



ALEXANDRIA: TUESDAY MORNING, APRIL 15, 1861.

STATE CONVENTION.—The Convention, yesterday, received the report of the Washington Commissioners. A debate took place on the proclamation of Mr. Lincoln.

The inauguration of a war policy, on the part of the Administration, as developed by the recent attempt at Sumter; the reply of Mr. Lincoln to the Commissioners from the Convention of Virginia, and the Proclamation just issued, is the policy, which, from the first, is the conservative, Constitutional men of Virginia, the other Border States, and the South generally, have deprecated, and which they now denounce as suicidal, and as likely to be destructive to the hopes of all who really desired a reconstruction of the government, and a peaceful settlement of difficulties in the Union; or, failing in that, a peaceable separation of the sections. It is against the friends of the Union at the South, that the Administration has struck its hardest blows. The men in power at Washington are not able to subjugate, or coerce, or seriously invade the Seceded States—nor do we believe that they will be able to seize, possess, or occupy any of the fortifications within those States. Those of which they have been dispossessed, they cannot retake—nor can they long hold those which they at present occupy. Virginia stood demanding peace. That boon has not been granted. Let them say what they will, and let us think what we will, of the policy and propriety of the past action of the South, that did not change the nature of the pressing and imperative call for peace. We asked for peace, for the sake of our country, for the sake of humanity, for the sake of Liberty throughout the world!—What punishment is too severe for those who have turned a deaf ear to such a call and such a curse?

Wendell Phillips, in Massachusetts, is at length taking some sense. He disbelieves in the successful result of secession, in the end; but he sees and knows the penalty of war. In a late speech at New Bedford, he told the Northern people—that every gun fired at Sumter would make a secessionist, or a sympathizer; that the North could not conquer or subdue the South—that the commerce of the North would be ruined by war—and that the South can punish her. If, says he, a gun is fired in the Southern waters, it is fired at the wharves of New York, at the bank vaults in Boston—at the money of the North. He tells his people on this head, home truths—and his there not shrewdness in his suspicion, that the reason why the Administration does not compromise is, that "it is afraid of the five hundred thousand readers of the New York Tribune." That was a blow "between wind and power." If a patriotic Administration were in power, how gloriously might they disregard the five hundred thousand readers of the New York Tribune of the North, or the fifty thousand readers of the ultra discussion journals of the North, and depend upon it, rely upon, and trust, to the millions of the patriotic, honest, candid, intelligent people of the North and South—the patriots of the country, not the fanatics nor the politicians.

The Baltimore American says:—"Whilst the people of the seceded States, with their sympathizers in other States, greet the late events with rejoicing, illuminations, and salutes, the people of the North answer with a shout of defiance, and with preparations for war. In thirty days, perhaps in less time, the antagonists, will stand prepared for a contest too horrible to be coolly contemplated, with only the last hope left, that in the pause before the battle there may spring, from a realization of the dread nature of the immediate future, the wise counsel and the willing concessions that may save the nation from ruin."

The Baltimore Sun says:—"Now is the time, instead of yielding to the impulses of passion, and consenting to the bloody arbitration of war, now is the time for every good citizen to use all his influence to stay the onset, push back the advancing and furious conquest, and insist upon a peaceful adjustment of the cause of strife. Failing in this, no man can conceive the terrible consequences that may ensue."

The Raleigh Register nobly supports its position, which is that of the Conservative men of the South, the friends of a Constitutional Union of the States. It says, its stand is now precisely what it was when the seceding movements commenced. It deprecated then those movements, and it now sincerely laments that they were made; but in deprecating the action of the Seceded States, it took ground against any attempt on the part of the Federal authorities to coerce them into submission, and fortified itself in this position by the authority of the "Father of the Constitution," James Madison, who said, in substance, that no State could be subjugated by the Federal Government and held as a conquered province.—This was its position then, and this is its position now. It is the part of prudence and common sense to look at things as they are, and not as we would wish them to be.

The publication of the Christian Banner, by Rev. Mr. Hannicut, in Fredericksburg, has been suspended.

At Harrisonburg, Rockingham county, Va., S. B. Sterling is appointed postmaster, vice Robert H. Smith.

The discovery of oil wells continues in Kanawha, and the adjacent country in Virginia.

As far as heard from, judging from the action of the Governors, the Legislatures, the proceedings of volunteer companies, and the tone of the press,—from the newspapers we could copy columns, all of the same tenor—public feeling, at the North, is in favor of the course and policy of the Administration, and is highly excited against the South. We hear of "arming in hot haste"—of calls upon the military—of troops wishing to go "to the defense of Washington," &c., &c. In Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, there are numerous willing exhibitions. All this, of course, will only call forth a warmer and determined feeling in the South against the North.

It is every way desirable that the people of Virginia, whatever may be determined upon in the present crisis, should entertain towards each other the best and kindest feelings, and be prepared, in every emergency, however much they may have differed in politics, to act together. The rude, insulting and mischievous remarks of some ultra journals, would seem to be applied purposely to prevent a result which every patriotic Virginian should desire. We have every confidence that the intelligent people, of all parties, by their course, will rebuke such an attempt to distract, divide, and render powerless the action of the State.

Even in such a time as this, the Lynchburg Virginian does well, when it advises, as much as possible, the repression of passion, and excitement, and the persistent effort to prevent the spread of war, and insure the return of peace. No matter whether we are to have separation or not, peace is all important for Virginia—if it can be maintained consistently with her rights, her honor, and her interests. The reckless and short sighted, may revel in agitation and excitement—but the calm citizen knows, that honorable peace is the greatest blessing that can now be asked for from a merciful Providence.

Now is the time. Spring time is here—the season for laying in supplies. Buy every thing you can here in Virginia—buy from your mechanics, merchants, and manufacturers. Establish the home policy. Look to your own State for every thing that you want. Keep your money here, at home. Make Virginia, not the "flag end" of any government, but, what she ought to be, the noblest, proudest, greatest, strongest power on the Atlantic side of America. The devotion and attachment of every Virginian to his State, should now be deeper and stronger than ever.

Major Anderson's surrender is stated to have been unconditional, but this statement does not correspond with the fact that he remained in possession of the fort for twelve hours after the surrender, and was taken from there into the steamship Isabel, which was to leave at midnight on Sunday night for New York. He appears not in fact to have been made a prisoner at all, but simply to have given up the Fort after he found it impossible to do any thing but needlessly prolong the conflict. On these points we can, however, only speculate until Major Anderson reaches New York, where he will probably arrive to-day, and all the particulars of the surrender are made public.

The Hon. H. W. Davis announces himself a candidate for Congress in the following card, addressed to the voters of the Fourth Congressional District of Maryland:—"I hereby announce myself a candidate for the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Seventh Congress of the United States of America—upon the basis of the unconditional maintenance of the Union. Should my fellow-citizens of like views manifest their preference for a different candidate on that basis, it is not my purpose to embarrass them."

At Montgomery, on Friday, President Davis and Secretary of War L. P. Walker were serenaded. The latter was called out after the serenade and addressed the crowd. He said in the course of his remarks that the "Confederate flag" would soon be waving over Fort Sumter and from the Federal Capitol at Washington, if the independence of the Confederacy was not acknowledged, and hostilities continued.

The Richmond Examiner says:—"The farmers residing on James river report a general destruction of their wheat crops by the late frosts, and with preparations for war. In thirty days, perhaps in less time, the antagonists, will stand prepared for a contest too horrible to be coolly contemplated, with only the last hope left, that in the pause before the battle there may spring, from a realization of the dread nature of the immediate future, the wise counsel and the willing concessions that may save the nation from ruin."

The rains of Friday and Saturday caused a great rise in the upper Potomac. The Railroad between Martinsburg and Cumberland, in several places, was submerged, and a delay took place in the passage of the trains. At Harper's Ferry, the water was within a few feet of the Railroad bridge.

Mr. Roger A. Pryor has gone to Charleston. Let him, therefore, in his speeches, there, be careful to speak for himself, and those who join their faith in his secrets. He has a right to his own opinions, and to speak for those who agree with him. But he should not assume to speak for Virginia.

De Bow's Review for April has been received. It has several interesting articles on the present condition of affairs. The Review is strong Secession, and in favor of the Southern Confederation. George Fitzhugh, esp., now of Richmond, is one of the principal contributors.

Wherever there is found one good and true man, at the North, to protest against the fraudulent crusade commenced there, let his name be known and honored. Reference has been made to the anti-slavery resolutions adopted by the New England Conference of the M. E. Church, recently held at Boston. The venerable Father Taylor made an earnest speech against their adoption. What, he asked, had all the slavery agitation done? "The sum of all villainies!" He thought enough had been said about this for gentlemen to drop it. That remark had been attributed to Taylor—where? your proof? Ten dollars to the man who could bring it. He had never said it. What would he do with the slaves if they were liberated? The abolition clamor has been a curse. He opposed the introduction of resolutions like this, at such a time, when we hardly knew whether we had a country or not.

A dispatch from Washington says:—"San Antonio Douglas called on the President and had an interesting conversation on the present condition of the country. The substance of it was, on the part of Mr. Douglas, that while he was unalterably opposed to the Administration on all its political issues, he was prepared to fully sustain the President in the exercise of all his constitutional functions to preserve the Union and maintain the Government and defend the Federal Capital. A firm policy and prompt action was necessary. The Capital was in danger and must be defended at all hazards, and at any cost of men and money. He spoke of the present and future without any reference to the past."

It is a melancholy coincidence that Friday, the day on which a fratricidal war was begun, was the eighty-fourth anniversary of the birthday of Henry Clay. The Clay Festival Association of New York celebrated the occasion as usual by a dinner, and other public recognitions were made of its recurrence. The New York Herald says: "Flags were displayed in more than usual number from the City Hall, Custom House, the Battery, and from all the hotels and from numerous stores the flag of the United States threw its broad folds to the breeze, and many a hopeful glance was directed to its fluttering, and many an aspiration, no doubt, went forth that it would again be the emblem of a re-united people."

Advices from St. Domingo say that the surrender of the Republic of Spain took the people by surprise, and it is hinted that there will be a bloody retribution. The English and French Consuls had protested and struck their flags. Up to the 22d our representative had made no movement.

VIRGINIA NEWS.

The following testimony given by a bystander to the particulars of the recent encounter between Messrs. John M. Daniel and Harman de J. Johnson at Richmond:—"Mr. M. Daniel testified that, as he was passing down Governor street, he observed Mr. Johnson passing rapidly across Franklin street with a cane. As he approached Mr. Daniel, who was passing down on the opposite side, he struck him with a cane. Mr. D. immediately drew a pistol, and pointed it at Mr. J.'s breast. Mr. J. threw down his cane, and with the other hand caught him by the collar, backing him against, and holding him down on some empty wooden boxes, which were the Excise office. Johnson approached the parties, took the open knife from Johnson's hand, and in so doing cut his own. He then took the pistol from Daniel's hand, and they were then separated."

"Correspondence" published in the Richmond Examiner, indicates that a duel between Messrs. J. M. Daniel and Harman de J. Johnson has been prevented by placing the latter under bonds to keep the peace.

The STEAMER HANCOCK.—The steamer with the above name, that came in here Wednesday afternoon, is destined for the Canton river in China. She is a new boat, was built for Messrs. Forbes & Co., of Canton, and is intended to run passengers. She has a number of Chinese on board, who have shipped as coal heavers, watermen, &c., and are going back to their own country.—The Hancock will be back to New York, she is damaged, and she is leaking and other things humbled up, and while she might stand a voyage to New York, would hardly be able to take the long trip to Canton. She is expected to make the trip in one hundred days when she starts. She is commanded by an American, and her machinery is in charge of American engineers, who inform us that there are no Chinese engineers on the Canton river.—Norfolk Day Book.

A "STRAYLAP" is a animal correspondent of the Nashville Patriot tells a story, which may possibly be untrue, about a person who was going by Chattanooga on the railroad. When the train entered the tunnel and total darkness, said person asked stranger how long it would be going through. Stranger was a bit of a wag, and replied "two hours." Person thought he would avail himself of the opportunity to don a clean shirt, and about the time he had "shuffled" himself, the train dashed out into daylight, exposing person to the astounded gaze of some hundred pair of male and female eyes, belonging to passengers. He had on no linen, and about as much other clothes as the Apollo Belvedere—and no chance to run.

FIELD OF ACTION.—A paragraph from the New York Day Book, asserted the existence in New York of "a powerful and numerous revolutionary organization, the object of which is to separate the city and port of New York from the Union and from the State, and make it a free and independent port." The New Orleans Crescent seems to have some information upon the subject, and express the belief that "within any given six hours, after suitable signals are made, it can concentrate an overwhelming force at any point the leaders may designate, and carry out the purposes they may have in view."

SHIPWRECK AND LOSS OF LIFE.—We have just received intelligence from the North Carolina coast, of the total wreck of a gunship and the loss of seventeen persons. It appears that the ship, name unknown, went ashore during the recent gale and was speedily knocked to pieces. Sixteen men, one lady and one child were drowned. This terrible disaster took place north of Capt. Hattors and the news reached us through parties just from Elizabeth City.—Norfolk Day Book.

We have received within the last few days, seven copies of the Hymn—"The Pilgrim and Appollyon." They are generally copied from the Dover Selection—and the hymn, as we have once before stated, can be found in the work we have mentioned. We have not space for the remarks, which, in several instances, accompany the copies of the hymn sent. The inquiry as to the author has not been answered, in any instance.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTERS. WASHINGTON, April 14.—It is now stated that Mr. Lincoln and his cabinet are a unit in regard to the policy of the Government. The most active measures are about being taken, and demonstrations made, to "render secure the Capitol and the archives of the government." It is, also, reported that three thousand volunteers will be particularly invited from Maryland.

Telegraphic dispatches from various parts of the West, North, and North West, are flowing into Washington, tending to the President both men and money. The report is that the volunteers are to be encamped near Washington to Philadelphia, to take charge of the Magazine Telegraph, to stop the mails to the Seceded States, &c.

Virginia has an important part to play in the political drama now being enacted. One of the handiest of her sons, I trust, if the veterans of old Commonwealth should determine to withdraw from the Union, under present circumstances, she will do so, looking both in the interest of it, and in her future relations, to the best and wisest course for her to pursue, and consulting her own honor and her own interests.

WASHINGTON, April 15.—The proclamation of President Lincoln is denounced in unmeasured terms by nearly all the Southern men in the city, whilst those from the non-slaveholding States are silent.

The ardent and enthusiastic Southern Supporters of Judge Douglas, in the late Presidential canvass, are most elated and anxious to see the proclamation of the President of the President in connection with the answer of the President to the Virginia Commissioners, and the proclamation. It is said that Judge D. recommends the calling out of two hundred thousand men in order that hostilities may be prosecuted with vigor and effect—I do not vouch for the truth of this statement, but it is current on the avenue and in the Hotels, and is generally credited.

Hon. P. B. Fouke, a member of the House of Representatives from Illinois, and a political and personal friend of Judge Douglas, has announced his intention to proceed to Illinois to raise a Regiment, the services of which will be tendered to the Government.

The Secretary of the Navy has made many remarks of the Governor, Va., Navy Yard. Lucius Chandler, ex of Norfolk, one of the Bell and Everett electors of Virginia, and J. O. Lawrence, ex of the newly elected Mayor of Portsmouth, have been in the city some days, and exerted themselves in behalf of their friends. Several of the Douglas Democrats were retained, and others appointed.

The employees at the Capitol, and the officers of the House of Representatives held a meeting to-day, at Mr. J. W. Fenner, presiding, and resolved to support the Administration, and endorsed the Proclamation of the President.

From Charleston. We find the following additional from Charleston in our exchanges: Fort Sumter is burned to a mere shell; not a particle of woodwork can be found. The guns on one side of the parapet are entirely dismantled, others split, whilst the gun carriages are crushed into splinters.

THE TRAINING OF THE OFFICERS OF THE 15th REGIMENT, VIRGINIA MILITIA, will be held at Alexandria, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, the 17th, 18th, and 19th of May next, and the Regimental Muster of said Regiment on Saturday, the 19th of May next.

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Effect of the War News. NEW YORK, April 15, 10 o'clock A. M.—A body of policemen are on duty at the Herd office to guard against a rumored attack. There will probably be no disturbance here to-night.

BALTIMORE, April 15.—The Union feeling here to-day is very strong. An organization of Minute Men, 2,500 strong, who have been drilling ever since the Presidential election, threw out their stars and stripes this morning from their headquarters with the motto: "Union and the Constitution."

PHILADELPHIA, April 15.—An excited crowd of people assembled this morning before the printing office at the corner of Fourth and Chestnut streets, where the Palmetto Flag, a small advertising sheet is published, and threatened to demolish the establishment.—The proprietor thereupon displayed the American flag, and then the objectionable papers from a window. He also put out another advertising sheet, in the same office, called the "Stars and Stripes," thus restoring the crowd to good humor. The police were present.

PHILADELPHIA, April 15, 12:30, P. M.—There is much excitement about the Palmetto Flag office. The whole square is blocked up with people. The Mayor and police now have possession of the building, and a large American flag has been suspended across the street.

There is some danger of violence being done to the interior of the office by the mob. It would have been entirely torn out but for the interference of the Mayor.

DETROIT, April 15.—The war news creates a profound sensation. The unanimous sentiment of the State is that the position assumed by the Government must be maintained. An important meeting of the members of the Detroit Bar, and influential citizens, was held yesterday afternoon. The meeting was composed of all parties, who passed resolutions denouncing the rebellious organization called the Confederate States, and declaring their intention to stand by the old flag at all hazards.

Another meeting of the citizens will be held to-morrow night.

CHICAGO, April 14.—The news of the surrender of Fort Sumter created a profound sensation here. It was at first discredited, but when later dispatches arrived, confirming the previous reports, the excitement increased. All parties express a determination to uphold the Government in enforcing the laws and maintaining the supremacy of the nation.

INDIANAPOLIS, April 15.—Governor Morton has received offers from the volunteers of the State indicating that 30,000 men could be speedily raised here if required.

CINCINNATI, April 15.—The people are thoroughly aroused. Flags are waving in every direction, and a "Home Guard" will be immediately formed.

COMMUNICATIONS. SPRINGFIELD CONVENTION.—Mr. Clark, the President of the Winchester and Potomac Road, in his letter to Messrs. Meade and others, on the subject of the mare's nest which he has discovered, called "The Warren and Hampshire Coal Mine Railroad Company," incorporated in 1853, rather overshoots the mark in one respect. He says of the restriction in the Charter of that Company against connexion with his road, that "it has been removed by a general law. On the contrary, this general law improved the law of 1850, as given in Company which, after the commencement of this act, (1850), shall be incorporated to construct any work of internal improvement, shall be governed by the provisions contained in the 57th chapter and in the chapter, so far as they can apply to such Company, without violating its Charter." There is nothing in either chapter which can possibly affect this restriction; and the Code referred to professes to give the laws in force at the end of the session of 1855-'60. As a general principle, general laws cannot repeal or alter special provisions in charters; and the constitution requires that the law or section to be amended shall be re-enacted or published with length.

Just a Word, and I utter it both in sorrow and in anger. The Republicans have dissolved this Union! For the sake of a sentiment—a false, fanciful sentiment—they have destroyed the most stupendous and glorious fabric of government ever constructed by human hands, and all without cause. Six months ago, they might have saved it. They might have saved it without the least sacrifice of principle, interest, or honor.—The proclamation, "let the Union slide" was infamous, but has been realized. The "irrepressible conflict" doctrine was equally infamous, and was as false in fact as in theory! The South has accepted the overture, and now where stand the North's criminal devices! They could have saved the Union, but it is too late now! Like the base Judean—

They have thrown away a pearl! Kieher than all the tribe! At their door lies all the infamy, the dishonor, the crime of destroying a Government and Union, dear to the hearts of Americans for their own sakes and for our fathers' sakes. Westmoreland County, Va.

As it seems now to be more than ever important that the Border Slave States should act together, and as a unit, in the disastrous condition to which our country has been reduced, and as it is supposed their united counsel and action are absolutely necessary for our security, I, as a citizen of Virginia, born on the soil and having all my possessions in the State, hope that the first move that will be made, will be their interposition to prevent the theatre and scene of war, from being transferred from the fortifications in South Carolina and Florida to the border counties of the border of Virginia. Virginia did not bring on the war, and she ought to prevent it, if possible, from being waged on her fields and around her cities. VIRGINIUS.

DIED. JOHN SCOTT, esp., of Preston county, breathed his last at the Potomac Hotel, in Richmond last week. Mr. Scott was, during his life, one of the most useful members of the State Legislature, and had many warm friends in Preston county. His remains will be conveyed to Preston county for interment.

WOLF'S CELEBRATED SCHIEDAM AROMATIC SCHNAPPS A SUPERLATIVE TONIC, DIURETIC, ANTI-DYSPEPTIC, AND INVIGORATING CORDIAL. WOLF'S CELEBRATED SCHIEDAM AROMATIC SCHNAPPS should be kept in every family. It invariably corrects the ills which arise from indigestion, and is the best and most palatable of all cordials. Put up in pint and quart bottles.

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