Washington Sentinel.

EDITED BY
WM. M. OVERTON, CH. MAURICE SMITH,
AND BEVERLEY TUCKER.

CITY OF WASHINGTON.

APRIL 14, 1854.

☞ Mr. E. K. Lundy, bookseller, Bridge street, Georgetown, will act as agent for the Sentinel in receiving subscriptions and advertisements.

☞ Mr. George E. French, Bookseller, King street, Alexandria, is our authorized agent to receive advertisements and subscriptions. Single numbers can be procured at his counter every morning.

☞ George W. Mearson is our authorized agent to receive subscriptions and advertisements, in Washington, Georgetown and Alexandria.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate, yesterday, a bill to establish a land office in the lower peninsula of Michigan was passed. The rest of the day was occupied in the consideration of Executive business, after which the Senate adjourned till Monday.

In the House of Representatives, a resolution was adopted, ordering to be printed twenty thousand additional copies of Lieutenants Herndon and Gibbon's report of the explorations of the valley of the Amazon and its tributaries. Mr. Stanton, of Tennessee, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported a bill modifying the judicial system of the United States. Mr. Olds reported a bill to increase the rates of postage to five and ten cents, prepaid, and to reduce postage on letters carried wholly or in part by sea to the above-named rates, except in cases of postal treaties in the foreign countries. The further consideration of the subject was postponed for four weeks. The land graduation bill was perfected in and reported from the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union. An ineffectual motion was made to lay it upon the table; and, pending the question on ordering it to be engrossed for a third reading, the House adjourned.

THE PIVOT.

If the Nebraska bill *did*, as however it does not, emphatically *legislate slavery into Nebraska and into every other Territory*, would not the question in its whole height, depth, length, breadth, and its entire head and front, be fully expressed in the simple sentence—A change of residence? Beyond this definition, in a moral sense, it has no verge; casting without this limit neither light nor shadow.

Those opposed to this bill are bound to show that it does legislate slavery into the Territory; that slavery will certainly go there; and that a change of residence of a slave, intended for his benefit, is an intolerable guilt. Those who object to this change of residence abide by, and profess to revere as the ark of safety, that Constitution whose corner-stone is slavery; which is incontestable from these two facts: first, that, without its acknowledgment, the Union could never have been effected; nor can it be abolished without shivering it to atoms. That Constitution, distinctly and in terms legalized the slave trade forever, and actually forbade any attempt to interfere with the slave-trade with Africa during twenty years, purposely to increase the number of slaves; and it also made it imperative on the federal government to perpetuate it, by having all fugitives restored; making it the express duty of the government to protect this property at sea and on land against all the world; and in case of any attempt by the slaves to free themselves, to resist the attempt even to universal annihilation. All these matters are conceded by the opponents of the bill. They are voluntary participators in all these things, which their fathers before them counselled and agreed to; those very illustrious ancestors of the pilgrim stock whose great virtue can adequately be depicted only by those whose tongues, on both sides, have been rubbed by the "blarney-stone of New England, (Plymouth rock.) Their children wittingly abide by, and profess to conform to, all these requisitions of the Constitution, and yet stumble at the idea of a slave having his residence changed? Verily, there *are* those who can swallow a camel, while they strain at a gnat.

Who will undertake to show *any wrong*, in a change of residence of the slave?

The *status* of no one is changed; no right is diminished, no right acquired.

All this supposes the legislating slavery into the Territory. But the bill does not, in terms, legislate slavery into the Territory. They, therefore, who allege that it does, aver that, if slavery be not expressly prohibited, it is lawfully there under the Constitution *proprio vigore;* for if it be not so, their opposition is baseless. If it be not so, then a clear repeal of the Missouri compromise would not carry it there. But if there be a mere repeal, accompanied, too, by a declaration that it does not revive slavery, then in what a predicament, do *they* place themselves who have so furiously resisted the right of the south to enter with their slaves on other territory, in which it is not prohibited, and how iniquitous does it make the Missouri compromise itself! The opponents of the bill cannot escape the force of these positions: that if the passage of the Nebraska bill will admit slavery into that territory, then follows the conclusive inference that, where it is not expressly excluded, it is certainly there *proprio vigore*. Refute the position who can.

Taking, for the sake of argument, the assumption, that the guilt or the wrong of allowing slavery to change its locality is of so heinous a nature as to render of secondary importance a mutual good will and fraternity of the States—that its exclusion is so imperatively demanded by a sense of religion and justice, as to cause us to disregard the arousing of the bitterest and most unwholesome dissensions, even to the snapping asunder those bonds of union, which have been the very source of our safety, progress, and prosperity—the question would then arise, is there any mode by which we may escape alike the evils of discord, dissensions, and the inevitably mortal blow which would strike all parties by disunion, and at the same time preserve inviolate our scruples against the transmission of slavery from the States in which we acknowledge its rightful existence to territories in which it does not exist?

Every pure mind will admit that the first question to be solved is, to ascertain whether the two things are compatible, or whether any arrangement can be devised, by which the scruples of the north may be respected, and justice at the same time secured to the south. In the event of a friendly dissolution, the rule of division would probably be in proportion to federal representation, (notwithstanding its manifest injustice, because the south would have only to emancipate, or even to apprentice their slaves, and it would confessedly have a claim to two-fifths larger proportion;) or if the Territories be sold, the proceeds are divided *pro rata* according to federal representation, (notwithstanding the glaring injustice of deducting from the south two-fifths, and giving them to the north, in addition to their own share, and at the same time, under direct taxation, taxing to the full value the whole five-fifths of the slave population at their full value as laborers, and exempting entirely from taxation the whole labor of the north, black and white, and allowing them full representation.) Yet, with these cruel inequalities, it may be supposed the north would be content to divide, without seeking, under the cover of sentiment, to reap a richer harvest for their virtue.

If these divisions in the first of the above instances *would* be made, and in the second *has* been made, why *could* not a third now be made to avert so many threatened disasters, such inevitably bitter discords, by agreeing, as a matter of equity, that the south should draw a line dividing all territory into two parts, leaving the selection to the north, or that the north should draw the line of division, leaving the selection to the south?

If, however, from any cause, such division should seem inexpedient, should not the nearest possible approach be made to some such settlement? Can there be any mode so little liable to objection as the one proposed in the Nebraska bill, which is simply that the parties who are to reside in the Territories, whose interests are alone at stake, should have the right to determine their own condition and their own views of interest? Even this arrangement—as have been, without exception, all others—is a cession by the south to northern exactions; for it would appear that the Constitution plainly required enactments to protect and secure slave property, so that it could not be taken from them without their consent; and yet they submit to have their slaves emancipated, if those of the residents, being a majority, not owning slaves, shall say so.

This power in a sovereign State to strip classes of citizens of their property without compensation, if it exists rightfully at all, is never exercised except at the expense of slaveholders. No other property is ever taken from a class.

None of its opponents have grappled with the naked question. None have attempted to demonstrate that there would be any wrong committed, if the bill should pass unanimously—that any moral guilt would attach to either the Representatives in Congress or their constituency at home; that there is any aspect of it which aggravates the wrong of slavery, supposing slavery to be wrong, or that in any way it wrongs any one spiritually or temporally. If, as we allege, it harms no one, then how shameful and unjust is opposition to this bill, from which, in all probability, no change of residence will flow! If anything further were needed to show the wantonness of this opposition, it is in the fact revealed by the census tables, that the streams of migration flow on parallels of latitude; that the north goes west on its own parallel in an almost unbroken column; the middle and southern States following the same law of nature. This fact alone should suffice as a guaranty against slavery in that latitude, if it were right to prevent it. and any guaranty were necessary.

We close for the present with the distinct allegation of our conviction, that if the right and merit of the measure be well understood, the opposition would dwindle to interested parties and crazy fanatics. But alas, *the north will not look at both sides of the question.*

SOLDIERS AND CITIZENS.

The newspapers of the country are engaging with much zeal and earnestness in the discussion, now going on, as to the propriety of appointing military officers to positions purely civil in their character. But all the discussion seems to be on one side. As far as we have the opportunity of judging, there is a singular unanimity against investing military officers with civil functions, and with a control and superintendence over citizens.

We, however, do not concur in all the views and arguments urged by those who advocate a divorce of military from civil functions. We have no complaints to make, as some of them have done, against the army or navy, or against the accomplished officers in either of those branches of the public service. We have a great admiration for them, and a high appreciation of their gallant services. The military academy at West Point has no warmer friends than ourselves. We are in favor of all proper means and measures that have been or can be devised to perfect the army and navy in military and nautical science, and thus better fit them for their arduous duties. We are in favor of the improvements recommended by the Secretaries of War and the Navy. Nor can we join any who would seek to create a prejudice against the gallant men who in peace are the ornaments, and in war the defenders of our country.

All that we desire is to confine these officers to their proper spheres. Plain citizens are no more fitted to superintend their operations in war, than they are fitted to superintend those operations in civil life that require the most assiduous preparation. The only prejudice, perhaps, that can ever spring up against the military in this country, is that which would inevitably be occasioned by withdrawing them from their proper spheres and giving them the control of works and men that have no manner of connexion with them. Jealousy, ill will, and hostility towards these two arms of the public defence cannot but result from so injurious a course. We would guard against this before it grows into a fixed system. We would remove the evil before it becomes incurable. We would do all in our power to promote kindly feeling and a good understanding between the soldier and the citizen.

The most effectual way of doing this is to keep them separate and apart, as they were intended to be kept. We are opposed to mixign variant elements. No good can now come of it. The citizens of this country must, from the necessity of the case, and from the very nature of our institutions, always be more numerous than the military. All appropriations made for the army and navy have to be made by the representatives of the people; and if a hateful system like that we are combating, shall indiscreetly be fostered into life and fastened upon the country, it will create amongst the masses of the people a strong prejudice against the military, which will tell with an irresistible power upon the people's representatives, and will through them act with a crushing power upon the army. All rivalry, all antagonism, between the citizen and the soldier, ought studiously to be avoided; for such rivalry and antagonism must in the end result in injury to the latter.

☞ In addition to the news we gave in our telegraphic columns yesterday, we surrender a large portion of our space to to-day to the proceedings of the Southern and Western Convention, as we do not doubt that there is a general desire amongst our readers to be informed in regard to them. We copy from the Charleston *Mercury* the following remarks on the subject:

"The Convention.—The assemblage of delegate yesterday was large, and the whole proceedings were marked by a cordial, brotherly spirit, that was itsefs worth travelling a thousand miles to witness, among a people that have so much to gain by union, and so much to lose by discord, as those of the southern States. All the slaveholding States were represented except Texas, and we hope to hear from her before the occasion is over. Senator Dawson was made president in spite of his earnest remonstrances. They fairly sacrificed him on the altar of his country. There were good reasons for this. Mr. Dawson is an admirable presiding officer, skilled in the rules of proceeding, ready, composed, and good-tempered. He had been president of the two preceding conventions, and all could unite without scruple in keeping him in an office which he had filled so acceptably before. We deeply regret that Mr. Dawson's health is such as to make it in no small degree burdensome to him to discharge the duties of his office.

"In his speech, on taking the chair, Mr. Dawson was very happy. He reviewed a wide range of topics as subjects for the action of the convention, on many of which there will be general agreement, while others will necessarily be laid aside as involving irreconcilable division of opinion. Among the latter we suppose must be placed his recommendation of embanking the Mississippi, so as to bring into culture the immense swamp regions on its borders. Now, Congress made a present of these swamp lands to the States in which they lie, on the ground that they were unmarketable, without the expense of embanking the river. Surely Congress cannot now be called upon to remove the defect which was the very motive to the grant.

"But there are other objections to this wholesale embankment of the Mississippi, which are quite independent of politics. The Mississippi, when he mounts his freshet team, is no trifler, but a real Titan, bent on carrying all before him. In his mood, he eats a mile of levee at a mouthful, and makes wild work with bridles and harness. And if this embankment could be made complete, the consequence would be an ever accumulating pressure towards the sea. By the time it reached New Orleans, it would be as unmanageable as an earthquake. Indeed that city has already felt the effects of the partial embankments of the stream above.

"There is another consequence of the complete embankment of a great sedimentary river, which abundant experience has shown to be inevitable, we mean the gradual elevation of the bed of the stream above the surrounding country. The true policy is not to compress the freshets of such a river, but to diffuse them by canals as widely as possible. In this way the Chinese have made their great rivers the source of boundless fertility to their country, at the same time that they secured themselves against the dangers of their periodical spring-tides. 'Divide and conquer,' never had a fairer application than in this case."

CORNS.

This is a subject heretofore considered by scientific gentlemen of the pill and lancet as too insignificant to find a place in their medical jurisprudence; while, on the contrary, temperance lecturers have attached great importance to it. This difference of opinion may arise from a variety of forms of the disease. The most extensive, lasting, and troublesome, is that which makes its appearance upon the feet and toes. For years past we have been a sufferer from this last form, and have tried a thousand and one remedies prescribed by kind sympathizing friends, but in vain.

Dr. Levi at last came among us, and, as a forlorn hope, we applied to him for assistance. With our mind fortified against pain, teeth set, and eyes riveted aloft, we gave ourselves up to an anticipated martyrdom. The pleasing conversation of the doctor soon relaxed our rigidity of muscle, and we were much surprised when he showed us a substance, resembling bone, of a conical form nearly a quarter of an inch in length, and could scarcely believe that he had extracted it from our toe until we saw the cavity therein.

As we before said, physicians have attached but little importance to this troublesome complaint, but Dr. Levi has considered it worth many years of study. He operates in a scientific manner, and the recommendations from persons of the highest stations in life show that they have availed themselves of his knowledge on the subject. We refer the afflicted to his advertisement in another column.

THE NATIONAL THEATRE.

We have learned with pleasure that, preparatory to the opening of the next season, such improvements, additions, and alterations will be made as will render this place the agreeable resort it should be. We presume additional lights will be provided, and that the private boxes will be altered, and the seats rendered comfortable. These things, together with additional scenery, a general cleansing and refitting, will render the *toute ensemble* inferior to no theatre in the country, so far as convenient arrangement and comfort are concerned. The front will also receive attention, and present a very different appearance.

We call attention to the advertisement in another column, the terms of which are unusual, and indicate a purpose to offer every possible inducement, on the part of the proprietor, to secure a company of the first talent.

THE BOON CHILDREN.

We understand that these talented and accomplished children have been tendered a complimentary benefit at Risley's Variete, on Saturday evening next, which they have gratefully accepted. Their extreme youth, their extraordinary genius and their helplessness have excited the admiration and enlisted the sympathies of many of the ladies and gentlemen of our city, and they feel it to be both a privilege and a duty to render to them this spontaneous tribute. They deserve a full house and we sincerely hope that they will be remembered on Saturday evening next by all who take an interest in dramatic performances, and all who can appreciate uncommon merit.

☞ As it is probable we shall see at our theatre in this city the lady so favorably mentioned in the subjoined notices taken from California papers, we think it not amiss to let our readers know the opinions of her there entertained. Gentlemen lately returned from California assure us that all that the papers have said of her triumphant success is true, and that, in their opinion, she deserves it all:

"Miss Matilda Heron, whose recent engagement in this city was marked by such flattering evidences of popular approval, will commence a re-engagement this evening, in the character of Bianca, in the tragedy of Fazio. If it is possible to withdraw the public mind from the political vortex in which it is involved, we doubt not it will be done on this occasion, and that a large audience will attest their enfranchisement. If such is not the case, then may the management indeed decide that the fates are adverse."—*Sacramento Union.*

"At the theatre those who anticipated much, realized a joyful fruition of their hopes. Miss Heron, the peerless queen of the Pacific stage, was in exuberant spirits, and acted with all that force, flexible grace, and touching pathos, which pre-eminently belong to her without finding successful imitation elsewhere. As Margaret Elmore, in 'Love's Sacrifice,' her praises have been trumpeted long ere this, and so eloquently sounded that the echo has not yet ceased to reverberate upon hearts where it awoke a train of responsive emotions."—*Ibid.*

"Theatre.—Miss Heron made her re-appearance at the Sacramento theatre last evening as Bianca, in Millman's celebrated tragedy of 'Fazio.' The house was crowded to excess, a large number of those present being ladies. As we have before written, we think that Miss Heron appears to advantage in this character; and, in all the phases of grief, jealousy, revenge, despair and remorse, she portrayed them in a manner so natural as almost to impress upon those present that the various scenes passing before them were realities. Miss Heron appears to-night as Juliet, in the tragedy of 'Romeo and Juliet.'"—*Ibid.*

"Miss Heron complimented the fire department of our city yesterday by presenting each company with a beautifully engraved portrait of the *artiste* who cannot only portray the finest feelings of the soul, but render homage to those who manifest so much disinterested devotion to the public weal, as the gallant firemen."—*Ibid.*

"Theatre.—Last evening Shakspeare's tragedy of 'Romeo and Juliet' was presented, Mr. Wilder sustaining the character of the former and Miss Heron that of the latter. The house was well filled by an appreciative audience. Miss Heron performed her part admirably; indeed, we have never before seen her enter the spirit of the drama with so much energy and intensity of feeling. Her reading was correct and beautiful, and in many portions, embracing some of the purest passages in the English language, she entranced the audience with the fervor of her eloquence, and in the recital of her love for Romeo and grief at his banishment, many an eye was moistened, and those unaccustomed to the melting mood, to give way to their feelings."

[*Sacramento Times.*

"The Theatre.—We again had the pleasure of witnessing the appearance of Miss Heron in the 'Wife,' last evening, supported by Mr. Ryer, as St. Pierre. In no respect was that lady's personation of the character of Mariana, on this occasion, less worthy of commendation than on its presentation during her first engagement in this city. More particularly was she applauded, and deservedly, in the scene with her confessor, (McGowan,) wherein she revolts at the contemplated taint of her honor."—*Ibid.*

"The Theatre.—The audience at the theatre was unexpectedly large for so unpromising a night. The play was 'Love,' by Knowles; and the Countess was rendered by Miss Heron so strikingly truthful, natural, and impressive, as to command the most intense and unflagging attention of the audience. In our estimation, the Countess is one of the best characters for exhibiting the peculiar excellencies of this gifted lady as an actress."—*Ibid.*

"Miss Heron.—This talented *artiste* is performing successfully at Stockton, and eliciting most flattering notices from the press of that city."—*Ibid.*

Supreme Court of the United States,

Thursday, *April* 13, 1854.

No. 83. A. J. Marshall, plaintiff in error, *vs.* the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company. The argument of this cause was continued by Messrs. Latrobe, and Reverdy Johnson, for the defendants in error.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

Criminal Statistics.—The Philadelphia *Sun* culls from the report of the chief of police of New York city the following statistics:

"During the three months ending with September, 1853, there were arested for intoxication and disorderly conduct 6,418, being an increase of 2,963, or about 85 per cent. in 4½ years.

"In eight years, ninety-three thousand nine hundred and forty-four persons were arrested for intoxication directly. They were found drunk. Forty eight thousand two hundred and seventeen were arrested for intoxication and disorderly conduct. Twenty-seven thousand for assault and battery. In other words, rum, and then the fight. Thirty-four thousand seven hundred and thirty-five for disorderly conduct. Here, again, rum, and then disorderly conduct. Twenty-one thousand, one hundred and fifty-five for vagrancy.

"Rum first, vagrancy the fruit, and so on to the end of the said chapter. How much better we are off in Philadelphia, we shall not now pause to inquire. One fact is well known. to wit: that eleven thousand, six hundred and thirty-two men and women were sent to Moyamensing the last year for drunkenness, and those petty crimes which scarcely none but drunkards commit."

Ludicrous Mischief.—The following "droll incident" is related in the *Knickerbocker*, as having occurred to a lady of high respectability in Brooklyn:

"The lady has a charming little boy, very observing, imitative, and active. The child had noticed the postman constantly leaving letters, and moving off quick; and he thought it would be a very nice thing to become a postman. So he one day went to his mamma's *escrutoire*, and took out some twenty-five or thirty letters, tied them up, and sallied forth, leaving one at every house, and moving off quick. The lady was rather surprised, when her next neighbor brought her an open letter, which she said somebody had left at her door; but what was her astonishment, when visiting hour arrived. for another, and another, and another lady coming in, all bringing open letters, until her ample parlor was completely crammed. You need not doubt the mirth and fun grew fast and furious, as each lady entered with the same tale, and the little postman was elated beyond measure to find what a capital postman he was; but the best of the fun was, that every lady, one and all, asserted she had not unfolded or read one word—oh! no, not they. Ladies are far, far above prying into other ladies' letters. The fair lady to whom the letters were addressed, is fortunately the mother of a large and lovely family, and the letters were from early friends, schoolmates," &c.

Albany, April 12.—The democratic State central committee has adjourned. It passed resolutions condemning the administration, and agreed to meet again July 12.

SOUTHERN AND WESTERN COMMERCIAL CONVENTION.

This convention, which for some time past has attracted a large share of public attention, assembled in Charleston on Monday last, the 10th instant. The *Mercury* says:

"The delegates to the Southern and Western Commercial Convention assembled at the theatre, at 11 o'clock, in large numbers. The first tier of boxes and the parquette were devoted to the delegations of the different States, and the stage to the officers of the convention and invited strangers. Handsomely ornamented placards of 'Arkansas,' 'Texas,' 'Mississippi,' 'Missouri,' 'Illinois,' 'Florida,' 'Kentucky,' 'Alabama,' 'Tennessee,' 'Georgia,' 'Louisiana,' 'North Carolina,' 'Virginia,' 'District of Columbia,' 'Maryland,' 'Indiana,' 'Ohio,' and 'South Carolina,' designated the localities of the different delegations, while the second tier of boxes was graced with the presence of the ladies and gentlemen of the city.

"The following were the delegates who had registered their names previous to the meeting of the convention."

(Names of delegates omitted.)

Delegates were in attendance from Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Arkansas, and Missouri.

The proceedings are thus sketched in the *Mercury:*

The Hon. T. Leger Hutchinson having called the convention to order, requested the Rev. Dr. C. Hanckel to open the proceedings: whereupon the reverend gentleman offered up a most fervent and eloquent prayer.

The mayor then requested the Hon. Wm. C. Dawson, the president of the commercial convention, which assembled at Memphis in June last, to preside over the deliberations of the convention; which motion was responded to with tokens of approbation by the convention.

Mr. Dawson acknowledged his sense of obligation in the renewal of the compliment which had been twice already conferred upon him, but most respectfully and sincerely declined its acceptance, for reasons which he assigned at some length and in very felicitious terms.

Col. W. H. Sneed, of Tenn., moved the appointment of a committee of three from each delegation to nominate officers of the convention, which was seconded by the Hon. C. C. Clay, of Alabama, and the question being taken, the motion was unanimously agreed to.

The committee having retired for deliberation, returned after a brief interval, and reported the following nominations:

President.

Hon. William C. Dawson, of Georgia.

First Vice President, Lieut. M. F. Maury.

Secretary, Wilmot G. DeSaussure, of S. C.

Vice Presidents.

S. F Leake, Virginia.
Gen. J. Winslow, North Carolina.
Hon. J. A. Woodward, South Carolina.
Judge E. T. Nesbit, Georgia.
Hon. C. C. Clay, sr., Alabama.
S. W. Oakley, Louisiana.
W. D. Coleman, Mississippi.
Dr. John Shelby, Tennessee.
Gen. Leslie Combs, Kentucky.
W. D. Moseley, Florida.
Thos. Whitridge, Maryland.

Secretaries.

T. T. Hutchins, Maryland.
Mr. Rose, Virginia.
Thomas Doring, North Carolina.
A. P. Aldrich, South Carolina.
James Hamilton, Georgia.
John W. Jones, Alabama.
J. B. Leak, Lousiana.
Mr. Mathews, Mississippi.
R. L. Saunders, Tennessee.
——— ———, Kentucky.
C. A. Prince, Florida.

Mr. Nesbit then offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this committee recommend to the convention that a committee of three from each delegation be appointed on resolutions, and to report business for the convention.

On motion by Mr. A. F. Browning, of South Carolina, a committee of three was appointed to wait on the Hon. W. C. Dawson, and conduct him to the chair, and Messrs. James Lyons, and General W. F. Gordon, of Virginia, Thomas J. Campbell, of Tennessee, and General J. A. Young, of North Carolina, were appointed said committee.

The committee retired and in a short time returned with the Hon. W. C. Dawson, who, in taking the chair, made his acknowledgment for the honor conferred upon him, and touched upon the topics which would probably be submitted for the consideration of the convention, among which were direct importation and exportations, the Pacific railroad, the Tehuantepec railroad, commercial connexions with South America, mail communications with foreign countries, education at home, manufactories at the south, improvement of the navigation of the Mississippi river, and its embankment so as to reclaim the immense extent of swamp lands in its borders for cultivation. His remarks were received with much applause.

On motion of Mr. Coleman, of Mississippi, it was ordered that the daily sittings of the convention be from 9, a. m., to 3, p. m.

On motion of C. K. Marshall, of Mississippi, it was resolved that the delegates from each State appoint three of their number to compose a general committee, who shall prepare and submit to this convention such business as they may deem suitable for its deliberations.

The several delegations having been called upon, named the following gentlemen for members of the committee:

Maryland.—Wm. Creighton, Geo. Bartlett, Joshua Jones.

Virginia.—James Lyons, Myer Myers, Odin G. Clay.

North Carolina.—Dr. J. H. Gibbon, P. K. Dickinson, A. J. DeRosset, jr.

South Carolina.—James Chesnut, C. G. Memminger, Henry Gourdin.

Georgia.—Nelson Tift. Judge E. A. Nesbit, Hiram Roberts.

Florida.—Benj. F. Whitner, J. B. Brown, Stanislaus Glinske.

Alabama.—Daniel Coleman, N. J. Scott, N. Lockett.

Louisiana.—Samuel W. Oakey, David J. Hook, Jno. B. Leeafe.

Mississippi.—J. W. Clapp, T. A. Marshall, R. H. Crump.

Tennessee.—Wm. H. Polk, J. Knox Walker, Gen. Wm. C. Kyle.

Texas.—Mr. Ray.

Kentucky.—Gen. Leslie Combs, Lieut. M. F. Maury.

Upon Kentucky being called, Gen. Leslie Combs arose, and stated that the delegation from Kentucky not having arrived, he asked permission to name Lieut. M. F. Maury to represent Kentucky. And thereupon the president appointed Gen. Combs and Lieut. Maury as above.

On motion of Mr. G. W. Perkins, of Virginia, the following resolution was adopted, viz:

Resolved, That the rules of the House of Representatives of the United States, so far as applicable to the same, be adopted for the government of this body.

The following resolution presented by Mr. C. K. Marshall, of Mississippi, was referred to the committee on resolutions, viz:

Resolved, That it is the deliberate sense of this convention, that the object for which we are convened is the general development and maintenance of the rights and resources of the southern and southwestern States; and while we regard commerce as the great colonizer, civilizer, and christianizer of mankind, which, with its various carrying interests, demands our special consideration, we also recognise as our legitimate business all other matters of a practical character tending to the accomplishment of the general design—embracing education, agriculture, home manufactures, navigation, and the occupancy of our vast uncultivated lands.

On motion of Mr. Thomas T. Hutchins, of Maryland, the following resolution was adopted, viz:

Resolved, That the vice-presidents be appointed a committee to report on the mode of voting.

The following resolution, submitted by Mr. George A. Trenholm, of South Carolina, was referred to the committee on resolutions, viz:

Resolved, That this convention recommends in the most earnest manner, to the people of the south, and most particularly to the merchants in the sea-ports, to embark a suitable portion of their capital in the construction or purchase of ships, to convey directly to foreign ports our agricultural and other productions, and bring home the return cargoes of foreign commodities. That a commercial marine, capable of performing this service, would relieve the south from an enormous tribute now paid to other States of this Union and foreign countries, and turn the gains of this lucrative and invigorating pursuit into a new element of southern southern opulence and strength.

Accompanying this resolution was a report thereupon, which was also referred to committee on resolutions.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this convention, a material reduction or absolute repeal of the duties now levied on railroad iron by the general government, is a measure that would conduce in a high degree to promote the interest of all the States.

Resolved, That this convention do earnestly recommend this measure to Congress, as one of great national benefit, and respectfully solicit their early and favorable action upon it.

The following resolution, submitted by Mr. George A. Trenholm, of South Carolina, was referred to committee on resolutions, viz:

Resolved, That we recommend to the legislatures of the States representhd in this convention, to exempt from State taxes during one year ensuing the importation thereof, all goods directly imported from foreign ports into any portion of the southern States.

Mr. Morgan, of Virginia, submitted sundry proceedings of the Central Southern Rights Association of Virginia, and on his motion the same were referred to the committee on resolutions.

On motion, the convention then adjourned.

Colt in the Caucasus.

We find the following interesting anecdote, illustrating the value of a recent American invention, in an English paper of the 18th of February:

In Daghestan a young Lesghian chief, being severely wounded during one of the frequent razzias of the Russians, took refuge in a ruined sakli,* in order to apply bandages to his wounds. While thus employed, he was discovered by a party of twelve dismounted dragoons, who immediately gave chase on his taking flight. Being fleet of foot, for a short while he outran them, during which time such of them as had their carbines loaded and fired at him ineffectually. Having crossed one of the flexible bridges, common in that country, and which was over a rapid torrent at the foot of a mountain, the fugitive, finding himself unable to proceed much further, and having time to put his arms in order, stood at bay under a projecting rock. With yells of delight and uplifted sabres, the Russians approached the bridge. The foremost nearing him cried, 'Yield, dog!' 'Not whilst I have twelve lives at my girdle," cried the undaunted mountaineer. The Russians in the rear laughed loudly at the boast; but he in advance fell dead, pierced through and through by a bullet, nearly at the feet of the Lesghian. The second soldier stumbled over his dead comrade, and as he rose received a shot which caused him to fall severely wounded. The next, seeing the same weapon, which had twice been discharged, still pointed, rushed on; but, to the surprise of the Russians, a third shot was fired at him; untouched, however, he was about to cut down the Lesghian, when a fourth discharge scattered his brains on the rocky parapet, and his lifeless body tumbled into the torrent beneath. Three of the Russians had now fallen. "What devil of a pistol is this, that speaks so often?" cried the survivors to each other. The Lesghian still stood firm, merely folding his pelisse of sheep's-skin round his left arm, ready to receive a blow, a precaution not unneeded, since now two Russians, abreast, were on the point of assailing him. Certain of their prey, these advanced more cautiously than their predecessors. This time two deliberate shots brought them down right and left; each felt pierced near the region of the heart. The remaining soldiers were amazed.

The Lesghian, faint with loss of blood, and feeling his strength fast ebbing, now drew forth another pistol, a movement unobserved by the enemy, and rapidly fired three shots at the group of Russians, some fifty yards distant, at the other end of the bridge. Owing to his sight being now dim, only one shot took effect, wounding one of the dragoons in the shoulder. "Let us fly," they cried; "it is the evil spirit of the mountains; he would kill our whole army." Accordingly they precipitately fled, just as the Lesghian sank down exhausted at the foot of the rock. At a distance they ventured to look back. "It hath vanished in the mist," cried the superstitious Muscovites.

The Lesghian chief was succored by some of his own people, and ere long recovered from his hurt, as did the wounded Russian. At his bridal feast, some four months after, the pistols, which were a pair of Colt's revolvers, and were a gift from an American traveller, Capt. K——, to the youthful hero of the Caucasus, were handed round amid the general benedictions of the party. The bride is said to have even kissed them, saying; "Ah! my Dehemet, were all the brave Circassians armed like thee, there would not be so many tearful maidens and bereaved widows in Daghestan."

The Russian prisoner, soon reconciled by kind treatment to his position, has had the cruel horse-hair† removed from his heel, and has often cleansed and loaded those identicel specimens of the fatal weapons, destined to effect such a revolutlon in the warfare of the world.

The story of the "devil's pistol" was long told among the simple Russian soldiery,‡ when conversing on their weary march, as the winding column ascended some interminable mountain, or when the grateful samovar (kettle) gave promise of tea at the close of their day's journey. Now, the partial introduction of the arm among the officers has in some degree dissipated the telling effect of the story, but many still devoutly believe that the young Lesghian chief was no other than the prince of darkness himself out on a sporting expedition for the express purpose of bagging Russian soldiers.

* The "sakli" is the habitation of the eastern Caucasus. It is constructed of unhewn stones, cemented with clay, instead of mortar.

† A tuft of horse-hair is commonly inserted by the Circassians in the heels of their prisoners, in order to create such a degree of lameness as to prevent their escape.

‡ The simplicity of many of the Russian soldiers is almost touching in its childishness. It is against the czar that we are making war, not against these unfortunate beings.

Brigands in Italy.—Last week some French travellers of distinction, amongst whom was a prelate with some thousands of francs in his possession, left Civita Vecchia for Rome, in two carriages, and had hardly got half a dozen miles on their road, when they were stopped by eight bandits, who hauled them out and placed them in the humiliating position in the dust generally enforced by gentlemen of the road in this country, and sufficiently indicated by the energetic command, "*faccia a terra!*" The travellers were then eased of their money, of which the brigands found a satisfactory amount, and were consequently courteous in the treatment of their patients, and allowed them to proceed towards Rome. The delinquents, to avoid being recognised, used masks and false beards.

Congressional.

THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

Senate—Thursday, April 13, 1854.

The CHAIR presented the memorial of the general assembly of the Presbyterian church, praying that steps be taken to secure freedom of conscience to Americans in foreign countries.

LAND DISTRICT IN MICHIGAN.

Mr. STUART, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported back House bill establishing a land office in the lower peninsula of Michigan; and the same was considered and passed.

MICHIGAN RAILROAD.

On motion by Mr. CASS,

Resolved, That the Committee on Public Lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making a grant of land to aid in the construction of a railroad from Iron bay, in the State of Michigan, to Little Bay de Noquette.

PATENT EXTENSION.

Mr. FESSENDEN reported a bill extending the patent of Obed Hussey for a reaping machine.

And then, on motion by Mr. MASON, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of executive business.

At 4 o'clock the Senate adjourned till Monday.

House of Representatives.

Mr. STANTON, of Kentucky, from the Committee on Printing, reported a resolution to print ten thousand additional copies of the report of the surveys and exploration of the valley of the Amazon and its tributaries, by Lieutenants Herndon and Gibbons.

Mr. BOYCE moved an amendment to print twenty thosand additional copies.

Mr. JONES, of Tennessee, said that ten thousand copies of the report had already been ordered to be printed.

It was said, in the course of conversation, that the copies will shortly be furnished.

Mr. JONES, of Tennessee, remarked, in reply to Mr. Heister, that if such a large edition of the report should be ordered, the copies would not be furnished until the next Congress, when they would be distributed by the successors of gentlemen now occupying seats on this floor.

Mr. HIESTER responded, still they would go into our districts, and be circulated among the people.

The amendment of Mr. Boyce was agreed to, and the resolution was in this form adopted.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Mr. GREY asked leave to offer a resolution, calling on the Postmaster General to furnish the House with copies of all orders, rules, and regulations adopted by him, denying to members of the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads the privilege of going into the rooms of the department during office hours, and then and there examine the public records of the department; and further, that the Postmaster General be directed to abolish all orders and regulations which prevent and deny to members of the committee such a privilege.

Mr. PHELPS objected to the reception of the resolution.

Mr. GREY, however, obtained the consent of the House to make an explanation. He said that a resolution had been adopted, calling for information in relation to the carrying of the mail between Mobile and Montgomery; but, as the reply of the Postmaster General was contradictory, he went to the department to ascertain how it was. He repeated he thought there was a mistake in the report. But he was denied such investigation or examination as was necessary to enable him to discharge his duty as a member of the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads. He addressed a letter to the Postmaster General, but received no answer to it; and therefore he was constrained to come before the House for their interference. By the original contract the mail was carried between Montgomery and Mobile for $56,175, in fifty-eight hours, but there is now paid for the same service $101,000, and the mail goes through in fifty-nine hours, or one hour longer time.

Mr. PHELPS repeated his objection to the introduction of the resolution.

Mr. GREY asked, as it was impossible for him to investigate the facts, to be discharged from further service on the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

Mr. HARRIS, of Alabama, said he was prepared to meet every objection to the present contract, and wanted the fullest investigation.

Mr. PHELPS said he objected to the resolution, because he considered the regulations to be right.

Mr. OLDS was willing that the resolution should be referred to the commitee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

But the objection to its reception was not withdrawn.

Mr. GREY was here excused from service as a member of that committee—ayes 86, noes 37.

INCREASE OF POSTAGE.

Mr. OLDS, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, reported a bill amendatory of the postage laws.

He said it was not his intention at this time to enter into an extended argument in favor of the bill, but merely to explain its features. He remarked, the other day, that one of two things should be done. We should either abandon the idea of making the Post Office Department a self-sustaining machine, and make the department a charge on the treasury, or so raise the postage as to meet the expenditures. As long as the system is neither one thing nor the other, it operates injuriously on the rural districts, not on the cities, in the eastern States, where the postal arrangements are perfect. We have a deficit of more than two millions of dollars; and what is the consequence? A gentleman from a western or a southern State goes to the Postmaster General and asks for increased service or for a new post office. The answer is, no funds; the department is crippled, and we cannot give you increased facilities. If you, however, make the post office a charge on the country, as the army and the navy, then the Postmaster General will give increased facilities or new post offices.

Mr. SKELTON asked that the consideration of the bill be postponed till a day certain. It was of too much importance to be considered and passed without an opportunity for investigation.

Mr. OLDS, in order to keep the bill before the House, moved that the bill be recommitted.

Mr. WENTWORTH, of Illinois, said the House had for some time past been postponing bills for a day certain, and therefore he hoped that they would name a certain day. But he was opposed to those postponements.

Mr. OLDS resumed his remarks, reading from statistics to show that