

Shreveport Daily News.

VOL. 1.

SHREVEPORT, LA., THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1861.

NO. 21.

The Shreveport Daily News,

Published every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday morning, Office corner Texas & Spring sts. Over Baer's Store—Entrance on Spring street.

TERMS:

Daily, per year in advance, \$8.00
Delivered by carrier, 20 cents per week.
Weekly (Monday) in advance, 2.50

ADVERTISING RATES: FOR THE WEEKLY:

For each square of twelve lines or less for the first insertion, \$1.00
For each additional insertion, per square, 50

FOR THE DAILY:

No. Squares	1mo	3mo	6mo	9mo	12mo
1 square,	5	7	9	10	12
2 squares,	9	12	14	16	17
3 squares,	12	15	18	21	23
4 squares,	15	19	22	25	27
5 squares,	18	23	26	30	32
6 squares,	20	26	30	34	37
7 squares,	23	29	33	37	40
8 squares,	25	31	35	40	43
9 squares,	28	34	38	43	46
10 squares,	30	36	40	45	48
15 squares,	40	48	55	62	70

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New Orleans Cards.

D. D. O'BRIEN,

Newspaper Advertising

AND COLLECTING AGENT,

Office corner Canal St. and Exchange Place, No. 6.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Weekly City Correspondence in English, French, German and Spanish Languages, furnished on moderate terms.

Bills sent for collection from any of your friends, will be promptly attended to. n1*

EDWARD CONERY,

Wholesale Grocer,

AND DEALER IN

WESTERN PRODUCE,

Nos. 2 Front and 10 Falton Streets,

NEW-ORLEANS,

n1—1y.

GEORGE H. VINTEN,

SOUTHERN TYPE LOUNDRY AND

PAPER WAREHOUSE,

105 Poydras Street, N. ORLEANS.

Presses, Type, Paper, Ink, and Furnishing of all description, at manufacturers' prices.

AGENT FOR THE SALE OF

R. HOE & COS. PRESSES,

and

James Conner & Sons' Type.

OLD TYPE TAKEN IN EXCHANGE FOR

New at 10 cents per pound.

Second-hand Presses bought and sold.

THOS. H. SHIELDS, ARTHUR W. HYATT.

THOS. H. SHIELDS & CO.,

DEALERS IN

TYPE, PRESSES, INKS,

News, Book, Wrapping & Printing

Papers,

CARDS AND CARD BOARDS,

Foreign and Domestic Stationary,

59 GRAVIER ST., and 10 BANK PLACE,

New Orleans.

n1-1y

Message of President Davis.

Gentlemen of Congress—It is my pleasing duty to announce to you that the constitution framed for the establishment of a permanent Government of the Confederate States of America has been ratified by the several conventions of each of those States which were referred to, to inaugurate the said Government in its full proportions and upon its own substantial basis of the popular will.

It only remains that elections should be held for the designation of the officers to administer it.

There is every reason to believe that at no distant day other States identified in political principles and community of interests with those which you represent, will join this Confederacy, giving to its typical constellation increased splendor—to its government of free, equal and sovereign States, a wider sphere of usefulness, and to the friends of constitutional liberty a greater security for its harmonious and perpetual existence.

It was not, however, for the purpose of making this announcement that I have deemed it my duty to convene you at an earlier day than that fixed by yourselves for your meeting.

The declaration of war made against this Confederacy, by Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States in his proclamation, issued on the 15th day of the present month, renders it necessary, in my judgment, that you should convene at the earliest practicable moment to devise the measures necessary for the defence of the country.

The occasion is, indeed, an extraordinary one. It justifies me in giving a brief review of the relations heretofore existing between us and the States which now unite in warfare against us, and a succinct statement of the events which have resulted to the end that mankind may pass intelligent and impartial judgment on our motives and objects.

During the war waged against Great Britain by her colonies on this continent, a common danger impelled them to a close alliance, and to the formation of a Confederation by the terms of which the colonies, styling themselves States, entered severally into a firm league of friendship with each other for their common defence, the security of their liberties, and their mutual and general welfare, binding themselves to assist each other against all force offered to, or attacks made upon them, or any of them on account of religion, sovereignty, trade, or any other pretence whatever.

In order to guard against any misconception of their compact, the several States made an explicit declaration in a distinct article—that each State retain its sovereignty, freedom and independence, and every power of jurisdiction and right which is not by this said Confederation expressly delegated to the United States in Congress assembled under this contract of alliance.

The war of the Revolution was successfully waged, and resulted in the treaty of peace with Great Britain in 1783, by the terms of which the several States were each by name recognized to be independent.

The articles of confederation contained a clause whereby all alterations were prohibited, unless confirmed by the Legislatures of every State after being agreed to by the Congress, and in obedience to this provision, under the resolution of Congress of the 21st of February, 1787, the several States appointed delegates for the purpose of revising the articles of confederation, and reporting to Congress and the several Legislatures such alterations and provisions therein as shall, when agreed to in Congress, and confirmed by the States, render the Federal constitution adequate to the exigencies of the Government, and the preservation of the Union.

It was by the delegates chosen by

the several States under the resolution just quoted, that the constitution of the United States was formed in 1787, and submitted to the several States for ratification, as shown by the seventh article, which is in these words: "The ratification of the conventions of nine States shall be sufficient for the establishment of this constitution between the States so ratifying the same."

I have italicized certain words in the resolutions just made for the purpose of attracting attention to the singular and marked caution with which the States endeavored in every possible form to exclude the idea that the separate and independent sovereignty of each State was merged into one common Government or nation; and the earnest desire they evinced to impress on the constitution its true character—that of a compact between independent States—the constitution of 1787 however admitting the clause already recited from the articles of confederation, which provided in explicit terms that each State reclaimed its sovereignty and independence.

Some alarm was felt in the States, when invited to ratify the constitution, lest this omission should be construed into an abandonment of their cherished principles, and they refused to be satisfied until amendments were added to the constitution, placing beyond any pretence of doubt the reservation by the States of their sovereign rights and powers not expressly delegated to the United States by the constitution.

Strange indeed must it appear to the impartial observer that it is none the less true that all these carefully worded clauses proved unavailing to prevent the rise and growth in the Northern States of a political school which has persistently claimed that the Government set above and over the States an organization created by the States, to secure the blessings of liberty and independence against foreign aggression, has been gradually perverted into a machine for their control in their domestic affairs.

The creature has been exalted above its Creator—the principals have been made subordinate to the agent appointed by themselves.

The people of the Southern States, whose almost exclusive occupation was agriculture, early perceived a tendency in the Northern States to render a common Government subservient to their own purposes by imposing burthens on commerce as a protection to their manufacturing and shipping interests.

Long and angry controversies grew out of these attempts often successful, to benefit one section of the country at the expense of the other, and the danger of disruption arising from this cause was enhanced by the fact that the Northern population was increasing by emigration and other causes than the population of the South.

By degrees, as the Northern States gained preponderance in the National Congress, self interest taught their people to yield ready assent to any plausible advocacy of their right as a majority to govern the minority.—Without control they learn to listen with impatience to the suggestion of any constitutional impediment to the exercise of their will, and so utterly have the principles of the constitution been corrupted in the Northern mind that, in the inaugural address delivered by President Lincoln in March last, he asserts as a maxim which he plainly deems to be undeniable, that the theory of the constitution requires, in all cases, that the majority shall govern. And in another memorable instance the same Chief Magistrate did not hesitate to liken the relations between States and the United States to those which exist between the county and the State in which it is situated, and by which it was created.

This is the lamentable and fundamental error in which rests the policy that has culminated in his

declaration of war against these Confederate States.

In addition to the long continued and deep seated resentment felt by the Southern States at the persistent abuse of the powers they had delegated to Congress for the purpose of enriching the manufacturing and shipping classes of the North at the expense of the South. There has existed for nearly half a century, another subject of discord, involving interests of such transcendent magnitude as at all times to create the apprehension in the minds of many devoted lovers of the Union that its permanence was impossible.

When the several States delegated certain powers to the United States Congress, a large portion of the laboring population were imported into the colonies by the mother country. In twelve out of the fifteen States negro slavery existed, and the right of property existing in slaves was protected by law; this property was recognized in the constitution, and provision was made against its loss by the escape of the slave.

The increase in the number of slaves by foreign importation from Africa was also secured by a clause forbidding Congress to prohibit the slave trade anterior to a certain date, and in no clause can there be found any delegation of power to the Congress to authorize it in any manner to legislate to the prejudice, detriment or discouragement of the owners of that species of property or excluding it from the protection of the Government.

The climate and soil of the Northern States soon proved unpropitious to the continuance of slave labor, while the reverse being the case at the South made unrestricted free intercourse between the two sections unfriendly.

The Northern States consulted their own interests by selling their slaves to the South and prohibiting slavery between their limits. The South were willing purchasers of property suitable to their wants, and paid the price of the acquisition without harboring a suspicion that their quiet possession was to be disturbed by those who were not only in want of Constitutional authority, but by good faith as vendors, from disquieting a title emanating from themselves.

As soon, however, as the Northern States that prohibited African slavery within their limits had reached a number sufficient to give their representation a controlling vote in the Congress, a persistent and organized system of hostile measures against the rights of the owners of slaves in the Southern States was inaugurated and gradually extended. A series of measures was devised and prosecuted for the purpose of rendering insecure the tenure of property in slaves.

Fanatical organizations, supplied with money by voluntary subscriptions, were assiduously engaged in exciting amongst the slaves a spirit of discontent and revolt.—Means were furnished for their escape from their owners and agents secretly employed to entice them to abscond.

The constitutional provision for their rendition to their owners was first evaded, then openly denounced as a violation of conscientious obligation and religious duty. Men were taught that it was a merit to elude, disobey and violently oppose the execution of the laws enacted to secure the performance of the promise contained in the constitutional compact. Often owners of slaves were mobbed and even murdered in open day solely for applying to a magistrate for the arrest of a fugitive slave.

The dogmas of the voluntary organization soon obtained control of the Legislatures of many of the Northern States, and laws were passed for the punishment, by ruinous fines and long continued imprisonment in jails and penitentiaries, of citizens of the Southern States who should dare ask aid of the officers of the law for the recovery of their property. Emboldened by success, on the theatre

of agitation and aggression, against the clearly expressed constitutional rights of the Congress, Senators and Representatives were sent to the Common Councils of the Nation, whose chief title to distinction consisted in the display of a spirit of ultra fanaticism, and whose business was not to promote the general welfare, or ensure domestic tranquility—but to awaken the bitterest hatred against the citizens of sister States by violent denunciation of their institutions.

The transaction of public affairs was impeded by repeated efforts to usurp powers not delegated by the constitution, for the purpose of impairing the security of property in slaves, to a condition of inferiority.

Finally, a great party was organized for the purpose of obtaining the administration of the Government, with the avowed object of using its power of the total exclusion of the slave States from all participation in the benefits of the public domain, acquired by all the States in common, whether by conquest or purchase, surrounding them entirely by States in which slavery should be prohibited, thus rendering the property in slaves so insecure as to be comparatively worthless, and hereby annihilating in effect property worth thousands of millions of dollars.

This party, thus organized, succeeded in the month of November last in the election of its candidate for the Presidency of the United States.

In the meantime, under the mild and genial climate of the Southern States, and the increasing care for the well being and comfort of the laboring classes, dictated alike by interest and humanity, the African slaves had augmented in number from about six hundred thousand, at the date of the adoption of the constitutional compact, to upwards of four millions.

In a moral and social condition they had been elevated from brutal savages into docile, intelligent and civilized agricultural laborers, and supplied not only with bodily comforts, but with careful religious instruction under the supervision of a superior race. Their labor had been so directed as not only to allow a gradual and marked amelioration of their own condition, but to convert hundreds of thousands of square miles of the wilderness into cultivated lands covered with a prosperous people. Towns and cities had sprung into existence, and it rapidly increased in wealth and population under the social system of the South.

The white population of the Southern slaveholding States had augmented from about 1,250,000 at the date of the adoption of the constitution, to more than 8,500,00 in 1860, and the productions of the South in cotton, rice, sugar and tobacco, for the full development and continuance of which the labor of African slaves was and is indispensable, had swollen to an amount which formed nearly three-fourths of the export of the whole United States, and had become absolutely necessary to the wants of civilized man.

With interests of such overwhelming magnitude imperiled, the people of the Southern States were driven by the conduct of the North to the adoption of some course of action to avoid the dangers with which they were openly menaced. With this view the Legislatures of the several States invited the people to select delegates to conventions to be held for the purpose of determining for themselves what measures were best to be adopted to meet so alarming a crisis in their history.

Here it may be proper to observe that, from a period as early as 1798, there had existed in all of the States of the Union a party almost uninterceptedly in the majority, based upon the creed that each State was, in the last resort, the sole judge as well of its wrongs as of the mode and measure of redress. Indeed, it is obvious that under the law of nations this principle

[TO BE CONTINUED.]