

The breaking of our large Power Press, soon after we commenced printing our paper this week, has compelled him to delay in despatching part of the edition.

For the Free Press.

"A HAPPY NEW YEAR."
The friends of Rev. J. H. Woodward will make his twenty-fourth annual sermon at his usual place in Westford, Tuesday, Jan. 1, 1861, afternoon and evening.

With a merry heart will you come?
Such was the cord, nicely printed, and signed by a comely clerk, who was responded to by nearly three hundred annual subscribers, which have been received without interruption for nearly a quarter of a century.

The visit, like its predecessors, was a very pleasant one, and has never been surpassed in the variety and liberality of its gifts. Grateful as we trust we have been, and are, for these liberal and benevolent contributions, more deeply affected by the wealth of affection, which prompted them, year by year, through a somewhat protracted residence in Westford. We have not what may be styled a wealthy people, but we have a somewhat peculiar people, (under us to say in most respects a very good people.) Many of them should have been seen in the city.

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J. H. WOODWARD,
J. D. WOODWARD.

Four States have declared their separation from the Union. The dates of the adoption of the Ordinances of Secession are as follows: Dec. 20—South Carolina Ordinance passed; Jan. 9—Mississippi Ordinance passed; Jan. 11—Alabama Ordinance passed; Jan. 11—Florida Ordinance passed.

We shall, doubtless, chronicle in due time their return to the Union, sadder and wiser States.

It snowed all day yesterday, commencing before light, and there was more than a foot of snow on the ground—a greater fall than at any time this winter. The weather is mild and still.

The Legislature of New Jersey yesterday elected Douglas Democratic officers throughout.

The Legislature of Maine has elected Ex-Gov. Morrill to succeed Vice President McKim, in the United States Senate. The vote in the Senate was unanimous. In the House the vote stood:

For Mr. Morrill 124
For G. F. Shepley 27

New York, Jan. 10.—Hon. John A. Dix, has been summoned to Washington, to take a seat in the Cabinet. It is uncertain whether he will take the War or Interior Department, or Postmaster Generalship.

A special dispatch from Washington says the Cabinet is deliberating upon the propriety of arresting Senators Toombs and Wigfall, for high treason.

Baltimore, Jan. 9.—A company of marines, numbering 400 men, under Lieut. Powell, came in a special train from Washington this morning and took possession of Fort Mifflin and raised the stars and stripes.

SLAVE CAPTURED.—The ship *Lesbia*, under French colors, supposed to be the *M. tank* of New York, was brought into Havana by a Spanish war steamer, last week, with 600 negroes.

Items of News.

Business at Manchester N. H. is never better than now. Every spindle in the manufactory is running full time, and the operatives' pay-roll amounts to \$110,000 per month. The great mills are kept at southern thrash of starting them now.

A Lowell Hotel, Saturday night, E. O. Cohen of Newport, Vt., on retiring to rest, either blew out his gas-light, or turned the screw round so as to let it on after he had extinguished it. The hotel was consumed by the fire, and the hotel was destroyed, and he was found insensible the next morning.

A freeman on an Express Train on the Hudson River Railroad was knocked from his seat sprawling on the rails in the tender, on Tuesday, by the breaking of a connecting rod. The seat upon which he sat and the whole side of the engine house were shivered to pieces by the revolving broken rod. The conductor saved him from every thing but a few bruises.

News of the Week

By Telegraph to the Daily Free Press.

THE PROGRESS OF REBELLION.

NORFOLK, Jan. 9.

The United States Steamer *Brooklyn* has sailed.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.

The object of the departure of the steamer *Brooklyn* is supposed to be to relieve the Star of the West in case the South Carolina authorities oppose her ingress into the harbor and bring the troops back to Norfolk.

William H. Russell has been hailed for \$100,000.

JACKSON, Miss., Jan. 9.

The Ordinance for the immediate secession of the State passed the Convention yesterday, by a vote of 84 against 15. All the prominent buildings in the place are illuminated. Cannon were fired and other demonstrations made.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 9.

The Convention has been in secret session to-day. A Committee of 7 secessionists and 6 co-secessionists was appointed to draft a secession Ordinance, which will report tomorrow. A test vote shows that the secessionists have a small majority.

Five volunteer companies are for Pensacola, to-day, understood by the request of the Governor of Florida.

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The despatch about the attack upon the *Star of the West* is false. Capt. McQueen telegraphs that he has arrived safely with the troops for Major Anderson, and is quietly anchored in Charleston harbor.

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with much vigor by disunionists in the House on Saturday. Upon the ground that the navy was a subject of the laws, and thus to put the army before the South. The bill was finally passed with the understanding that the army bill be debated.

In Virginia, the question of secession is to be submitted to a vote of the people, to be given at the time the delegates to the State Convention are elected.

Mr. Toombs has left Washington and gone home to Georgia.

FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.

CHARLESTON, 14.

Resolutions have unanimously passed the legislature, declaring that any attempt by the Federal Government to reinforce Fort Sumpter will be regarded as an act of open hostility, and a declaration of war; also approving of the act of firing on the *Star of the West*. New Military Companies are pouring in from all parts of the State. The people are quiet, but the work of defense goes bravely on.

NEWARK, Jan. 12.

A fire on Saturday night destroyed 50 establishments in Hollis, George and Prince streets, and Chesapeake, including Exchange Rooms, the Journal, Chronicle, Gazette, the *Madison* Library, the *Shirley* Office. Many persons injured.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.

It is reported that private advice from Jackson, Louisiana, state the election for delegates to the convention resulted in a majority against secession.

It is understood that the South Carolina commissioners are here to demand from the United States government the unconditional evacuation of Fort Sumpter with a view to avoid the shedding of blood. The Administration has not yet considered the proposition.

A dispatch has just been received from Governor Ellis of North Carolina saying that the state troops had been ordered to evacuate Fort Clinch and surrender it to Federal authority.

The cabinet is now in session, and General Dix, the new Secretary of the Treasury is present for the first time. It is understood that the consultation relates to the proposed return to the post office demanded by South Carolina by the federal government.

Senator Bly of Pennsylvania, the President's confidential friend predicts from the part of the Administration. Senator Thompson of New Jersey and Douglas of Illinois, strongly denounce the recent acts of secession. Senator Kennedy of Maryland assembled the Republican Senators yesterday, by remarking that the State he represented would secede from the Union in the event of the South Carolina secession.

The people of West Florida talk of seceding from the rest of the State, and annexing to Alabama all the region lying west of Apalachicola river.

A despatch from Charleston states that the commander of U. S. troops at Pensacola, Major Anderson, has abandoned the fort. The force in harbor except Fort Pickens which has been evacuated, has been ordered to leave. Major Anderson has gone from Mobile to attack him.

At a private dinner at Washington yesterday, when General Scott and Mr. Toombs were present, the latter expressed the hope that the *Star of the West* would be sunk with her cargo, and that she would be a warning to other States.

Florida and Alabama both seceded yesterday at 2:30 P. M.

Principal agent in the Senate yesterday was a speech by Hunter of Virginia proposing amendments to the Constitution, securing protection to Slavery in Territories and of Africa of Columbia, and providing for a chief executive to consist of a President elected from each section of the Union and holding office at the same time. On this plan as it stands the Union may be reconstructed but not otherwise.

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