

# Shreveport Daily News.

VOL. 1.

SHREVEPORT, LA., FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1861.

NO. 22.

## The Shreveport Daily News,

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

### TERMS:

Yearly in advance, \$8.00  
Delivered by carrier, 25 cents  
Weekly (Monday) in advance, 25c

### 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	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000
1 square, ...	5	7	9	10	12	13	17	20		
2 squares, ...	9	12	14	16	17	18	25	30		
3 squares, ...	12	15	18	21	23	25	35	40		
4 squares, ...	15	19	22	25	27	30	40	50		
5 squares, ...	18	23	27	31	34	37	50	60		
6 squares, ...	20	25	30	34	37	40	55	70		
7 squares, ...	22	28	33	37	40	43	60	80		
8 squares, ...	24	30	35	39	42	45	65	90		
9 squares, ...	26	32	37	41	44	47	70	100		
10 squares, ...	28	34	39	43	46	49	75	110		
15 squares, ...	36	44	51	57	61	65	95	135	150	

For professional and business cards, (including the Daily paper), not exceeding five lines, for 12 months, \$15—without paper, \$10.

The privilege of yearly advertisers is hereby limited to their own immediate and regular business; and the business of an advertising firm is not considered as including that of its individual members.

Advertisements published at irregular intervals, \$1 per square for each insertion.

Announcing candidates for a District or State office, \$10; for a Parish office, \$5; City office, \$3—to be paid in advance.

All advertisements for strangers or transient persons, to be paid in advance.

Advertisements not marked on the copy for a specified time, will be inserted till forbid, and payment exacted.

Marriages and deaths will be published as news, obituaries, tributes of respect, and funeral invitations as other advertisements.

## 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.

EDWARD CONERY,

### Wholesale Grocer,

AND DEALER IN

### WESTERN PRODUCE,

No. 2 Front and 10 Fulton Streets,  
NEW ORLEANS.

11-1y.

GEORGE H. VINTEN,

### SOUTHERN TYPE FOUNDRY AND PAPER WAREHOUSE,

105 Poydras Street, N. ORLEANS.  
Presses, Type, Paper, Ink, and Furnishing of all description, at manufacturers' prices.

AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF

R. HOE & CO'S. PRESSES,

and

James Conner & Sons' Type.

OLD TYPE TAKEN IN EXCHANGE FOR  
New at 10 cents per pound.

Sound-hand Presses bought and sold.

THOS. H. SHIELDS, ARTHUR W. HYATT.

THOS. H. SHIELDS & CO.,

DEALERS IN

TYPE, PRESSES, INKS,

News, Books, Wrapping & Printing  
Papers.

CARDS AND CARD BOARDS.

Foreign and Domestic Stationery,  
29 GRAVIER ST., and 10 BANK PLACE.

New Orleans.

11-1y.

## Message of President Davis.

ple is an axiom as applied to the relations of independent sovereign States, such as those which had united themselves under the constitutional compact.

The Democratic party of the U. States repeated in its successful canvass in 1836, the deduction made in numerous previous political contests, that it would faithfully abide by and uphold the principles laid down in the Kentucky and Virginia Legislatures in 1793, and that it adopts those principles as constituting one of the main foundations of its political creed.

The principles thus emphatically announced embrace that to which I have already adverted—the right of each State to judge of and redress the wrongs of which it complains. Their principles were maintained by overwhelming majorities of the people of all the States of the Union at different elections, especially in the election of Mr. Jefferson in 1805, Mr. Madison in 1809 and Mr. Pierce in 1852.

In the exercise of a right so ancient, so well established and so necessary for self-preservation, the people of the Confederate States in their conventions determined that the wrongs which they had suffered and the evils with which they were menaced, required that they should revoke the delegation of powers to the Federal Government which they had ratified in their several conventions. They consequently passed ordinances resuming all their rights as sovereign and independent States, and dissolved their connection with the other States of the Union. Having done this, they proceeded to form a new compact amongst themselves by new articles of confederation which have been also ratified by conventions of the several States, with an approach to unanimity far exceeding that of the conventions which adopted the constitutions of 1787. They have organized their new Government in all its departments. The functions of the Executive, legislative and judicial magistrates are performed in accordance with the will of the people, as displayed not merely in a cheerful acquiescence, but, in the enthusiastic support of the Government thus established by themselves, and but for the interference of the Government of the United States, this legitimate exercise of a people to self-government has been manifested in every possible form.

Scarcely had you assembled in February last, when, prior even to the inauguration of the Chief Magistrate you had elected, whereby you expressed your desire for the appointment of commissioners and for the settlement of all questions of disagreement between two Governments, upon principles of right, justice and equity and good faith.

It was my pleasure as well as my duty to cooperate with you in this work of peace. Indeed, in my address to you on taking the oath of office, and before receiving from you the communication of this resolution, I had said that, "as a necessity, not as a choice, we have resorted to the remedy of separating, and henceforth our energies must be directed to the conduct of our own affairs and the perpetuity of the confederacy which we have formed. If a just perception of mutual interest shall permit us to peaceably pursue our separate political careers, my most earnest desire will then have been fulfilled."

It was in furtherance of these accordant views of the Congress and the Executive, that I made choice of three discreet, able and distinguished citizens, who repaired to Washington. Aided by their cordial cooperation and that of the Secretary of State, every effort compatible with self-respect and the dignity of the Confederacy was exhausted before I allowed myself to yield to the conviction that the Government of the United States was determined to attempt the conquest of this people and that our cherished hopes of peace were unobtainable.

On the arrival of our Commissioners in Washington on the 5th of March, they postponed, at the suggestion of a friendly mediator, doing more than giving informal notice of their arrival. This was done with a view to afford time to the President of the United States, who had just been inaugurated, for the discharge of other pressing official duties in the organization of his administration, engaging his attention in the object of their mission.

It was not until the 12th of the month that they officially addressed the Secretary of State informing him of the purpose of their arrival, and stating in the language of their instructions their wish to make to the Government of the United States overtures for the opening of negotiations, assuring the Government of the United States that the President, Congress and people of the Confederate States desired a peaceful solution of these great questions—that it is neither their interest nor their wish to make any demand which is not founded on the strictest principles of justice, nor to do any act to injure their late confederates.

To this communication no formal reply was received until the 8th of April. During the interval the Commissioners had consented to waive all questions of form, with firm resolve to avoid war if possible. They went so far as to hold, during that long period, unofficial intercourse through an intermediary, whose high position and character inspired the hope of success, and through whom constant assurances were received from the Government of the United States of peaceful intentions—of its determination to evacuate Fort Sumter; and further, that no measure changing the existing status prejudicial to the Confederate States; that in the event of any change in regard to Fort Pickens notice would be given to the Commissioners.

The crooked path of diplomacy can scarcely furnish an example so wanting in courtesy, in candor and directness, as was the course of the United States Government towards our Commissioners in Washington. For proof of this I refer to the annexed documents marked, taken in connection with further facts which I now proceed to relate.

Early in April the attention of the whole country was attracted to extraordinary preparations for an extensive military and naval expedition in New York, and other Northern ports. These preparations commenced in secrecy, for an expedition whose destination was concealed and only became known when nearly completed and on the 5th, 6th and 7th of April, transports and vessels of war with troops, munitions and military supplies, sailed from Northern ports bound Southward.

Alarmed by so extraordinary a demonstration, the Commissioners requested the delivery of an answer to their official communication of the 12th of March, and the reply dated on the 15th of the previous month, from which it appears that during the whole interval, whilst the Commissioners were receiving assurances calculated to inspire hope of the success of their mission, the Secretary of State and the President of the United States had already determined to hold no intercourse with them whatever—to refuse even to listen to any proposals they had to make, and had profited by the delay created by their own assurances, in order to prepare secretly the means for effective hostile operations.

That these assurances were given has been virtually confessed by the government of the United States, by its act of sending a messenger to Charleston to give notice of its purpose to use force if opposed in its intentions of supplying Fort Sumter. No more striking proof of the absence of good faith in the confidence of the Government of the United States towards the Confederacy can be required than is contained in the

circumstances which accompanied this notice.

According to the usual course of navigation, the vessels composing the expedition and designed for the relief of Fort Sumter, might be looked for in the Charleston harbor on the 9th of April. Yet our Commissioners in Washington were detained under assurances that notice should be given of any military movement.

The notice was not addressed to them, but a messenger was sent to Charleston to give notice to the Governor of South Carolina, and the notice was so given at a late hour on the 8th of April, the eve of the very day on which the fleet might be expected to arrive.

That this manœuvre failed in its purpose was not the fault of those who controlled it. A heavy tempest delayed the arrival of the expedition and gave time to the commander of our forces at Charleston to ask and receive instructions of the Government. Even then, under all the provocation incident to the contemptuous refusal to listen to our commissioners, and the treacherous course of the Government of the United States, I was sincerely anxious to avoid the effusion of blood, and directed a proposal to be made to the commander of Fort Sumter, who had avowed himself to be nearly out of provisions, that we would abstain from directing our fire on Fort Sumter if he would promise not to open fire on our forces unless first attacked. This proposal was refused. The conclusion was that the design of the United States was to place the besieging force at Charleston between the simultaneous fire of the fleet. The fort should, of course, be at once reduced. This order was executed by Gen. Beauregard with skill and success, which were naturally to be expected from the well known character of that gallant officer; and although the bombardment lasted some thirty-three hours, our flag did not wave over the battered walls until after the appearance of the hostile fleet off Charleston.

Fortunately not a life was lost on our side, and we were gratified in being prepared. The necessity of an unobscured effusion of blood by the prudent caution of the officers who commanded the fleet in abstaining from the evidently futile effort to enter the harbor for the relief of Major Anderson, was spared.

I refer to the report of the Secretary of War and the papers accompanying it, for further particulars of this brilliant affair.

In this connection I cannot refrain from a well deserved tribute to the noble States, the eminent soldierly qualities of whose people were conspicuously displayed. The people of Charleston for months had been irritated by the spectacle of a fortress held within their principle harbor as a standing menace against their peace and independence—built in part with their own money—its custody confided with their long consent to an agent who held no power over them other than such as they had themselves delegated for their own benefit, intended to be used by that agent for their own protection against foreign attack.—How it was held out with persistent tenacity as a means of offence against them by the very Government which they had established for their own protection, is well known. They had beleaguered it for months, and felt entire confidence in their power to capture it, yet yielded to the requirements of discipline, curbed their impatience, submitted without complaint to the unaccustomed hardships labors and privations of a protracted siege, and when at length their patience was relieved by the signal for attack and success had crowned their steady and gallant conduct, even in the very moment of triumph, they evinced a chivalrous regard for the feelings of the brave but unfortunate officer who had been compelled to lower his flag.

All manifestations of exultations were checked in his presence. Their

commanding General, with their cordial approval and the consent of his Government, refrained from imposing any terms that would wound the sensibility of the commander of the fort. He was permitted to retire with the honors war, to salute his flag, to depart freely with all his command, and was escorted to the vessel on which he embarked with the highest marks of respect from those against whom his guns had so recently been directed.

Not only does every event connected with the siege reflect the highest honor on South Carolina, but the forbearance of her people and of this Government from making any harangue of a victory obtained under circumstances of such peculiar provocation, attest to the fullest extent the absence of any purpose beyond securing their own tranquility, and the sincere desire to avoid the calamities of war.

Scarcely had the President of the United States received intelligence of the failure of the scheme which he had devised for the reinforcement of Fort Sumter, when he issued the declaration of war against this confederacy, which has prompted me to convoke you. In this extraordinary production, that high functionary affects total ignorance of the existence of an independent Government, which, possessing the entire and enthusiastic devotion of its people, is exercising its functions without question over seven sovereign States—over more than five millions of people—and over a territory whose area exceeds five hundred thousand square miles.

He terms sovereign States "combinations too powerful to be suppressed in the ordinary course of judicial proceedings or by the powers vested in the marshalls by law."

He calls for an army of seventy-five thousand men to act as the posse comitatus in aid of the process of the courts of justice in States where no courts exist, whose mandates and decrees are not cheerfully obeyed and respected by a willing people.

He avows that the first service to be assigned to the forces which have been called out will not be to execute the processes of courts, but to capture forts and strongholds, situated within the admitted limits of this Confederacy and garrisoned by its troops, and declares that this effort is intended to maintain the perpetuity of popular Government.

He concludes by commanding the persons composing the "combinations" aforesaid, to wit: the five millions of inhabitants of these States to retire peaceably to their respective abodes within twenty days.

Apparently contradictory as are the terms of this singular document, one point was unmistakably evident. The President of the United States calls for an army of 75,000 men, whose first service was to be to capture our forts. It was a plain declaration of war which I was not at liberty to disregard, because of my knowledge that under the constitution of the United States the President was usurping a power granted exclusively to the Congress.

He is the sole organ of communication between that country and foreign powers. The law of nations did not permit me to question the authority of the Executive of a foreign nation to declare war against this Confederacy. Although I might have refrained from taking active measures for our defence, if the States of the Union had all intimated the action of Virginia, North Carolina, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri, by the denouncing it as an unconstitutional usurpation of power to which they refuse to respond, I was not at liberty to disregard the fact that many of the States seemed quite content to submit to the exercise of the powers assumed by the President of the United States, and were actively engaged in levying troops for the purpose indicated in

[TO BE CONTINUED.]