

Saturday, December 8, 1860.

Organization of the Minute Men. At an adjourned meeting last Saturday night at the Court House, Dr. P. Le HIRARD, the President, presiding, the organization adopted the Preamble and Resolutions, (to such extent and in such manner as to suit this locality) passed in New Orleans by the Southern Rights Association of the State of Louisiana.

An Executive Committee was appointed by the President, consisting of the following named gentlemen: A. Talbot, Jos. H. Stockley, J. H. Mills, Jos. H. Baich, V. J. Dupuy, John H. Shanks and M. A. Estevan.

Mr. B. Riba was chosen Treasurer. W. P. Bradburn was elected Corresponding Secretary and C. A. Roth, Recording Secretary.

The following is the principal resolution: Article 2. The objects of this Association shall be to encourage Southern independence of interest and feeling, and to promote concert of action among the Southern States. And should any State or States, in the exercise of their sovereign right, withdraw from the Union, and the Federal Government attempt coercion, to extend to such State or States our cordial support and sympathy; to use all honorable means to bring about, under the sanction of a State Convention, the withdrawal of the State of Louisiana from the present Union, and the assertion of her independence and sovereignty; and, finally, to promote in every way the establishment of a confederated government of the Southern State, or such of them as will unite for that purpose.

The organization meets every Saturday night, at the Court House, at 7 o'clock.

We are forced to throw ourself upon the indulgence of our readers this week for the "short crop" which our paper presents, and which is likely to present for the next two or three weeks, in consequence of our endeavors, or absence from our post, in bringing about a long hoped for consummation.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.—At a very late hour in the week the President's Message was received here—or what looks like a faithful and extended telegraphic synopsis of it—and knowing the interest at the present moment which our readers naturally have to peruse it, we have given it entire in our limited space, to the exclusion of original and interesting news matter.

MEETING OF CONGRESS.—The second session of the 36th Congress convened last Monday. The secession question was the first matter that came up before the nation's representatives.

Mr. Hale came out in a warlike speech in the Senate; he attacked the President's Message, as not meeting the secession movement fully in the face. He was followed by Iverson, Wigfall and Brown, who made strong disunion speeches. This was on the 5th. Mr. Brown said "Let us separate." Mr. Iverson said that the withdrawing States intended to go out of the Union before the 4th of next March, peaceably if they could, forcibly if they must. Five States, he said, would thus go out, and Louisiana and Arkansas would soon hold conventions. Mr. Wigfall thought the President would precipitate what he (the President) desired to avoid. The Military Academy and Pension bills were passed by the House.

A CLUB AND READING ROOM.—In carrying out a design which originated some weeks since with the editor of this paper, through the suggestion of friends, he anticipates building forthwith (if anything like a reasonable encouragement is extended the enterprise) on the site where now stands the Gazette & Sentinel office, a two story brick office, about 45 feet in length by 25 in width, the upper room of which he designs as a Club Room for subscribers, as also a Reading Room, and other advantages, which can be learned by calling at our office, of all those who feel interested in an enterprise which will surely redound to the moral and intellectual advantage of our town—all of which will be given to subscribers at a very insignificant expense, which we are enabled to do through the peculiar facilities we enjoy for carrying out successfully an undertaking which cannot fail to be popular and useful, and in accordance with the growth and prosperity of our town. From the number of gentlemen who have already interested themselves in the above enterprise, we think we can safely say that its success is scarcely a matter of doubt.

UNION FIRE CO.—This company paraded through town last Saturday, in their uniform, with a fine band of music, composed of amateurs from among their own members. We return our thanks for the compliment of one of their finest airs in front of our office. We have no hesitancy in saying—and we have seen many fire companies—that for the number of its members, none ever presented a handsomer appearance, in dress, youth and vigor, than the Union Co. presented on Saturday last. This company has been in existence a couple of years, and the turn out last week was occasioned by their annual meeting to elect officers, which resulted as follows: President, JOHN H. SHANKS. Secretary, LAURENT CUREL. Treasurer, O. E. HAAS. Foreman, BELFOUR MARIENNEAU. 1st Assistant, HENRY KLEVIN. 2d do. EDWARD LATOY. The last four officers were re-elected. As this company has not yet got an engine,

it has been suggested, and we believe the Co. has petitioned the Council that the engine belonging to the corporation and formerly used by the Washington Fire Co., be given over to the Union Co. upon the same conditions that the former company (now dissolved) held it, with the privilege of providing a more useful or suitable one for this town, in place of or through an exchange of the present engine, should the Council decide affirmatively upon its intervention, &c. We can see no objection to this; particularly when we take into consideration the importance of having, upon almost any terms, an active, efficient, energetic fire company in our midst, always ready to battle with the flames.

CANDIDATES FOR THE CONVENTION.—The parties are, through their papers or other means, already mentioning the names of gentlemen thought of as candidates for the convention. We have heard spoken of in this connection, in this parish, the names of A. TALBOT, Esq., THOMAS JOHNSTON, Esq., P. O. HEBERT, and CHAS. A. BRITTE. The first and last named gentlemen are members of the Legislature—the first of the Senate and the latter of House.

THE LATEST NEWS.—There is no news of special interest in the latest papers received from New Orleans prior to our going to press—the evening papers of Thursday. The Ohio river was falling on the 5th. At Cincinnati, pork was firm at \$14 25. Flour, dull at \$4 25. In New York, N. O. sugar, 153 lbs., sold at 4 1/2 a 6 1/2—molasses quoted at 28 a 31 per gallon. In New Orleans, Thursday morning, sales of sugar, fair to fully fair, were made at 4 1/2 a 5 cents. Molasses, 18 a 20 for prime; half bbls. have sold at 25 cents.

SALE OF VALUABLE HORSES.—By reference to an advertisement in another column, it will be perceived that an auction sale of valuable Match and Fogy Horses, &c., is to take place at Barker & Marionneau's stable, in this town, on Saturday the 15th inst. As the sale is positive, it presents a rare opportunity for those in want of fine stock of this kind, to buy at very moderate prices.—We can assure our readers that the horses to be sold on this occasion are among the finest ever brought to this market.

Mr. Adolphe Housieux has presented us a very handsome specimen of sugar, made by himself on the plantation of Messrs. Austin & Adams.

Letter from Theodore Johnston. GROSSE TETE, Dec. 5, 1860. Editor Gazette & Sentinel: DEAR SIR—We finally organized on Saturday last our company of cavalry. The principal officers are R. A. STEWART, Captain, and C. W. KEEP, Lieutenant. The company will number about fifty persons, and their arms will be, for each person, a breech loading rifle, a sabre, and a pair of Colt's army revolving pistols. The arms have been ordered, and will be here within the present week. Thus equipped, might we not bid defiance to any ordinary foe?

I have just finished reading the Thanksgiving Sermon delivered by the Rev. Dr. Palmer, in New Orleans, on Thursday, the 29th ult.; and high above all efforts, it surpasses anything that I have ever read as emanating from the pulpit. It is argumentative, and gives evidence of profound thought, whilst in its beauty of style, construction of sentences, and in its richness and adaptability of language, it is almost unparalleled.

The sermon is over, but it lingers upon the ear; and its clarion notes of alarm will be heard and felt throughout the land—and in response, is there a Southern heart that will not throbb with tumultuous, irrepresible emotion?

It may be remarked by some that the discussion of this question is out of place in the pulpit. I think differently. This question is not a political question, but one in fact of life and death, not only to the reverend gentleman himself, but to his flock. There is an enemy at our doors, with distended tongue and gleaming eyes, ready to destroy us; and ought not every man to send forth a cry of warning who can raise a voice?

The angels of the Lord appeared to Lot and his family, notifying them of their danger, and urged them to save themselves while it was yet time. A warning from any other source would not have been heeded, and their destruction would have been inevitable. So with this and sermons of the same character from other pulpits—they reach the ears and convictions of those who could not, except through such channel, be made to hear and believe.

It is a well known fact that the Northern ministry have done more towards moulding into its present incendiary, aggressive, blood thirsty spirit, the abolition feeling of their people, than all the philippics of their statesmen and orators combined.

Now, a few such efforts as this of Dr. Palmer, and that of Dr. Leacock, delivered at Christ's Church on the same day, would do more towards turning back the tide of abolitionism—and at the same time of arousing to the imminence of their danger—than could be accomplished by the oratorical efforts of any twenty men in the State.

Yours, truly, THEODORE JOHNSTON.

A bunch of keys, found at the Circus, and supposed to be Dan Rice's, has been left at this office by a gentleman, at the commands of the owner.

President's Message.

From the President.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—The following is a synopsis of the President's message, read to-day in the Senate of the United States:

The President, in relation to secession, recommends: What in the meantime is the responsibility and true position of the Executive? He is bound by solemn oaths before God and the country to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, and from this obligation he cannot be absolved by any human power. But what if the performance of this duty, in whole or in part, has been rendered impracticable by events or which he could have exercised no control? Such, at the present moment, in the case throughout the State of South Carolina, so far as the laws of the United States to secure the administration of justice by means of the Federal Judiciary are concerned. All the Federal officers within its limits, through whose agency alone those laws can be carried into execution, have already resigned. We no longer have a District Judge, a District Attorney or a Marshal in South Carolina. In fact, the whole machinery of the Federal Government, necessary for the distribution of remedial justice among the people, has been demolished, and it would be difficult, if not impossible, to replace it.

The only acts of Congress bearing upon this subject are those of the 28th February 1793, and 3d March, 1807. These authorize the President, after he shall have ascertained that the Marshal, with his posse comitatus, is unable to execute civil or criminal process in any particular case, to call forth and employ the army and navy of the United States to aid him in performing this service; having first, by proclamation, commanded the insurgents to disperse and peaceably retire to their respective abodes within a limited time.

This duty cannot, by possibility, be performed in a State where no judicial authority exists to issue process, and where there is no Marshal to execute it, and where, even if there were such an officer, the entire population would constitute one solid combination to resist him. In the meantime, in regard to the property of the United States, in South Carolina, this has been purchased for a fair equivalent, by the consent of the State, for the erection of forts, arsenals, magazines, &c., and over these the authority to exercise Executive Legislation has been expressly granted by the constitution to Congress. It is not believed that any attempt will be made to expel the United States from its property by force, but, if in this, I should prove to be mistaken, the officers in command of the forts have received orders to act entirely upon the defensive in such an emergency.

The responsibility for consequences would rightfully rest upon the head of the assailants. Apart from the execution of the laws, so far as this may be practicable, the executive has no authority to decide what be the relation between the Federal Government and South Carolina. He has been invested with no such discretion—he possesses no power to change the relations heretofore existing between them, much less to acknowledge the independence of that State.

This would be to invest a mere executive officer with the power of recognizing the dissolution of the confederacy existing among our thirty-three sovereign States.

It bears no resemblance to the recognition of a foreign de facto Government, involving no such responsibility.

Any attempt to do this would, on his part, be a naked act of usurpation; it is therefore my duty to submit to Congress the whole question in all its bearings. The course of events is so rapidly hastening forward that the emergency may soon arise when you may be called upon to decide the momentous question, whether you possess the power, by force of arms, to compel a State to remain in the Union.

I should feel myself recreant to my duty were I not to express an opinion on this important subject.

The question, fairly stated, is: Has the Constitution delegated to Congress the power to coerce a State into submission which intends to withdraw, or has actually withdrawn, from the Confederacy? If answered in the affirmative, it must be on the principle that the power has been conferred upon Congress to declare and make war against a State.

After much serious reflection, I have arrived at the conclusion that no such power has been delegated to Congress, or any other department of the Government. It is manifest, upon inspection of the constitution, that this is not among the specific or enumerated powers granted to Congress, and it is equally apparent that its exercise is not necessary and proper for carrying into execution any one of these powers. So far from this power having been delegated to Congress, it was expressly refused by the Convention which formed the constitution.

It appears from the proceedings of that body, on the 31st day of May, 1787, the clause authorizing the execution of the force of the whole country against a delinquent State came up for consideration.

Mr. Madison opposed it in a brief but powerful speech, from which I shall extract but a single sentence.

He observed the use of force against a State would look more like a declaration of war than an infliction of punishment, and would probably be considered by the party attacked as a dissolution

of all previous compacts by which they might be bound.

Upon his motion the clause was most unanimously postponed, and was never, I believe, again presented. Soon afterwards, on the 8th day of June, A. D. 1877, when incidentally adverting to the subject, he said, that any Government for the United States, formed on the supposed practicability of using force against the constitutional proceedings of the States, would prove as visionary and fallacious as the government of Congress, evidently meaning the existing Congress of the old confederation. Without descending to particularize, it would be safely asserted that the power to make war against a State is at variance with the whole spirit and intent of the constitution.

Suppose such a war would result consequent upon the action of a State, how are we to govern it afterwards? Shall we hold it as a province and govern it by despotic power?

In the nature of things we could not by physical force control the will of the people so far as to compel them to elect Senators or Representatives to Congress or to perform all the other duties depending upon their own volition, and required from the free citizens of a free State, as a constitutional member of the confederacy. But, if we were possessed of this power, would it be wise to exercise it under the existing circumstances? The object would doubtless be to preserve the Union.

War would not only present the most effectual means of destroying it, but would banish all hope of its peaceable reconstruction; besides, in the fraternal conflict, a contest of blood or treasure would be expended, rendering future reconciliation between the States impossible.

In the meantime, who can foretell what would be the sufferings or privations of the people during the existence of such a war, but I may be permitted solemnly to invoke my countrymen to pause and deliberate before they determine to destroy this, the grandest temple which has ever been dedicated to human freedom since the world began.

It has been consecrated by the blood of her fathers, by the glories of the past, and by the hopes of the future. The Union has already made us the most prosperous, and ere long, will, if preserved, render us the most powerful nation on the face of the earth. In every foreign region of the globe the title of American citizen is held in the highest respect, and when pronounced in a foreign land, it causes the hearts of her countrymen to swell with honest pride.

Surely, when we reach the brink of the yawning abyss, we shall recoil with horror from the last fatal plunge.

By such a dread catastrophe the hopes of the friends of freedom, throughout the world, would be destroyed, and a long night of leaden despotism will enshroud the nations.

Our example for more than eighty years would not only be lost, but it would be quoted as a conclusive proof that man is unfit for self-government.

It is not every wrong—any, it is not every grievous wrong which can justify a resort to such a fearful alternative. This ought to be the last desperate remedy of a despairing people, after every other constitutional means of conciliation has been exhausted. We should reflect that under this free government there is an incessant ebb and flow in public opinion.

The slavery question, like every thing human, will have its day. I firmly believe it has already reached and passed the culminating point; but if, in the midst of the existing excitement the Union shall perish, the evil may become irreparable.

Congress can contribute much to avoid it by proposing and recommending to the Legislatures of the several States the remedy for existing evils, which the constitution has itself provided for its own preservation.

This has been tried at different critical periods of our history, and always with eminent success. It is to be found in the fifth article, providing for its own amendment. Under this article, amendments have been proposed by two-thirds of both Houses of Congress and have been ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the several States, and have consequently become parts of the constitution. To this process the country is indebted for the clause prohibiting Congress from passing any laws respecting an establishment of religion or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the powers, or of the right of petition.

To this we are also indebted for the rights which secure the people against any abuse of power by the Federal Government. Such were the apprehensions justly entertained by the friends of State Rights at that period, as to have rendered it extremely doubtful whether the constitution could have long survived without these amendments. Again the constitution was amended by the same process after the election of President Jefferson, by the House of Representatives, in the month of February, A. D. 1803. This amendment was rendered necessary to prevent the recurrence of the dangers which had seriously threatened the existence of the Government during the pendency of the election.

The action for its own amendment was intended to secure the amicable adjustment of conflicting constitutional questions like the present, which might arise between the Government of the States and of the United States. This appears from contemporaneous history. In this connection I shall merely call attention to a few sentences in Mr. Ma-

dison's justly celebrated report in 1799 to the Legislature of Virginia. In this he ably and conclusively defended the resolutions of the preceding Legislature against the strictures of several other State Legislatures.

These were mainly founded upon the protest of the Virginia Legislature against the Alien and Sedition acts, as palpable or alarming infractions of the constitution. In pointing out the peaceful and constitutional remedies by referred to none other to which the States were authorized to resort on such occasion. He concludes by saying that the Legislatures of the States might have made direct representation to Congress with a view to obtain a rescinding of the two offensive acts, or they might have represented to their respective Senators in Congress their wish that two-thirds thereof would have proposed an explanatory amendment to the constitution, or two-thirds of themselves, if such had been their opinion, might, by an application to Congress, have obtained a convention for the same object. This is the very course which I earnestly recommend in order to obtain an explanatory amendment of the constitution on the subject of slavery. This might originate with Congress or with the State Legislature, as may be deemed most advisable to attain the object. The explanatory amendment might be confined to the final settlement of the true construction of the constitution on the three special points:

First, An express recognition of the rights of property in slaves in the States which now exist or may hereafter exist.

Second, The duty of protecting this right in all the common Territories throughout the territorial existence, and until they shall be admitted as States into the Union, with or without slavery, as their constitutions may prescribe.

Third, A like recognition of the right of the master to have his slave who has escaped from one State to another restored or delivered up to him; and of the validity of the Fugitive Slave Law, enacted for this purpose, together with a declaration that all State laws impeding or defeating this right are violations of the constitution, and are consequently null and void.

It may be objected that this construction of the constitution has already been settled by the Supreme Court of the United States, and what more ought to be required?

The answer is, that a large portion of the people of the United States still contest the correctness of this decision, and never will cease from agitation, or admit its binding force, until clearly established by the people of the several States in their sovereign character.

Such an explanatory amendment would, it is believed, forever terminate the existing discussions, and restore peace and harmony among the States.

It ought not to be doubted that such an appeal to the arbitration established by the constitution itself would be received with favor by all the States of the confederacy; in any event it ought to be tried in a spirit of conciliation before any of these States shall separate themselves from the Union.

The President enumerates the evils resulting from a civil war, but is convinced that the period has not arrived which will justify a resort to a revolutionary resistance. The Federal Government must be guilty of a deliberate, palpable and dangerous exercise of its powers.

The late Presidential election, Mr. Buchanan claims, is not sufficient cause for resistance, and in this connection he repudiates the right of secession as inconsistent with the character of the Federal constitution. He quotes Jackson's message to sustain his position.

He says that the constitution has adopted effectual means to restrain the States from interfering with the exercise of Executive authority for that purpose. It has, in strong prohibitory language, expressly declared that no State shall enter into any treaty, alliance or confederation, grant letters of marque and reprisal, coin money, emit bills of credit, make anything but gold and silver coin the tender of a payment of debts, pass any bill of attainder or ex post facto law impairing the obligation of contracts. Moreover, without the consent of Congress, no State shall lay any imposts or duties on any imports or exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing its inspection laws; and, if they exceed this amount, that the excess shall belong to the United States.

The bare enumeration of these provisions proves how inadequate they are without another legislation to overcome an united opposition in a single State, not to speak of other States, which may place themselves in a similar attitude. Congress, alone, has the power to decide whether the present laws can, or cannot, be amended so as to carry out more effectually the object of the constitution. The same inseparable obstacles do not lie in the way of executing the laws for the collection of the customs. The revenue still continues to be collected as heretofore at the Customhouse in Charleston, and should the collector unfortunately resign, a successor may be appointed to perform this duty.

Then, in regard to the property of the United States in South Carolina, this has been purchased, for a fair equivalent, by the consent of the Legislature of the State for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, &c. etc. and over this, the authority to exercise Executive legislation has been expressly granted by the constitution to Congress.

It is not believed that any attempt will be made to expel the United States from this property by force, but if in

this I should prove to be mistaken, the officer in command of the forts, has received orders to act strictly on the defensive in such a contingency. The responsibility for consequences would, in case of collision, rightfully rest upon the heads of the assailants.

In speaking of our foreign affairs, the President remarks that our friendly relations with Great Britain have been interrupted by two questions arising from the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, and the right of such claims by the British. These questions have been amicably and honorably adjusted. The claim of Great Britain to visit and search American merchantmen on the high seas in times of peace has been abandoned.

With France, our relations are of a most friendly character. That power has lately decided that naturalized citizens of the United States are not compelled to serve in the French army. Our Government having bound itself to protect the rights of naturalized citizens everywhere, recognizes no distinction between the native and the naturalized citizen.

With Russia we stand in the attitude of mutual friendship.

With Spain our relations are complicated but assume a less dangerous appearance than formerly. Our Cuban claims have been satisfactorily settled.

With Austria and Turkey we are upon a friendly footing.

Our relations with China are satisfactory from the results of the labors of our present resident Minister and his predecessor, who have proved themselves fully equal to the delicate and trying responsibility of their position.

In consequence of our late treaty with the newly opened Empire of Japan, it is expected that the trade with the interior of that country will largely and rapidly increase.

Our relations with Brazil are amicable.

The controversy with New Granada has terminated amicably, the Government of New Granada having specially acknowledged itself responsible to our citizens for damages caused by the Panama riots.

In Costa Rica and Nicaragua the adjustment of claims brought by American citizens has prevailed.

With Mexico our relations are unsatisfactory. Outrages have been committed with impunity. If the constitutional government had been successful we would have had justice done, and European Governments would have been deprived of all pretext to interfere with the territorial and domestic concerns of Mexico.

The troubles in Kansas are not to be settled without an election by the people, which the President recommends.

In speaking of the financial condition of the country, the President says that the labors of the Administration to improve it have not been as satisfactory as desired, in consequence of the large expenditures of Congress; but still, unless extraordinary outlays occur, there will be an ample supply in the Treasury to administer the Government to the end of the present year.

Undertaking what isn't One's "Forte."

We every day see individuals undertaking or diving into a business or enterprises which, by nature, education and profession, they were unacquainted with or in the language of "Agiemus Ward," who is in the "great moral slow business"—doing "what wasn't their Fort;" consequence is, they are ruptured pretty soon in purse and perseverance, or in the elegant language of Mr. Ward, find themselves "splashing round in the Kanal." Artemus attempted doing things he wasn't "fetched up to," and here is his experience in the matter:

Twice I've endeavored to do things which they wasn't my Fort. The first time was when I undertook to lick a outdashed cuss who cut a hold in my tye and krawli threw. See I, "my jentle Sir, go out or I shall fall onto you putty bevy." Sez he, "Wade in, Old War figgers," whereupon I went for him, but he cawt me powerful on the bed & knoet me threw the tent into a cow pasture. He parsood the attack & flung me into a mud puddle. As I arose & rung out my drencht garments I concluded him wasn't my Fort. He now rise the kurtin upon Sen 2d; it is rarely seldom that I seek consolation in the Flowin Hole. But in a certain town in Injinnia in the Faul of 18—my origin grinder got sick of the fever and died I never felt so ashamed in my life, & led histin a few swallers of authis strengthesin. Konequents was I bled in so much I didnt zackly know where bowts I was. I turned my liver wild beests of Pray loose into the street & opsof my wax wurks. I then Bet I could play hoos. So I hurmist myself to a Kanal bote, there being two other hooses hitched on likewise, I behind & another ahead of me. The driver hal lered for us to git & we did. But the hooses been ouased to sich a arrange ment bugun to kick & squeal & rair up Konequents was I was kicked vilyntly in the stumtuck & back & presently I fownd myself in the Kanal with the other hooses, kickin & yellin like a trib of Cusscarorus savvies. I was rescood & as I was being carrid to the tavern on a hemlock Board I sed in a feeble voice, Boys, playin hoos isn't my Fort.

MORAL.—Never don't do nothin which it isn't your Fort, for if you do you'll find yourself splashing round in the Kanal, aggeratively speaking.