THE TIMES.

PORT TOBACCO, MD.

Thursday Morning, January 17, 1861.

☞All the matter on our first page to-day is published by request. The continued demands made upon columns, by correspondents and others, compel us to omit much interesting news matter, and to disappoint, no doubt, many who send us articles for publication.

☞Still the storm rages and the political elements war. Bitter animosity rules supreme and the time for peaceful considerations are passed with many of the leading spirits of our land. The Northern politico-religious fanatics are determined to make no concessions and the ultra Southern secessionists are opposed to the acceptance of any concession or guarantee which can be made. Thus these two elements, totally opposite in their nature, are for once united in a common cause, for the purpose of dissolving our proud Union and overthrowing our common government. The one so desirous because a dissolution will develope the resources of the South and secure and perpetuate the institution of slavery in our midst, and the other, because the tie of union and interest being broken between the two sections of our country, they, the fanatics of the North, will have a better opportunity, a better pretext and better chances of success in freeing from bondage the slaves of the South, and rendering the whole Territory of the present United States free soil. Both are desirous of doing the same thing for diametrically opposite purposes. And now comes the solemn question, if they succeed in their common determination to break up the Union, what will be the consequent result to each? They cannot possibly both succeed in their final object, and a continuous and bloody warfare must necessarily exist between the two new Governments. Then without concessions from the one, and the acknowledgment of these concessions by the other, a war of extermination, total and final, can alone close the tragedy of blood which must of necessity be enacted over the land. Think of the end in store for us if this war of extermination is once set on foot. The land of Washington will be the possession of others, not ours. Neither the North nor the South can expect to retain it. A war of this kind can meet with but one end, a transfer to other hands than these which now possess it. While the eagles are fighting over the prey, the lion or some other mighty beast or bird of the forrest will snatch off the treasure—possibly the vulture; and who shall say what the kind or which the power that shall hold us forever in bondage, perhaps oppression? True, should the future oppressor bear too heavily upon us, we can rebel against his power, by virtue of our inalienable rights, and having thrown off the yoke, set up for ourselves a free government once again. Let us ask, for what end, for what purpose? To once again quarrel among ourselves, divide, fight and fall, again to be subjected by a more powerful, yet more tyrannical despot?

Is human life of so little value that the bloody slaughter of a million or so is of no consequence. Is christianity and religion then to be made the co-workers with the evil one in taking the lives of millions and proclaiming it as God's service? Is bitter fanaticism, false teaching of the Gospel of Christ, and obstinate prejudice to be allowed to override peace, liberty and life? Where is the boasted Christianity of America? Where the freedom of thought, of action, of belief, if to entertain a difference of opinion is to lead to war, with all its train of carnage and dessolation?

Alas! we may well ask where. Religion has run into corruption and fanaticism, politics has taken up villiany as its principle, and the minds of the people are, by both, poisoned to destruction.

It is the blending of religion and politics, the uniting the stump and the pulpit, which has brought upon the land all her troubles and it is useless, more than useless, to expect a cure from politico-religious teachers. They must be separated and rendered distinct, before peace can be restored. If they must be united, there can never be peace in this or any other free land. When Christ was on earth he strictly conformed to the law of the lands in which he sojourned. Are these his desciples, who would conform the law to their notions? We think not.

☞South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi, have already passed Ordinances of Secession. They are not in Union. Other States will soon follow. The work of disintegration goes on apace. What a result has been reached!

☞The Convention bill passed by the Tennessee Legislature provides that if the Convention shall pass an ordinance of Secession it shall be submitted to the decision of the people.

☞The Virginia State Convention has been called by the Legislature, the election to be held on the 4th and the Convention to meet on the 13th of February.

☞On Thursday and Friday both Houses of the North Carolina Legislature debated the State Convention question, which has been complicated by mixing the question of the reform of the State Constitution with Federal matters. Amendments in favor of an *open* and *restricted* Convention were offered, but no vote was had, and the whole matter was postponed a few days.

We may expect difficulty in getting the people of Maryland to vote for a State Convention unless its objects are fairly understood beforehand and its powers restricted to action on the present crisis in national affairs.

"BORDER RIFLES."—A company bearing this title has been organized in Upper Marlboro'. It numbers thirty-four men. George W. Wilson, editor of the *Gazette*, has been appointed its Captain.

The "Border Rifles" have made a good selection for Captain. We know something of his qualifications. When a boy we mustered in a company commanded by "Capt. W[illegible]" and feel certain that none [illegible] present a bolder [illegible] face. To the enemy we [illegible] *backward march* while the movement [illegible]er Captain will be *forward*—guide

☞Senator Pearce of Maryland, thinks it highly necessary that the Legislature should be convened at the earliest moment, and that a convention should be forthwith called, in order that the most conservative men of the State should be convened in council, with the hope that a moderate and reasonable compromise can be matured, and at once submitted to the border States, before any collision occurs between the Federal and State governments, which now seems be inevitable.

☞Mr. Crittenden's efforts for peace and a restoration of the Union are treated with disrespect in some of the Republican papers, and that venerable and patriotic Senator held up by these same journals, as "furnishing ammunition to the guns of the nullifiers," &c. "They know not what they do." If Mr. Crittenden is to be scowled down by sectionalism—there is no hope.

☞Garrison, in his *Liberator*, is *rejoicing* at the prospect of a dissolution of the Union. He shouts at the top of his lungs in exultant and rejoicing hurras—declaring that the event will expedite the abolition of slavery, &c. That which divides our country, it may be, into two or more hostile confederacies, and which threatens to involve us in the horrors of civil war, seems to make the old sinner *mad* with joy.—Ought such fanatical wretches to enjoy the triumph which they anticipate, in the destruction of a government which they hate?

CONFERENCE CONVENTION.

In accordance with an invitation sent by prominent gentlemen of Baltimore city, on Thursday last a number of gentlemen representing all parts of the State met in the Law Buildings for the purpose of conferring relative to the threatening condition of public affairs. At 12 o'clock, Wm. H. Norris, Esq., of Baltimore city, called the body to order by moving that Col. John Sellman, of Anne Arundel county, be selected as temporary Chairman, and J. H. Stone, Esq., of Baltimore, Secretary. The President briefly returned thanks, whereupon, Mr. Norris moved that a list of the names of the gentlemen to whom invitations had been sent should be read by the Secretary, when each county delegation should report to the Chair a list of those present. The roll of members was called, but not more than one-half were present.

Colonel Hambleton, of Talbot county, moved that a Committee of one member from each county and the city of Baltimore be appointed for the purpose of nominating permanent officers of the Convention. The motion prevailed and the Chair, appointed the Committee, which, after retiring for a few minutes, returned and submitted the following report:

President—Hon. Wm. Grayson.

Vice Presidents—David M. Perine, M. T. Goldsborough.

Secretaries—Horace Ridgely, Jas. H. Stone.

Ex-Governor Grason having been compelled by indisposition to retire from the Conference, Col. Hambleton moved that Col. Sellman be unanimously selected as the permanent chairman of the body; carried.

The following gentlemen were appointed a committee for the purpose of preparing business for the meeting:

S. Teackle Wallis, chairman, Baltimore city; J. M. Buchanan, Alleghany county; A. B. Hagner, Anne Arundel; Col. John S. Gittings, Baltimore county; Micajah Rogers, Carroll; Hon. P. W. Crain, Charles; George W. Benton, Cecil; Hon. W. T. Goldsborough, Dorchester; Outerbridge Horsey, Frederick; Gen. Edward Hammond, Howard; Otho Scott, Harford; J. A. Wickes, Kent; A. B. Davis, Montgomery; Jos. J. Duvall, Prince George's; R. B. Carmichael, Queen Anne's; John F. Dent, St. Mary's; Hon. Issac D. Jones, Somerset; Col. Edward Lloyd, Talbot; and James Wason, of Washington county.

After an adjournment, the Conference again met, and, on being called to order, S. Teackle Wallis, Esq., read the resolutions adopted in committee.

Dr. Alex. Robinson, of Baltimore, moved that they be taken up and acted upon *seriatem*.—This motion prevailed and the first resolution was read as follows:

Resolved, as the opinion of this Conference, That Maryland is this day as she has ever been; true to the American Union; that she will exert all her influence for its peaceful preservation, and that in her efforts to that end she will rely upon the wisdom and patriotism of her tried and faithful sons, and upon an all-wise and over-ruling Providence.

This resolution was adopted unanimously, and the following was also adopted, with but one voice in the negative:

Resolved, That the people of Maryland are deeply impressed with the dangers which are threatening the Union, and have an abiding confidence that there is nothing in the grave questions at issue which is not susceptible of adjustment by fair constitutional compromise, and it is the opinion of this meeting that the people of Maryland will accept the proposed constitutional and legislative guarantees known as the Crittenden compromise, as a final and proper settlement of the fatal controversy which is now distracting the republic.

Dr. Robinson said that while he favored this resolution and had voted for it, he was desirous of the adoption of a resolution in opposition to coercion. It was right for Maryland to say that she would not suffer a coercive army to cross her territory if she can prevent it. He was a Southerner by birth and had Southern interests, and while in favor of Union, would oppose, as far as he could, anything like coercion.

Mr. Wallis approved of the suggestion, and, at the request of Dr. Robinson, set about preparing a resolution against coercion.

The third and last resolution adopted in committee was, in the meantime, put and adopted unanimously. It is as follows:

Resolved, That a committee of six be appointed by the President of this Conference, to solicit the Governor, in the name of this meeting, to issue his proclamation inviting the people of this State to assemble, on the last Monday of January, inst., at their usual places of meeting, and during the usual hours of voting, and determine by their votes whether they desire, or do not desire, that a State Convention shall be called. And in case a majority of the people, at such election, shall determine in favor of calling the same, that the Governor shall then, by proclamation, appoint the second Monday of February next, for the election of delegates to such Convention, to assemble at the seat of government, at the earliest practicable period thereafter.

The Chair named the following gentlemen as the committee to communicate the purport of the resolutions to the Governor, and request him to act in accordance therewith: Hon. R. B. Carmichael, Ross Winans, Wm. T. Goldsborough, A. B. Hagner, John Contee, A. Bowie Davis.

Hon. John Brown, of Queen Anne's, moved that a copy of the resolutions be sent to the Maryland Senators and Representatives in Congress. Adopted.

Wm. H. Norris said that he was opposed to any effort of coercion on the part of the general government, but thought the resolution proposed to be submitted might as well lay over, as the Convention might possibly meet on the second Monday of February, and then the voice of that body would have some effect. He did not think the federal government would care about or heed any expression against coercion, though it were passed by thirty thousand citi[illegible] mass meeting assembled, but they would care if expressed by the sovereign voice of the State in Con[illegible]tion.

Mr. Wallis st[illegible] that his friends in the room thought the resolution ought to be withdrawn, so that the body might part in harmony. There was opposition to it, and he was not disposed to press it, notwithstanding he did think their views against coercion should go forth. Dr. Robinson said he would read the resolution, and, if it did not meet the approval of the meeting, he would withdraw it. He read as follows:

Resolved, That it is the opinion of the meeting, without consulting the constitutionality or unconstitutionality of secession, or the constitutionality or unconstitutionality of coercion, that coercion ought not to be resorted to by the Federal Government to keep the States within the Union against their will, and that we will use our power to prevent it.

Mr. Jones, of Somerset, entered into a lengthy review of the dangers that threaten us, and concluded by trusting that the general government would forbear coercion.

Mr. Hagner said that the newspapers would publish the arguments and resolution in relation to coercion, and the meeting might as well pass upon the subject. The South might entertain a wrong idea of their refusal to vote, and he therefore called for the question.

George A. Pearre, of Allegany, said the general government had exercised forbearance towards the seceding States, and he believed would so continue. He hoped the meeting would take no official action in relation to the matter.

The resolution was withdrawn, and the meeting adjourned, subject to the call of the President.

[COMMUNICATED.]

"All smatterers are more brisk and pert,
Than those that understand an art,
As little sparkles shine more bright,
Than glowing coals that give them light."

MR. EDITOR:—The above, quoted from Butler's Hudebras, struck me as most applicable (the moment I read them,) to the communications contained in your paper of the last week, over the signatures of "A True Democrat" and S. It has been aptly said, that many schoolmasters set up for teachers, before they have learned what they themselves profess to teach. This is not alone true in the school of letters, but also in the political school. And this truth is most remarkably exemplified, in the two communications referred to above. Some citizens in the exercise of an undoubted right; and in view of an awful crisis, now hanging in black and threatening aspect, over the country; and because of the persistent refusal of the Governor to convene the Legislature in extra session upon a most "extraordinary occasion;" although importuned to do so, from every part of the State by many of its most intelligent and patriotic citizens; in their anxiety to promote the interest, honor, and dignity of the State; and to preserve if possible, the peace of the country; undertake, to ask the citizens of their county, to assemble in primary meetings and express their opinions upon the necessity and propriety of a Convention of the people, to consult upon these matters, perhaps involving the very existence of Maryland as a State in the Union; and immediately, communications start forth from their hiding places, glowing hot, and warning the people of "antucs vast and chimeras dire"—"of revolutions, and traps to catch the unwary;" telling them that Mr. Hugh Davey Evans, John P. Kennedy and a host of others from *Baltimore*, have approved of the Governor's conduct, and one of them breaks out, (although it had before said it had much respect for the signers of that call ("*Timeo danavs et dona farentes*) with the declaration that these signers are influenced, more by party predilections and prejudices than by love of the Union. Now, Mr. Editor, the first thing that strikes every candid reader, when he has got thus far in this production of most awful discoveries; is, that this "Ethiopian," is trying to change his color; in other words, that he is neither a "True Democrat," or an American; or that if he ever pofessed to be either, his principles hang so loosely about him, that like the Neapolitan beggar's rags, they could at any time be shaken off. The next thing is, that he has in the exercise of his most extraordinary sagacity, made the marvelous discovery, "that if either Douglas, Bell or Breckinridge had been elected; that those who are now most active, in promoting what they call a peaceable secession would have been quiet." Why, Mr. sage, who disputes your position in this. According to my recollection, the friends of neither of those three gentlemen, supported them upon a sectional platform; or because they were in deadly hostility to the South, and its domestic institutions. Their friends had never passed any liberty bills in the Northers States. They had never stolen negroes from the South. They had never declared as Lincoln had *that "a crisis had been reached but had not passed. Be careful that it does not; I believe the Government cannot endure half slave and half free."* They had not said; their friends had not said,—that the institution so dear to the South, was "in the process of annihilation, and that their heavy hand would not be stayed, until its extirpation from the land was perfected. Their friends had not applied, to slave owners every epithet of opprobium which the fruitful English language could furnish. This certainly is a Daniel come to judgment!! He certainly has made a discovery which has astonished the natives; and he should get a patent right for it, as speedily as possible. But notwithstanding his respect for the signers of this call; he believes the move to be a party one! The wicked and designing are always suspicious;—never being themselves influenced by proper motives; they suspect that all others are similarly influenced. Now, sir, men of both parties signed this call, and joined cordially in it. What party ends then, could they expect to achieve? But "these gentlemens attachment to party," in asking the *people* to say in the exercise of the undoubted *right* of *freemen*, whether they were in favor of a Sovereign Convention or not, is stronger than their love of the Union! What does he see, in that publication which in the slightest degree aims at the destruction of the Union. If he does he sees what no one else can see. I believe that every man who signed the call, was influenced by a high sense of patriotic duty, such as this "Ethiopian can neither conceive or feel. No petty or *contemptible* desire to conciliate Lincoln for *office*, *influenced* them; but the high and holy purpose (as far as their humble efforts could) of promoting the interest, and preserving the honor and dignity of the State; and to place her in a position to act, with other States in the *preservation* of the *Constitution*, and the *Union*. But, sir, enough of this communication.

Your correspondent S. says that no private individuals have the power to call a Convention. And do those gentlemen who call upon the people, to express their opinion at the ballot-box, as to the necessity of a Convention of the best men of the State; in view of the threatening aspect of public matters, *assume* any such power to themselves? They merely advise the *people* to meet in Sovereign Convention. That address to the *people*, says that a Sovereign Convention of the people can be called, and held by the *people* at any time they please. Is it possible that this principle, recognizing the right of the people to *speak* upon public matters, when ever they please; and which underlies our whole system of free government,—which is recognized by your Bill of Rights, and by the Declaration of Independence—and which has been assented to, and acted upon by the people in every State of this confederacy, from the Revolution down to the present time; and against which, there is no constitutional prohibition; (and if there were it would be void.) I say, can it be possible, that the right of the people to assemble in Convention, if a majority so will it; can be doubted by any man believing himself competent to teach the *people* their constitutional and *inalienable* rights. If so, we have indeed fallen upon evil times. If his teachings should influence the people, they will be fitting their necks for the yoke of any tyrant who may choose to place it upon them; and for any kind of despotism by which their masters may think proper to govern them. I mistake the people of Charles county if they are prepared for this. But he says "that the Executive of the State has been called upon to convene the Legislature, that a Sovereign Convention might be called; and the Executive having refused to do so, these private persons have assumed to themselves, the *prerogative* of doing so. It is only necessary, Mr. Editor, for any person to look at that publication to see the utter recklessness of this charge. These private persons exercised the right of inviting the citizens of this county in primary meetings, to express through the ballot-box their wish or not, to invite the citizens of this State, to hold a Sovereign Convention, in view of the exigencies of the times. This writer when he read that address, to the people; either did not understand the letter or the spirit of it; or has been guilty of a wilful and deliberate *misrepresentation* of its contents. The signers of that paper neither assume to themselves any *prerogative* of the Executive or the Legislature; nor do they counsel the usurpation of any constitutional or of any other power belonging to the Executive or Legislature. They advise the exercise of an inalienable right on the part of the people; a right "inestimable to them, and formidable to tyrants only." But this writer says the Legislature has power to call a Convention; although he afterwards denies that the Legislature can do so, save, in the mode pointed out by the Constitution, for amendment to that instrument. Now where does he get the right or power of the Legislature, when convened by the Governor to call a Convention? Does he get it from the Constitution? That instrument gives no direct power to call a Convention for any purpose whatsoever; it provides, that upon the return of every census, (it,) the Legislature shall pass a law, for ascertaining the *sense* of the *people*, in regard to the calling a Convention for altering the Constitution, &c., &c. Thus *conceding* to the *people*, and *recognizing* in the *people*, *alone* the right to alter or abolish their form of government. So when the Legislature is convened in extra session by the Governor, it has no power or right to *command* the people to elect delegates to a Convention for any purpose; but merely to *invite* the *people* to do so; and this is a right and power derived from the *people irrespective* of the Constitution; and if they the people have the power to delegate this right to others; it follows as a corollary, that they have the power, to exercise it themselves. Were the forms of law, observed, or the Constitution regarded in the formation of our last Constitution? The old Constitution positively prohibited any change in the organic law of the land, unless, by the action of two consecutive Legislatures. Did the people regard this, when they desired to change their Constitution? No, sir, they assembled in primary meetings, and with a voice not to be misunderstood; directed their Legislature to call a Convention; and had that call been disregarded, they then would themselves, have done through the ballot-box, what their Legislature had refused to do. Why this is a strange doctrine, which if successfully taught would soon make the people, fit to become subjects of any despot who might choose to deny them the expression of their opinions in a peaceable and legitimate way, whether that despot was called Governor, President or King. He knows but little about the genius and spirit of our government; the rights and privileges of the people; or the *prerogatives* (as he has termed them,) of those in power; who would counsel the obstinate, and perverse determination of any public functionary, to muzzle the people who desirous of expressing their feelings, or opinions upon any subject, at any time; and more especially in times like these, threatening the direst calamities, to the whole country; nay the entire destruction of the Constitution and the Union. But, sir, in this most powerful, constitutional, and logical address to the people by S; the terms mob, and mob law, disorganizers, revolutionists, riots, treason, hanging, &c., &c., I will not say dance about, "in metaphorical confusion;" but certainly in wordy jumble and nonsence; all of which, has just about as much to do with the subject attempted to be discussed; as had the question of the winding up the clock, to do, with the creation of Tristam Shandy.—Let me advise this ardent friend of order, as soon as Lincoln shall be inaugurated, to go and in humble suppliance to his most royal highness, say: treason made its appearance in the county in which I live; mobs, riots, disorganization, revolution, and the upturning of judicial proceedings; and I know not what besides against legitimate authority, and *prerogative;* were counseled, and advised in an address to the people. But I have the honor of informing your most sublime excellency; that I had the good fortune, in a most powerful essay; to head off these plotters of treason; wherein I plainly told them, that they should hang, for their nefarious attempt to infringe upon your and your friend Hicks' prerogatives; and upturn your legitimate governments; and now I come to offer my services to you in the capacity of "Jack Ketch;" whenever in your wisdom, you shall think proper to hang these lawless traitors; and all I ask for these important services is, that you would place between my hungry lips, one of your best filled treasury paps, that I may suck at my will. Take my advice, I do not doubt Mr. S that you will be gratified in your ardent reachings after treasury pap. But, Mr. Editor, I think I have heard something about mobs and riots. I think I have understood, that the present Executive of Maryland, owes his present official position, to the exercise of mob-law, by which the blood of some of the citizens of Baltimore was shed, in attempting to exercise the constitutional privilege of the elective franchise! I think I have heard that the power to misrepresent, and outrage the wishes of the legal voters of Baltimore; was given to the present Representative in Congress from Baltimore, by mob-law and riot. I think I have heard that mob-law applied the fagot to, and burnt down churches, in the city of Philadelphia, dedicated to the service of Almighty God; and I think that I have understood that those temples dedicated to the service of the great I Am, so sacreligiously and impiously burned to the ground; had never yet been paid for, by the city of Philadelphia or the State of Pennsylvania. Nor have I ever heard that those lawless rioters had been made to pay the penalties of the violated law. I think I have heard, that a building inhabited by inoffensive, and defenceless females, near the town of Boston, was rudely assailed by a fanatical mob, and burned to the earth; and its innocent, and unoffending dwellers, cast forth, a set of houseless wanderers, subject to the sneers, and scoffs and insults of a lawless rabble, by mob-law; and I have heard that no compensation had ever been made to these females for this lawless outrage. I have heard that two citizens of Maryland, Gorsuch and Kennedy, in pursuit of their property, which had been stolen from them; by abolitionists, had been brutally murdered; and that their blood up to this time had cried in vain, from the ground, for vengeance on their murderers; and that the perpetrators of this sanguinary exercise of mob-law had escaped "unwhipt of justice." I have heard that a mob headed by a certain John Brown, had made an irruption into the State of Virginia, murdered some of her citizens; and committed other outrages in pursuance of the doctrines of the "irrepressible conflict" of Abe Lincoln, President elect of the United States. Was S's voice ever raised against these bitter fruits of mob-law?

Let us, my friends, stand up to what we believe to be our right; without regarding these croakers and carpers. Let us endeavor to give whatever aid we can, however feeble, in upholding the honor, interests and dignity of our good old State. Let us be careful to "demand nothing that is not right; and to submit to nothing that is wrong;" and whatever may be the result; we shall have the proud consciousness of knowing; that our posterity will have no cause to blush for the deeds of their ancestors.

SMALLWOOD.

[COMMUNICATED.]

Henry Winter Davis has issued his edict. He has decreed that Maryland shall be the ally of the Black Republican States, and shall aid them in coercing her Southern sisters to submission. Governor Hicks has charged South Carolina with being not only rash and precipitate in her action but unmindful of her duty and respect to the border States, ignoring the rude and unwise temper with which he, in conjunction with the Legislature, repelled her considerate and courteous invitation to a conference one year ago—but as having little cause of complaint by interference with our domestic relations and loss of property, *when compared with the wrongs, in these particulars, done to the citizens of Maryland.* Hear how Mr. Davis deals with these wrongs and the contemptuous regard in which he holds them. "Will any one gravely propose to rush on such ruin? *because a* FEW *negroes have run away and not been caught? because some liberty bills have been passed and not acted on? because a mob once in a while has resisted an* UNPOPULAR *law? because Maryland has been in a minority on a Presidential election?*" Thus it appears all your complaints of Northern aggressions are frivalous and of no account and this whole agitation the fruit of a few designing and factious men at the South. This is what might be expected from a man who defended the constitutionality of the Wilmot proviso, when Henry Clay was exerting himself to preserve the Union by allaying the agitation this proposed measure had produced. A man who had twice given his aid to the election of a Black Republican Speaker. A man who does not possess the confidence, sympathy or respect of a loyal or sound-hearted citizen of the South. A man, whom the pluguglies, by intimidation and fraud at the polls, had raised to his present bad eminence, and who holds it by the favor and guilty forbearance of a Black Republican House of Representatives. A man, whom the State he misrepresents and is laboring to give over to the rule of an Abolition administration, has branded with her censure, as derelict of fidelity to her interests and honor. Distrusted and despised by the great body of the people of Maryland, he hates them with intense passion and would avenge himself by delivering them unarmed and defenceless into the hands of her enemies. Greely has entered into his counsels and come to his aid. He too has issued his edict "that *no State North of the Potomac shall secede.*" The slaveholding States South of that line may depart in peace. Thus these unambitious and patriotic men, Davis and Greely, have assigned us our place; and Davis warns us it would be ruin to resist and he, Governor Hicks says, is a man of "unquestionable nerve," as well as "undoubted patriotism." The one as equivocal as the other. The time is at hand when his courage may be tested. The poor Governor, with good intentions perhaps, is held spell-bound by the malign influence of this man, who uses him to keep the State in a condition of total helplessness and then mocks them with the horors of their situation as the battle-field of conflicting sections. Poor Hicks! his "sleepless nights" have bewildered his brain. He feels, as though he was the Atlas on whose shoulders the Union rested, and fears to move lest the precious burthen should topple from its place of safety and be damaged. He admits that the State is *in a condition of imminent peril*, that the Federal Government is shaking to its base, but does not regard it as "an extraordinary occasion" to justify his call of an extra session of the Legislature. Will he please to define what will constitute "an extraordinary occasion." Does his discretion go beyond the point of deciding the *naked fact*, that a crisis exists which menaces the peace and safety of the State? Has he the right or the constitutional power to provide for such a condition of public affairs? Is it an Executive or Legislative duty, under the Constitution, to decide what measures are necessary to avert, or protect against, this danger? Has the Governor any power to replenish the Treasury which he tells us, is empty? Where does he derive his power to consult the Governors of independent States as to the measures to be taken for the protection of the State or her future action? The Governor has constituted himself sole judge of what is necessary for the exigencies of our situation and dictator of Maryland. He is better informed as to the State of public opinion and the course of policy desired by the people, than all their legislative Representatives and Senators, who live in their midst and exchange views daily. Is the Governor not to be influenced by the examples of his official correspondents?—The Governors of every border State have called the Legislatures of their respective States; Governor Hicks stands a solitary exception. Why this? Is it the means of repressing agitation in the State? Is it the means of preserving the Constitution and the Union? Does this policy of inaction and resistance to popular will, on the part of the Governor, conduce to the security and welfare of the State? The end of the whole matter is, that Maryland exhibits the humiliating and pitiable spectacle of a dumb and fettered people—exposed to great dangers and denied the means of self-protection. Is there no remedy for the evils which the blind and obstinate self-will of one man inflicts on a political community of intelligent and brave freemen? It is for the people of Maryland to give the response and exercise the right of self-preservation.

J. T. S.

[COMMUNICATED.]

RICH HILL, *10th January*, 1861.

MR. WELLS,—*Dear Sir:* The article published in the two last issues of your paper, recommending that the citizens of Charles county should take action in reference to a State Convention, signed by three citizens and others, I observe has left the influence on the minds of many that it was conceived in party spirit; whereas, if the names of the twenty-seven "others," who signed said article, had been published, no such inference could have been deduced. As an act of justice—to at least dispel such an idea, I request you to publish in your next issue, the names of all who signed and were appended when you commenced putting the article in type, that it may be seen the call was made irrespective of former political proclivities. I have annexed the names below, being a copy from the original. Your compliance will oblige,

Very truly, your friend,

SAMUEL COX.

The following are the names alluded to above:

Samuel Cox,	Robert G. Nevitt,
F. Stone,	Wm. Boswell,
W. Mitchell,	Thomas A. Jones,
Wm. Hamilton,	Peter Williams,
P. Davis,	R. Johnson,
Barnes Compton,	E. Wells,
Joseph Stewart,	Daniel W. Hawkins,
J. G. Chapman,	Z. V. Posey,
A. H. Robertson,	Wm. H. Brawner,
Edward Hatcher,	J. H. Button,
Griffin Carter,	John L. Shackelford,
P. H. Muschett,	Robert Digges, Sr.
Wm. B. Matthews,	Rufus Robey,
M. S. Robertson,	W. B. Stone,
Hugh Mitchell,	Townly Robey.

We cheerfully give place in our columns to the above communication, and have to assure the author that nothing is or was so foreign to our intentions as to do injustice to him or either of the others whose names were appended to the call for the "Sovereign Convention" of the people of Maryland. We, however, beg leave to state that the name of E. Wells was appended to the address alluded to by his own hand. It was done, however, under a mistaken impression as to the character of the Convention recommended, and without having previously read the address to the people. In this we did wrong and are free to confess it. While reading proof, we for the first time read the address and ascertained it to be for the purpose of calling a *Sovereign* Convention. Acting upon what we considered the true significance of a "Sovereign" Convention, and that being contrary to our honest and conscientious convictions, we immediately erased our humble name from the list of signers. This we claimed to have had a positive right to do. According to our understanding, the powers of a *Sovereign* Convention are to all intents and purposes the powers of revolution, and which, if not positively limited, *might*, in its sovereign capacity, overthrow the existing government of the State, and in its place substitute one not near so congenial to the people of the smaller and more sparsely settled counties. This was our conviction, and upon this we acted in erasing our signature. We may have erred in our conclusion, but we were honest. "To err is human."

We would here take occasion to say, that should a State Convention be recommended to the voters, whose powers were certainly limited to the exigencies growing out of the present national crisis, and for *specific* objects—to meet these exigencies alone—and devoid of all power to interfere with the present Constitution and the authorities acting under it, E. Wells will cheerfully contribute his mite of support to such a movement, nor throw even the shadow of a barrier in its way. Born and reared in Maryland, and all our interests being here within her borders, we feel no desire beyond the welfare of our State and the happiness and peace of her people. And should a call, as we have just said, be made for the people to express their sentiments on the troubles of the nation, we are firmly in favor of these people being heard at all hazzards, and when that voice is heard, we for one are ready to obey the behest. But, with *our understanding* of the *present* call, we cannot endorse the move.

This much we say in justification of our act in taking off our name, and must leave others, who did the same, to assign their own reasons. We speak for ourselves alone.

Fellow-Citizens of Charles County and especially those of Allen's Fresh District.

WHEN a public servant vacates a post that has been given him by the votes of his fellow-citizens, it is certainly due to the voters that he should assign his reasons for so doing. And as in my judgment, I was surrounded by a state of things that destroyed my usefulness to you, as one of your Commissioners, I felt it my duty to resign, and I shall as briefly as possible give my reasons for so doing. I would here state, if I know myself, I am actuated by no revengeful spirit—by no unkind feeling—towards those with whom by your votes I was associated. I endeavored, as far as I could, to cultivate a friendly feeling with those gentlemen, and to extend to them every courtesy in my power, leaving them at all times to represent their respective districts—(I am sorry the 4th election district had none.)

I endeavored to represent Allen's Fresh freely and fully without fear of enemies or smiles and flatteries of friends; having but one object in view and that was a faithful discharge of my duty as far as I had ability. I have no knowledge of ever opposing the wish of those representing a district, in what they wanted for their district, as I believed they knew best. And I have no knowledge of ever proposing anything for my district—no matter what—that it was not opposed, and in nearly all cases voted down. I may have been too punctilious in my views of etiquette; but if so, it was an error of the head. I did suppose that, nominated as I had been for Allen's Fresh District and elected, my wishes would have been listened to by those from other districts. Finding then, fellow-citizens, that I could not be of any service to you, I resigned, in hopes that there may be some one appointed in my place, who may obtain for you that justice that I could not.

Had respect been paid to my wishes, the public road and bridges on the east side of Zachia Swamp, as well as some portions on the west side, would not be in the deplorable condition they are at this time. The bridge over what is known as the White Oak Run is down and has been so for some weeks, and the road from the edge of Zachia Swamp to the Newtown hill would not now be nearly covered with water; nor would the bridge over Newport, fresh be in the great danger it now is of being seriously damaged. But when I found Mr. Fendall had neglected the road, (indeed he never gave any personal attention to the road on the east side of Zachia Swamp,) I tried to get him removed; and after making some several efforts, it was finally voted down, since December Court last, and the excuse for so doing, he had been sick for three months and could not attend to it. It is known, fellow-citizens, that he had engaged to attend to the boats at Pope's Creek, and had been doing so, and consequently could not attend to both. It is also known that one of the bridges over Zachia Swamp was in a bad condition all through summer and a part of last spring; and that Mr. Fendall's attentien had been repeatedly called to it, and still so it remained until during the session of the Circuit Couat, Mr. Clinton Dent was near losing a valuable horse, since which time it has been repaired. Mr. F. was not sick in the spring and summer, yet no attention was given to the road in my section by him. I had but one voice, and the first district had three. Of course they could vote me down when they pleased; and as the third district had the President of the Board, he only voted when a tie. I found it impossible to get an account curtailed or anything else done that was in my judgment to benefit you. Finding myself a mere cypher and of no advantage, I resigned my position, believing I could advance your interest more by saving to you my per diem than by remaining as one of your Commissioners.

In giving up the honor you conferred on me, fellow-citizens, it is with sincere thanks to you for your confidence in the large vote given me, especially in my own district; and in my retirement I hope always, whilst memory lasts, to retain feelings the most grateful for your large and unmerited vote. In taking leave of you, my fellow-citizens, as your public servant, I do not know that the reasons that prompted me may be satisfactory to you, but to me they were imperative. And I assure you that the last year has destroyed all relish in me for public life. Respectfully, your obedient and humble servant.

JAMES W. BURCH.

jan 17—1t

AMERICAN HORSE-TAMER.

MR. S. EMMONS has returned to this county, for the purpose of fulfilling his engagements heretofore made, and will make a public exhibition of his power and skill over Capt. Sam'l Cox's Cavalry Horse, "Grey Medock," on SATURDAY, the 19th instant, at 2 o'clock, P. M., on the Court House Square. An invitation is extended to all fanciers of horsemanship to be present at the exhibition on Saturday. He will also teach a class of all those desiring to learn the control of wild and vicious horses, on MONDAY, the 21st instant, at 1 o'clock, P. M., at Port Tobacco. Full satisfaction guaranteed. For further particulars inquire at Brawner's Hotel.

Positively the last chance, as he is on his way to the South.

P. S.—He also engages to drive "Grey Medock" in harness, before the public, on Monday next, and is assurred that he is 7 years old the incoming spring, and has never had a collar on to this date, 16th January, 1861.

jan 17—1t.

A TEACHER WANTED.

THE Trustees of School No. 2, in the third election district, will meet at Bensville, on SATURDAY, the 19th instant, at 2 o'clock, P. M., for the purpose of electing a Teacher. All applicants for said school are requested to attend.

JOHN H. COX,
THOMAS S. MARTIN,
WM. F. DEMENT,
S. C. ROBEY,
F. B. GREEN,
Trustees.

jan 17—1t

A TEACHER WANTED.

THE Trustees of Primary School No. 3, in the fourth election district will meet at the School House on MONDAY, the 21st of JANUARY instant, at 11 o'clock, A. M., for the purpose of of electing a Teacher for said school.

WM. A. MUDD,
BENJ. W. GARDINER,
JAS. M. BURCH,
GEO. H. GARDINER,
Trustees.

jan 17—1t

NOTICE.

[illegible] enclosure, a stray HEIFER, [illegible] a good size, about one year old. It is red, with a crop in each ear [illegible] and an under-bit in the left ear. Whoever will pay expenses and prove property, can take it away.

FRANCIS [illegible]

Jan. 17, 1861.