored principle of the Government, before the commencement of what was termed "the reign of terror." HOMO.

Letter from Newport, Md.

Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.

NEWPORT, MD., March 28.—Last Sunday morning about ten o'clock, the farm yard of Mr. John R. Turner, living near Newport, Charles County, Md., was discovered to be on fire, and in two hours all was in ashes, including granary, cow house, fodder, hay, straw and the whole crop of last year's tobacco, with all the farming utensils, wheat thresher, corn sheller, wheat fan—in short every thing of the kind, also, three cows and a calf. The horses were with difficulty rescued.

Four thousand dollars will not cover the loss. It is supposed to be the work of an incendiary. W.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

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

Although the election for State and county officers in Maryland does not take place until November next, we notice that numerous candidates for different offices are already named. James H. Wilson, Richard Colton and Robert C. Combs, are recommended in the last Beacon as candidates for the Legislature from St. Mary's county. Dr. John H. Skinner is named as the "opposition" candidate for the State Senate in Prince George's county. George Brent and Sam'l. B. Hance are announced as candidates for Circuit Judge in the sixth judicial district—Prince George's, Charles and Calvert counties. Robert Ford, of St. Mary's, is a candidate for the Court of Appeals.

A day or two since one Wm. Chester was arraigned before the Kenton (Ky) Circuit Court, charged with passing a counterfeit bill on the State Bank of Louisiana. After the evidence was heard, counsel for the prisoner claimed that as the State of Louisiana had seceded, the court had no jurisdiction in the case. Judge Mann, however, ruled that as neither the President of the United States nor Congress had recognized secession, the trial would proceed under the laws of Kentucky; and it did, resulting in the jury awarding Mr. Chester three years in the penitentiary.

The Postmaster General has issued orders for a supply of letter paper, cut and gummed, and embossed with the postage stamp—combining in one both a letter-sheet and envelop. This sheet is about half the size of the old-fashioned sheet of letter paper—so folded, cut and prepared as above, rendering it an exceedingly neat, convenient pre-paid letter of only about half the weight of those now in use with the envelope. Orders have been also been sent for similar sheets, note size.

It is stated that a shipping merchant, heretofore doing business in Pearl street, New York, sailed for Europe on Wednesday, in the Arabia, leaving his creditors out of pocket to the amount of $30,000 or $40,000. The Post says he went without making any provision for the payment of his debts, except his office furniture, which is worth about $500. He failed in 1857 for about $3,000,000, which was never paid, nor even compromised.

A letter from New York declares that the most conclusive proof can be produced that a powerful and numerous revolutionary organization is in existence in that city, the object of which is to separate the city and part of New York from the Union and from the State, in order to make it a free and independent port. A printed programme is in circulation containing four thousand names already in favor of the project.

The citizens of Charleston have subscribed over $300,000 to establish a line of steamships between that city and Liverpool, so that less than $50,000 more is required. It is stated that the first vessel will leave Liverpool for Charleston direct about the middle of July, to be followed by a second about the 1st of August.

The New Patent law is working very satisfactorily. The change comes quite opportunely, as only $15 is now required to be paid on presenting an application. The abolition of the excessive fees heretofore required of foreigners will do much to stimulate them to introduce many valuable inventions.

Col. Lamon, who recently returned to Washington from Fort Sumter, it is understood reports favorably upon the condition of the garrison, but is fully satisfied that reinforcements cannot be introduced without a serious collision, and that the attempt to introduce them would be of doubtful success.

The unaccountable delay in the eagerly expected evacuation of Fort Sumter, together with the mysterious negotiations pending between Major Anderson and the Administration at Washington, occasions much anxiety in Charleston, and has evaporated the war-spirit of the Carolinians.

Through many parts of Canada the excitement in reference to the "end" of the world is being revived, and new prophets of the Miller school are springing up, who assume to have discovered that the Saviour's second appearance on the earth will positively take place in 1868.

Reports from the wheat crop, in Cherokee, Gokthlahla, Attalla and Chickasaw, in fact, all over Mississippi, indicate that it will be the largest crop ever raised. The weather has been cool this week, with several hard frosts, which killed quantities of fruit and early vegetables.

The Newnan (Alabama) Blade comments on the course of the Justices of the Peace in its district, who held their last meeting with closed doors and transacted their business in "secret session." It suggests that the court is aping the Congress at Montgomery.

Governor Andrew, of Massachusetts, has provided overcoats and blankets, ball-cartridges and canteens, haversacks and knapsacks, with other paraphernalia of war, to put the volunteer militia of that State on a war footing.

California seems likely to become a large wheat exporting State. There are nearly all the time several large ships in port loading wheat for England. At the last date, the 9th of March, two ships had just a completed their cargoes for Liverpool.

Dr. Williamson, a very wealthy planter of Assumption, La., was murdered on the 16th inst., by Henry and Frank, two brothers of his wife whom he had adopted, having no children of his own. They had quarrelled with him in the morning.

Our Alabama and Georgia exchanges note various movements of volunteer troops, all destined to concentrate at Pensacola. This is in consequence of the general impression down there that government intends to send strong reinforcements to Fort Pickens.

A few days ago four wealthy planters from Maryland, one owning a hundred slaves, passed through Rome in Georgia, on their way to Alabama, to purchase plantations, with the intention of settling in the Confederate States.

It is stated that the new naval officer at Boston has one hundred and eighty applications for office in his department of the custom house. The number of new appointments he intends to make is but three.

It was John C. Rives, of Maryland, and not William C. Rives, of Virginia, who was present at the Union demonstration at Frederick, Md., on Tuesday.

No action was taken by the Senate on Great Britain's proposition to refer the San Juan question to the arbitration of Switzerland or the Netherlands.

Miss Ellen Smith has recovered $4,000 of Francis Clemenson, of Ohio, for breach of promise of marriage, after twenty years' courtship.

Charles Aldrich was arrested at Utica (New York) on Saturday, charged with having robbed the mail of a letter addressed to his wife.

Mr. Levi Gain, a wealthy gentleman residing near Harrington, Kent county, Delaware, died on the 17th instant, from a disease produced by toothache.

Census of the United States.

The following corrected table of population and representation, according to the returns of the Eighth Census, is from the Superintendent of the Census Office, Washington. It will be seen that some of the States lose Representatives in Congress, while others gain from one to four members:

STATES.	CENSUS OF 1860. FREE.	SLAVE.	TOTAL.	Ratio of Representation, 93,423	Ratio of Representation, 127,381	Ratio of Representation, 127,381
Alabama	520,934	435,132	964,201	6	1	...
Arkansas	324,323	111,115	435,671	3	1	1
California	379,994	.....	379,994	3	1	1
Connecticut	460,151	.....	460,151	4	1	...
Delaware	110,420	1,798	112,218	1	...	...
Florida	78,680	61,753	140,420	1	...	...
Georgia	591,097	462,230	1,057,327	7	1	...
Illinois	1,711,951	.....	1,711,951	13	1	4
Indiana	1,350,479	.....	1,350,479	11	...	...
Iowa	674,948	.....	674,948	5	1	3
Kansas	107,110	.....	107,110	1	...	...
Kentucky	919,484	225,490	1,156,714	8	1	...
Louisiana	376,011	332,520	708,531	5	1	1
Maine	628,276	.....	628,276	5	1	...
Maryland	599,846	87,188	687,034	5	1	...
Massachusetts	1,231,065	.....	1,231,065	10	1	...
Mississippi	354,699	436,696	791,395	5	...	...
Missouri	1,063,489	114,965	1,173,317	9	...	2
Michigan	749,113	.....	749,113	6	...	2
Minnesota	162,022	.....	162,022	1	1	...
New Hampshire	326,073	.....	326,073	3	...	...
New Jersey	672,031	.....	672,031	5	...	...
New York	3,887,542	.....	3,887,542	31	2	...
North Carolina	661,586	331,081	992,667	7	...	...
Ohio	2,339,599	.....	2,339,599	18	3	...
Oregon	52,465	.....	52,465	1	...	...
Pennsylvania	2,906,370	.....	2,906,370	23	2	...
Rhode Island	174,621	.....	174,621	1	1	...
South Carolina	301,271	402,411	703,812	4	2	...
Tennessee	826,782	275,784	1,099,517	8	2	...
Texas	420,651	182,566	601,217	4	2	...
Virginia	1,105,136	490,865	1,595,981	11	2	...
Vermont	315,116	.....	315,116	2	1	...
Wisconsin	775,879	.....	775,879	6	...	3
Total	27,185,049	3,949,557	31,134,606	233	24	19
TERRITORIES.						
Colorado	34,197	.....	34,197			
Dakotah	4,826	.....	4,826			
Nebraska	28,832	10	28,842			
Nevada	6,857	.....	6,857			
New Mexico	93,516	24	93,540			
Utah	40,266	29	40,295			
Washington	11,578	.....	11,578			
Dist. of Columbia	75,856	4,181	76,076			
Total	27,477,076	3,952,831	31,429,907			

ARTEMUS WARD ON SECESSION.—The great showman has come out eloquently for the Union. We quote the conclusion of his recent speech on the subject of secession:—

"I say to the South, don't seesesh! I say to the galvent people of that sunny land, jes lock up a few hundred of them tearin' and roarin' fellers of yourn in some strong boxes, and send 'em over to Mexico. And we people up North here will constitute a ekel number of our addle brained rip snorters to the same lokality, and thar let 'em fight it out among themselves. No consekents, not the slightest, which licks. Why shouldn't the people who got up this fite do the fitin? Git these ornery critters out of the way, and the sensible of the people of the North and South can fix the matter up very easy. And when 'tis fixed, let both secessions resolve to mind their business.

"Fellier-sittersens—I am in the Sheer and Yaller leef. I shall peg out one of these days. I know not what the Supervisors of Baltimorville may conclude to do, but for one, I shall stand by the Stares and Stripes. Under no sirkumstances whatsumever will i sesesh. Let every Stait in the Union sesesh, and let Palmetter flags flote thicker nor shirts on Squire Baker's close line, and still thar I'll stand, and stick onto the good flag of the Stares and Stripes. The country may go to the devil, but I went. And next Summer when I start out on my campaine with my show, wherever I pitch my little tent, you shall see floating proudly from the center pole thereof, the Amerikan flag, with nary a star wiped out, nary a stripe lesser, but the same old flag that has allers floted thar! and the price of admission will be the same it allers was—15 cents, one eyed men and winmin and chidren half price."

THE SOUTHERN ARMY.—The Army of the Southern Confederacy will consist of 10,183 men, rank and file; 110 of whom will be of the engineer corps; 3,372 of the artillery; 713 of the cavalry; 6,278 of the infantry.—There will be 111 companies, 9 colonels, 8 lieutenant colonels, 21 majors, 115 captains, 159 first lieutenants, 180 second lieutenants, 151 sergeants, 150 corporals, 8,878 privates, and 292 musicians. Of the 9 colonels authorized, I has been confirmed; of the 8 lieutenant colonels, 2; of the 21 majors, 9; of the 115 captains, 64; of the 159 first lieutenants, 41; of the 180 second lieutenants, 20.—Thus 134 commissions have been confirmed, and there are still 340 to be conferred. The pay of a colonel, $2,340 to $2,520, according to the corps of the service; of a lieutenant colonel $2,040 to $2,220; of a major $1,800 to $1,944; of a captain $1,500 to $1,620; of a first lieutenant, $1,080 to $1,200; of a second lieutenant, $960, to $1,080. Forage, fuel, and quarters additional to pay, and ten cents per mile mileage when traveling on duty.

TERRIBLE TRAGEDY.—A gentleman from the neighborhood of Sandersville, Sumner county, Tenn., gives the Nashville Gazette the particulars of a horrible and bloody tragedy, which occurred last Saturday morning in that vicinity. Mr Wm. C. Moore and one of his sons were endeavoring to control a refractory negro man. The negro resisted them, and being armed with a large knife, assaulted first the elder Moore, cutting his throat, causing a ghastly wound, which produced death in a few minutes. He was barely able to reach his dwelling, and died in the arms of his wife. The villain also assaulted the son of his master, Dr. Moore, inflicting serious wounds upon his person.—The negro fled, but was immediately pursued, and after being twice shot, was captured. He was then hung to a tree until life was extinct, and his dreadful crimes fully expiated. The assault was committed at 10 o'clock Saturday morning, and at 1 o'clock that afternoon the perpetrator was in his grave.

LETTER FROM GEORGE PEABODY, ESQ.—The Boston Courier publishes a letter from George Peabody, Esq., the American banker in London, in reference to our national crisis, in which he says:

"The anticipation of a bloody conflict between the North and South has already destroyed confidence in the United States government stocks and many of the States securities, and millions have, within a few months, been sent home for the market in consequence. It is only by concession on the part of the Northern States, and a compromise which would secure the best feelings of the border States towards the North and West, that we can reinstate our credit abroad.

The La Grange (Ga.) Reporter of the 22d instant holds the following language:

"We have seen party destroy the noblest Government ever formed by man, and it was expected that we should avoid in the new Government the old conflicts which brought about that destruction; but in a spirit of sorrow and regret we chronicle the introduction of the same controlling elements of the old Union (except Abolitionism) into the Southern Confederacy, and therefore, we feel no assurance that our new Government will prove a permanent one—especially as the right of *secession* is one of its acknowledged principles. In short, it is our candid opinion that Secession and Democracy will burst up the Southern Confederacy in less than a quarter of a century, if tolerated to any great extent."

NEW ORLEANS SUGAR.—5 hhds., landing from Schr. Arctic, for sale by
WM. H. FOWLE & SON,
mh 25 No. 4, South Wharves.

CLOVERSEED.—200 bushels very choice, landing this day from Pennsylvania, for sale by
mh 11 WHEAT & BRO.

LUMP AND GROUND PLASTER.—500 tons, for sale by WM. H. FOWLE & SON,
mh 25 No. 4, South Wharves.

25 BBLS. Jos. S. Lovering & Co's Standard Crushed SUGAR, received and for sale by
mh 18 J. E. DOUGLASS.

VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION.

In the Convention on Thursday, the resolutions offered by Mr. Willey some time since for the appointment of a Committee to consider proposed amendments to the State Constitution were taken up, and further discussed by Mr. Jackson, of Wood, and Mr. Willey.

The Convention than resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on the subject of Federal Relations—Mr. Southall in the Chair. The first resolution of the report of the Committee on Federal Relations reads:

Be it resolved, etc. That the States which composed the United States of America when the Federal Constitution was formed were independent sovereignties, etc.

The pending question was on the proposition to insert after "sovereignties" the words "and still are sovereign."

Mr. Scott, of Powhatan moved to amend the amendment by adding "over all power not granted to the United States by the Constitution of the United States."

The discussion of the question of State Sovereignty was further continued by Messrs Conrad, of Frederick, and Scott, of Powhatan.

Mr. Goode, of Mecklenberg, then addressed the Committee, at length in a review of the anti-slavery aggressions of the North, and in favor of the Union of Virginia with the Confederate States of the South.

Mr Seawell followed in opposition to the amendment proposed by Mr. Scott.

Mr. Branch of Petersburg, then addressed the Convention against the further consumption of time in speech making. He suggested that the members who desired to speak, should write out their speeches for publication, and consider them as delivered. He gave notice that he would propose an Ordinance of Secession to morrow.

Mr. Blakey, of Madison presented an argument in support of the view that Virginia is a sovereign State.

Mr. Moore expressed the hope that the discussion of this question would shortly cease. It was worse than idle—a mere dispute about the signification of words.

Mr. Treadway said that while he assented to the original amendment as a truism, he deemed its insertion unnecessary and unappropriate, and the effort to insert it as calculated to add to the existing distraction.

The vote was then taken and Mr. Scott's proposition was rejected—yeas 47, nays 74.

The Convention then took a recess until four o'clock P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

The Committee was called to order by Mr. Southall, at four o'clock.

Mr. Fisher said the first resolution was now open for amendment.

The Chairman.—Yes, sir.

Mr. Fisher.—Then I propose to amend by striking out in the fifth line after the word "instrument," the words "the people of each State agreed to associate with people of the other States, upon a footing of exact equality," and inserting in lieu thereof the words "each State acceded as a State, and is an integral party, and its co-States forming, as to itself, the other party."

Mr. Fisher said his object in offering the amendment was to vindicate the truth of history, he briefly advocated his amendment, which, he said, would not impair the unity.

Mr. Scott, of Fauquier, had been impressed with the idea that the resolution, as reported, would prove acceptable to every one, without amendment. The object of an amendment ought to be to remove an ambiguity. The gentleman from Northampton proposed to substitute for the word "people," the word "States." Mr. Madison defined the word States to mean the people of the States. But to come to a higher authority than Mr. Madison, let us, said Mr. Scott, appeal to the record. The act of Virginia, ratifying the Constitution, expressly makes the ratification by and on behalf of the people of the State. The gentleman from Northampton was objecting to the very term which the Constitution ratified. The amendment was like the others, hyper-critical, and be hoped no modification would be engrafted, merely to gratify a hyper-critic.

Mr. Fisher briefly rejoined, sustaining his previous position.

The question being to strike out the words indicated and insert the amendment offered by Mr. Fisher, Mr. Cox, of Chesterfield, demanded the yeas and nays.

The roll was then called, and the amendment was lost—yeas 14, nays 113.

The question recurring on the original resolution, the vote was taken *viva voce*, and resulted in its adoption.

The Secretary then read the second resolution of the report.

Mr. Wise moved to amend the resolution, by inserting in the second line, after the word "exists," the words "and of the political system of the Federal Government," so that it would read "African slavery is a vital part of the social system of the States wherein it exists, and of the political system of the Federal Government.

Mr. Wise briefly advocated his amendment, which he thought was an assertion that was necessary to be made in the declaration.

Mr. Conrad, of Frederick, said the amendment was obnoxious, and in a still higher degree, to every objection applied to the amendments already rejected. It was based upon a misconstruction, was unnecessary and incongruous, and untenable in point of fact.

Mr. Wise contended that it should be expressed that slavery is something more than merely recognized by the Federal Constitution.

The question being on Mr Wise's amendment.

The amendment was defeated.

The second resolution was then adopted.

On motion of Mr. Jackson, of Wood, the Committee rose and reported progress and the Convention adjourned.

RAILROAD ACCIDENT.—On Wednesday last, as the freight train of the Central Railroad Company was passing between the University of Virginia and Charlottesville, a steer, whose net weight was about 1,400 pounds, broke through the floor of one of the cars, and was killed; the passenger car attached was thrown from the track and broken to pieces, the captain of the train, Mr. Sims, and the owner of a number of sheep from Augusta, were also injured.

DOUGLAS F. FORREST,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
WILL practice in the Courts of Alexandria and adjoining counties.
☞ Office lately occupied by Judge Neale, Washington street, near corner of King.
mh 13—tf

JUST received a full supply of Cook Stoves—The Leader, Diamond Rock, Nevada, Pennsylvanian and other Stores.
H. L. GREGORY,
mh 28 No. 118 and 120 King street.

WHITE WASH BRUSHES, Mill Brushes, Window, Scrub, Dust, Shoe, and Sweeping Brushes: Crumb, Cloth, Hair, Nail, and Flesh Brushes, Feather Dusters. For sale by
mh 28 JOHN OGDEN.

FRESH GOSHEN BUTTER.—Received this day per steamer Monticello 20 packages prime GOSHEN BUTTER.
mh 25 GARRET HULST.

APPLES.—100 bbls. prime Apples, this day landing from Schr. Shropshire, for sale by
F. A. REED & CO.,
mh 25 No. 6, South Wharves.

25 BBLS. HOLLADAY'S FAMILY FLOUR, a very superior article, in store and for sale by HUMPHREYS & TALIFERRO.
mh 23

WOOD! WOOD!! WOOD!!!
OAK AND PINE WOOD, for sale by
mh 20 GEORGE H. ROBINSON.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate, on Monday, the following House bills were passed: making an appropriation for the removal to Virginia of the remains of Gen. Harry Lee; to incorporate the Leesburg and Aldie Turnpike Company; and Senate bill concerning plaster of Paris, with amendments, which were concurred in.

Senate bill for the relief of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, reported from the House with an amendment, was, on motion of Mr. Paxton, laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. Coghill, the Senate resolved that to-day and on each day for the remainder of the session, unless otherwise ordered, they will hold an evening session at 7½ o'clock.

Mr. Thomas, of Fairfax, presented the remonstrance of Col. H. C. Dorsey and others, officers of the 175th Regiment, against the formation of an independent battalion in Alexandria.

A bill was reported to amend the charter of the Bank of the Old Dominion.

The bill to incorporate the Virginia Canal Company, and to transfer the rights and franchises of the James River and Kanawha Company thereto, was taken up, and several immaterial amendments adopted.

The bill having been sufficiently amended, it was put upon its passage, and adopted, every member present voting for it.

Mr. Brannon reported a substitute for the Covington and Ohio Railroad bill. Ordered to be printed.

NIGHT SESSION.

On motion of Mr. Taliaferro, House bill authorizing the Auditor of Public Accounts to release the securities of defaulting Sheriffs from the payment of damages in certain cases, was taken up. The bill, as reported by the Senate Committee, with an amendment was adopted—ayes 26, noes 2.

A communication from the House of Delegates, was taken up. The communication related to the contemplated removal of certain arms within the limits of the State.—After being reported, a motion was made to lay the resolution on the table, which was agreed to.

A bill was passed to amend the 15th section of chapter 109 of the Code of Virginia, (second edition;) concerning divorces.

In the House of Delegates, the Senate's amendments to the bill authorizing the voluntary enslavement of the free negroes of the Commonwealth, without compensation to the State, was passed.

The resolutions from the Senate granting to Col. Angus W. McDonald exclusive right to publish the manuscript obtained by him in England, was passed.

Senate joint resolution, to authorize Governor to contract for the manufacture and repairs of arms at the Armory, was laid on the table.

Senate bill for the relief of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad Company was taken up on motion of Mr. Barbour, amended, and, as amended, read a third time and passed—ayes 78, noes 33.

Mr. Robertson, by leave, offered the following resolutions:

Whereas, The people of Virginia, in Convention, are now openly considering whether they shall resume the powers delegated by them to the General Government, and are almost unanimous in the opinion that the exercise of such right in the recent and present state of the country, by any of the States, should not be sought to be controlled or followed by a resort to force, and the failure of the President of the United States fully to explain his intended policy in this respect, gives just cause of mistrust: Be it therefore

Resolved, by the General Assembly of Virginia, That under existing circumstances, a proper respect to this Commonwealth imperiously demands that no movement of arms, or increase of armament, or troops