THE CONSTITUTION—STATE RIGHTS.

RICHMOND WHIG

TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 19, 1861.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

☞ Letters on business must be addressed to the Editor of the Whig.

☞ Articles written on both sides of the paper will not be published. This is a rule of long standing, ought to be known to all, and will in no case be departed from. Obituary notices exceeding eight lines are charged for as advertisements.

☞ We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

The Convention—Policy of Conservatives—Tactics of Disunionists.

In the present excited condition of the public mind, we are not at all surprised to hear of some dissatisfaction with the apparently tardy movements of the Convention. At the outset, the policy of the Disunionists was "haste and precipitation!" In their judgement, the Convention ought to have organized the first day of the session, and carried Virginia "high and dry" out of the Union on the second. But of late their tactics seem to have changed. Admonished by several significant votes, that the majority of the body were conservative, and did not mean to be hurried into the commission of any act of madness or folly, the Breckinridge Disunionists seem to to be suddenly impressed with the importance of the duties devolved upon the Convention, and of the necessity of deliberation and calmness, and mature consideration—"*Festina lente*" is now their motto, and they claim the widest latitude of debate. If rumor is to be credited the delay in the report of the committee was, in large measure, occasioned by the tedious harrangues, in that body, of the Disunionists. Indications in the Convention all point to DELAY, as the policy of the destructives. For example; on Friday, at a quarter to two o'clock, Mr. Randolph obtained the floor, and asked the favor of the Convention to adjourn. Thus one day was lost, with the exception of a session of an hour and three quarters. Saturday, Mr. Randolph spoke about an hour and a half, and Mr. Morton, at a little past two o'clock, moved an adjournment, Mr. Randolph yielding the floor for that purpose. Thus the good part of another day was lost. Yesterday Mr. Randolph occupied the floor again, and has it still for to-morrow. It will be well for the Convention to have an eye on the political managers. There may be a purpose to bring odium on the Convention by procrastination. There may be the further purpose to gain time, and operate on the weaker-kneed conservatives, by bogus instructions, such as those fabricated in Petersburg, for the purpose of influencing the action of that sterling patriot, David Branch.

We advert to these matters to put the majority on their guard. We are opposed to precipitate action. We are for giving an ample range for debate. But we do not desire to see the Convention talked to death, nor do we desire to see it rendered odious by an unnecessary prolongation of its session. In our judgment, ten days is time enough for discussion. If members want to speak, let the Convention meet earlier and have night sessions. These will afford ample opportunity for letting off surplus steam. But let a resolution be adopted, at an early period, indicating a fixed day when debate shall cease and voting shall begin, otherwise we shall have an interminable out-pouring of words!

The sessions of the Convention, thus far, have been productive of great good. No decisive action has been taken, it is true, but the members have been busy in studying the great questions, and in comparing opinions, and sifting propositions, and preparing for wise action.

It could not reasonably have been expected that the Convention would act with great promptitude. The questions are too large and the interests at stake too complicated to be dealt with in that way. If the object had been to break up the Government, it might have been accomplished without much delay. The incendiary may lay in ashes, in a day, an edifice which it cost twenty years of labor to erect. But the Convention was sent here not to destroy the Government, but to preserve it. This requires a revision of our federal organic law, and requires almost as much labor to accomplish it, as it cost our fathers originally to frame it. Indeed, in view of the excited condition of the public mind, and the clashing sectional interests which have been arrayed against each other, we doubt if the work of reforming and repairing the Constitution so as to adapt it to existing exigencies, is not more difficult than that of its original construction. Hence the performance of such high duties might be productive of incalculable mischief.

The simple fact that the Convention is in session has, we are persuaded, been productive of great good. It has exercised a conservative influence not only in Virginia, but throughout the Union. It has tended to restrain the impetuosity of our own people. It has stayed the progress of discion in the non-seceding slave States, and we think we hazard little in saying that it has exercised a powerful influence on the policy of the Administration at Washington. The knowledge of the fact that the great State of Virginia—one which enjoys to so large a degree the confidence of her sisters of the South, and the respect of her sisters of the North—was here in Convention assembled, ready to take such action, at a moment's warning, as the exigencies of the times might require, could not fail to inspire confidence in the public mind of the South, and to exercise a restraining influence in the North. Mr. Lincoln and his Cabinet cannot overlook this important fact, and nothing could be better calculated to lead to the adoption of pacific counsels by the Administration.

If the Convention were ready to act finally to-morrow, we are by no means certain that the public interests would be advanced by its immediate adjournment. As long as the policy of the Administration remains undeveloped, it may be best for the Convention to remain in session, and have an eye to the progress of events. If it be true that it has had some influence in shaping the policy of the Administration and preserving the peace hitherto, it certainly would be desirable that so conservative a power should not be withdrawn at this particular crisis of public affairs.

We have conversed freely with members of the Convention, and we are persuaded that the action of the body will be eminently wise and conservative, and as our distant readers will naturally desire to know what that action will be, we venture, for their satisfaction, to state our impressions on the subject.

We believe that, after full debate and thorough examination, the Convention will indicate by resolutions the constitutional amendments and guarantees which, in the judgment of Virginia, are necessary for the security of her rights and institutions. When these are agreed on she will invite a conference of the non-seceded slave States, at Frankfort or Nashville, to consider our propositions, and to make common cause with her. She will not offer her propositions as an *ultimatum*, but merely as her contribution to the general stock of suggestions on the subject. Some of her wisest and most patriotic citizens will be sent by the Convention to this Conference, and her propositions will there be considered, and, it may be, modified in some respects—though not in any essential particulars. When harmony and concurrence shall have been secured among the border States, the propositions, as agreed on by them, will be submitted as an *ultimatum* to the Northern States. This *ultimatum*, we feel assured, will embrace no unreasonable features—nothing which is not in strict conformity with the principles of the Constitution, as understood and acted on by the fathers of the Republic. If it should be accepted by the North, the Union will be preserved and harmony restored. If, on the other hand, it be rejected, then the border States will, in a body, withdraw from the Union, and unite with such States, both slaveholding and non-slaveholding, as may be willing to adopt them. In the event of rejection, we believe that New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois will unite with the border States. The result may be to throw off the New England States and the extreme North-western States. The Gulf States will soon find it to their interest to re-unite themselves to this conservative Confederacy, and ultimately the excluded Northern States, having learned a lesson of wisdom and humility, will knock at our doors for re-admission into the family mansion.

This is a noble programme, and it is one which we believe will lead to the restoration of the Union to all of its pristine glory and ample proportions. We are satisfied that the ultimatum of the Border States will be so fair and just and reasonable, that it will be promptly and gladly embraced by an overwhelming majority of the Northern States, and that any which may feel temporary dissatisfaction will be compelled to acquiesce.

The Precipitators object to a Border Conference.—And why? Simply because they do not desire any settlement or any restoration of the Union. Their dream is of a Southern Confederacy—a Breckinridge-Democratic Confederacy—a Confederacy based on aristocratic principles, and sustained by military power, which will protect the elite from the rude assaults of the people!—a Confederacy which will have a plenty of fat offices to bestow, and in which the tenure *is for life*, instead of being subjected to the awkward contingency of expulsion by the voice of the people at the end of every period of four years! What a glorious refuge this would be for such politicians as Hunter and Mason and the whole brood of Virginia Treasury rats!

In the judgment of all disinterested men, this Border Conference is eminently expedient. It is demanded by a just regard to the rights and interests of the Border States. It offers the only hope of peaceable adjustment and of a restoration of the Union. It would be alike presumptuous and indecorous, after all that has occurred, for Virginia to act without consultation with her Southern sisters. And none can deny that any action taken with the concurrence of the whole body of the non-seceded States, would carry with it a far greater moral weight than if adopted by Virginia alone.

To carry out this programme, it will be necessary for the Convention to have an adjourned session at some remote day—say in October. In the mean time, the other States will have acted on the ultimatum submitted by the Border Conference and when the Convention comes together in adjourned session, it will take such final action as circumstances may require.

This line of policy will, we feel assured, meet the approbation of Virginia. The conservatives proper approve it, and the wiser and more considerate of those who are not regarded as altogether conservative—such as Ex-President Tyler and Governor Wise—have favored something very nearly akin to it.

In the mean time, may we not exhort our Western friends to postpone the consideration of the State Constitution until the adjourned session? There is not time now to act on these questions. Moreover, they are calculated to produce embarrassment in the adjustment of federal difficulties. Let them lie over until the adjourned session. The Convention was not elected with reference to these State questions. Let the members go home and consult their people, and come back in the Fall, when excitement has subsided, and settle them all—basis, taxation, elections, judicial tenure, county courts and suffrage. Let all be overhauled and our miserable botch of a Constitution be put into something like decent shape. At the adjourned session there will be ample time for all these things, and again we urge the posponement of them until the Fall.

A Strange Proposition.

We understand that Myers W. Fisher, Esq., a Secession member of the Convention from Northampton, deliberately proposed to the members from the West, on yesterday, that the Secession members from the East would yield what the West demanded, in regard to taxation of slaves, *provided* the Western members would vote for an ordinance of Secession. This proposition must strike every mind as a most remarkable and extraordinary one. It will especially cause the slaveholders of the East to wonder and marvel not a little. Besides, it is a confession of weakness and defeat on the part of the Secessionists themselves.

We are sure, however, that the Western members will repudiate Mr. Fisher's tempting proposition. If the West be entitled to its demands, in respect to taxation on slaves—and we shall express no opinion on the subject at present—these demands should be granted by the East from a sense of justice, and in a graceful and manly spirit. That is the solemn duty of the East, if, as we have said, it acknowledges the justice of the demands of the West—otherwise, the East should insist on its rights, and bargain them away for no consideration whatever. On the other hand, also, if the West stand justified in its demands, that section of the State should insist on those demands, and sternly refuse to assent to a proposition by which it is bound to lose, and cannot gain. We take it, therefore, that the Western members of the Convention will not even nibble at the bait held out to them in the proposition of Mr. Fisher.

We learn that Marmaduke Johnson, Esq., the firm and intrepid representative of the conservatives of this city, pitched into Mr Fisher's proposition with gloves off, making a most telling and effective speech in opposition thereto. Mr. J. deserves great credit for the propriety of his course as a member of the convention, and for his bold and manly defiance of the senseless clamors of those in our midst, who are moving heaven and earth to "precipitate" Virginia out of the Union.

A Modest Proposition.

It having been rumored that there is some probability that the Virginia Convention will soon adjourn to meet again in the ensuing autumn, the Alexandria *Sentinel* takes occasion to put in the following plea:

"If such a vacation is determined on, let us have a new election. The present members were elected *almost without a canvass*, and under a condition of things different from the present. It is the opinion of a vast number of the people that they do not represent the sentiment of the State. Let us test it. *Let us have a new election.*—We can see no reasonable objection, while it would subserve the important purpose of satisfying the people by insuring their correct representation."

In commenting on the above, the *National Intelligencer* properly reminds our Alexandria contemporary that when the cry for immediate secession was at its height in Richmond, and when the immediate passage of the bill authorizing the Convention was clamorously demanded by the secession organs, and when the earliest possible day was fixed for holding the election, we do not remember that the *Sentinel* had any objections to such haste from the apprehension that sufficient time would not be left for an effective "canvass." We believe, in point of fact, the popular vote cast at the election was quite large, though the result was such as would naturally incline secession journals to look with favor on a new showing of hands. We never heard of a client that had lost his case who was not ready for a new trial.

Times in South Carolina.

From the Columbia (S. C.) correspondence of the Savannah (Ga.) *Republican* we take the following paragraphs in reference to the stringency of the times in the Palmetto State:

"The principal topic of conversation here just now is the stringency of the times, which seems to have reached its culminating point in the suspension of work on the State House. This evil, for some time apprehended, took place yesterday evening, all the remaining hands in the employ of the State having been discharged. The bonds authorized by the Legislature for the purpose of continuing the construction of this building cannot be sold, and so the work is suspended.

"But the State House is not the only interest that has suffered from the times. The founderies, machine shops and printing offices are working a smaller number of hands than usual, and the railroads are cutting down expenses. The Greenville road has reduced the salaries of all its employees, and the Charlotte road has discontinued the night express train, and put its five passenger conductors on reduced pay, running one trip a week each, besides reducing all the salaries, from the President down. I have not yet heard one syllable of complaint from those whose pay has been reduced, all seeming satisfied that it was inevitable, though, perhaps, temporary, and being willing to make even greater sacrifices should the State or the Confederacy require them."

Evacuation of Fort Sumter.

We learn from the Cincinnati *Enquirer*, that a Virginia Congressman writes to a friend in that city, that when General Scott was asked in Cabinet Council his opinion in relation to the reinforcing of Fort Sumter, he replied substantially as follows: "That it would take an army of from ten thousand to fifteen thousand men, with all the disposable navy of the United States. It would inaugurate," he continued, "a general civil war on a large scale, for even if the Border Slave States did not secede, thousands of their young and active men would join the army of the Confederated States."

Before reinforcing Fort Sumter it would be necessary, in his opinion, to establish a camp near Washington of from twenty-five thousand to thirty thousand men, to maintain possession of it against violence from the adjoining slave States. He was convinced that, under the circumstances, it was madness to think of coercion.—The old hero's counsel prevailed, and it was determined to evacuate Fort Sumter. He further expressed his belief that the first year of civil war would cost a hundred million of dollars, together with an army of one hundred thousand men. How melancholy that an American Cabinet should be obliged to entertain questions that elicit such answers.

Who is It?

Under the above caption, the Abbeville (S. C.) *Standard* refers to a letter we copied some days ago purporting to have been written by a Judge Lyon, of South Carolina, to a friend in Texas, and which was first published in a Texas paper:

"The following letter, pretending to have been written at this place, is taken from a Texas paper. It is unnecessary to contradict any of its statements, as it bears falsehood and absurdity upon its very face. It was doubtless written for the purpose of prejudicing the cause of secession in Texas, and, although the writer speaks familiarly of "bottom land on Long Cane," and other matters concerning us, we doubt that he (whoever he may be) was ever in the District."

Knowing nothing about the matter ourselves, we copy the foregoing correction, and let our readers draw their own conclusions on the subject.

North Carolina Election.

We learn from the Raleigh papers of Saturday, that the official vote of that State, except Davie and Haywood counties, and these have been partially heard from, and supposed to be correctly given, has been ascertained. The result is summed up thus: "For the Convention, 46,672; against the Convention, 47,822. The majority against holding a Convention, therefore, is 650. The vote of the State is smaller by about 20,000 than at the election last August.

Official Vote in Tennessee.

The Nashville *Banner* publishes the official vote, embracing all but six counties of the State. The majority for "No Convention" is 11,875, and the majority for the Union ticket is 64,054. For Convention and "No Convention," the total vote of the State is 127,471, and the total vote of the State for Union and Disunion is 113,552, showing that there were 13,919 votes more cast for "Convention" and "No Convention" than were cast for the Union and Disunion candidates.

Trade Between The North and South.

The New York World says that last week nine schoners and steamships left that port for Charleston, five for Savannah, six for New Orleans, one for Mobile, two for Galveston, and two for Jacksonville, nearly all of them of large size and heavily laden with provisions, articles of clothing, and assorted commodities.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

MONDAY, March 18, 1861.

The Senate was called to order at 10 o'clock, Mr. JOHNSON in the Chair.

The amendments proposed by the House to Senate bill to amend the 23d section of the 61st chapter of the Code, entitled "of works of internal improvements," were concurred in.

Senate bill to authorize the Treasurer of the State to destroy certain Bank notes now on deposit in his office, and such as may be received in future, was taken up and passed.

On motion of Mr. DAY, Senate bill to authorize the Petersburg Railroad Company to increase its capital stock, was taken up and passed.

Senate bill to extend the corporate limits of the city of Richmond, was taken up, read a second time, and then, on motion of Mr. NEESON, was laid on the table.

Senate bill to prevent owners and others having control of negroes, from authorizing or permitting them to keep or use arms and ammunition, was taken up, and after some discussion, Mr. AUGUST moved the indefinite postponement of the bill, as he regarded the existing law sufficient.

Mr. COGHILL opposed the motion, and said that the evil was a growing one; on the lines of Railroads, for instance, negroes were almost all armed, and consequently were insolent.

Mr. AUGUST then withdrew his motion, and on motion of Mr. COGHILL, the bill was laid on the table.

Subsequently, on motion of Mr. PATTON, the bill was taken up, and was referred to the Committee on Courts of Justice.

On motion of Mr. GATEWCOD, Senate bill to incorporate a company to construct a railroad from Strasburg to Winchester, was taken up, and having, on motion of Mr. MARSHALL, been amended by striking out the words "to be connected with the Manassas Gap Railroad at Strasburg, and with the Alexandria, Loudoun and Hampshire Railroad at Winchester," it was ordered to be engrossed.

Senate bill to authorize the appointment of inspectors of leather was taken up on motion of Mr. ARMSTRONG. Objection having been raised to the general character of the bill, Mr. ARMSTRONG accepted an amendment, making the bill applicable only to the county of Hampshire. The bill was then further amended on motion of Mr. BRANNON, by adding the words—"But the passage of this act shall not impose any present or future charge on the treasury of the Commonwealth." The bill then passed.

A message was received from the House, through Mr. KEMPER, informing the Senate that the House had disagreed to the Senate amendments to the House bill amending certain laws concerning the militia of the Commonwealth; that they had appointed a committee of conference, and requested a like committee on the part of the Senate.

On motion of Mr. BRANNON, the message from the House was taken up, and the request for the appointment of a Senate Committee was concurred in.

The President appointed Messrs. BRANNON, AUGUST and WICKHAM, and by direction of the President, Mr. WICKHAM communicated the action of the Senate to the House.

The consideration of the tax bill was then resumed.—In first line of 15th section the word "ejectment" was inserted before the word "attachment" and in the same section all after the words "five dollars," to the end of the section was stricken out. In the second line of 22d section the words "provided that where" were stricken out, and the words "but if" were inserted in lieu thereof. In the 23d section the word "And" in first line was stricken out, and the words "Provided that where" in the same section were stricken out, and the words "but if" were substituted, and in the 4th line the words "Providing that" were stricken out. In the 24th section the word "Keno" was stricken out. (Mr. BRANNON here indicated an intention to introduce a clause imposing a tax on Keno of $100 for the first year, $50 for the second year, and $10 for every additional table.)

After a long discussion, Mr. TOWNES moved to pass the tax bill by, in order to introduce a resolution.

The motion to pass by was adopted, and the following resolution, offered by Mr. TOWNES, was adopted:

Resolved, That the Committee of Courts of Justice be instructed to enquire into the expediency of reporting a bill to prohibit in this Commonwealth the game of Keno or Kino.

Mr. BRANNON then proposed his clause, and it was rejected.

Discussion on the bill was then continued at great length. Various amendments were proposed, and several of them were adopted; and at half-past 2, on motion of Mr. NEWMAN, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

MARCH 18, 1861.

The House was called to order by the SPEAKER, at 11 o'clock A. M.

A communication was received from the Senate, announcing the passage of House bills "amending certain laws in respect to the militia of the Commonwealth, so as to render the same more effective," and "amending the charter of the City of Richmond," with amendments.

The proposed amendment of the Senate to the bill "amending certain laws in respect to the Militia of the Commonwealth," &c., is to strike out the words, "the line east of the Alleghany mountains."

Mr. KEMPER moved to disagree with the Senate in their proposed amendment. He had had a conference with the Auditor and several members of the Senate on the subject, and they all agreed that the object of the bill had obviously been misunderstood; and that by striking out the words indicated, the whole purpose of the bill would be destroyed.

The motion to disagree prevailed.

Mr. KEMPER then moved that a committee of conference be appointed to meet a similar committee on the part of the Senate to consider the matters of difference between the two bodies in regard to said bill.

The motion was agreed to, whereupon the SPEAKER appointed the following committee: Messrs. KEMPER, JONES of Gloucester, CRUMP, MCCAMANT and LOCKRIDGE.

Mr. KEMPER was requested to communicate the same to the Senate.

A communication was subsequently received from that body, through Mr. WICKHAM, announcing the appointment of a similar committee on their part, in response to the action of the House.

The Senate amendments to the bill "amending the charter of the City of Richmond," were concurred in.

SENATE BILLS PASSED.

Incorporating the Bank of Parkersburg, in the county of Wood; for the relief of the securities of Reese Browning, late Sheriff of Logan county; amending an act incorporating the town of Portsmouth; authorizing the town of Portsmouth to issue coupon bonds; incorporating the trustees of the Parkersburg Classical and Scientific Institute; paying the amount of a lost coupon to James C. Maguire; relieving the securities of Thomas K. Davis, late Sheriff of Prince William county; for the relief of Joseph W. Harper, of Brunswick county, (called up on motion of Mr. MALLORY;) for the relief of Enoch Atkins, of Giles county; for the relief of Moses G. Booth, of Franklin county.

LOST COUPONS.

Senate bill "paying the amount of a lost coupon to James C. Maguire," was read the first and second times.

Mr. SIBERT moved that the bill be read a third time and put upon its passage. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. BUCKWALL opposed the passage of the bill. It was establishing a dangerous precedent. If the House continued to pass bills paying the amount of coupons lost, or affirmed to be lost, by the carelessness of bond holders, at some future day the State would be victimized in a large amount, and then, and not till then, such legislation would be arrested when too late.

Mr. BURKS advocated. He thought the bill a just one, and drew an analogy between coupons which had been endorsed and negotiable notes. When the latter were lost they could be recovered. Coupons stood upon precisely the same footing.

Messrs. MYERS and JONES, of G., also advocated the bill upon grounds of justice to the parties by whom the coupons were lost.

Mr. RAYMOND offered to amend the bill by requiring resident security of real estate.

The amendment was adopted, and the bill, as amended, put upon its passage.

Mr. CHRISTIAN said as it seemed this was to be a test vote as to whether the House would establish such a precedent, which must inevitably tend to create carelessness on the part of coupon holders, he should vote against the bill.

The question on the passage of the bill was decided in the affirmative—ayes 90, noes 11.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Adverse to Senate bill providing for the refunding of a certain sum of money to Silas Reese, of Hampshire.

A bill directing the payment of certain interest to Emmet J. O'Brien.

Mr. HAYMOND, from the Committee of Finance, asked leave to send for persons and papers in reference to the report recently made by the Store-Keeper of the Penitentiary. Leave was granted.

RE-CHARTERING THE BANKS.

On motion of Mr. GIBSON, of Hampshire, the unfinished business was passed by to take up a bill re-chartering the Bank of Virginia.

Mr. GIBSON then moved to make this and all similar bills the order of the day for Tuesday, the 19th inst. at 12 o'clock M. Agreed to.

HOUSE BILL PASSED.

Refunding to Lynn & Compton, of Prince William co., a certain sum of money.

On motion of Mr. GRATTAN, the House adjourned.

MARRIED.

At Oak Hill, Chesterfield county, on the 18th instant, by the Rev. Richard McIlwaine, HELEN, daughter of Thomas Dunn Esq., to GEORGE CAMERON, of Petersburg.

DIED.

At his late residence, in the county of Appomattox, on Monday, the 11th instant, Captain THOMAS TREDY, in the 75th year of his age.

30 BAGS AFRICAN GINGER, for sale by DOVE & CO., Druggists. mh19

VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION.

MONDAY, March 18, 1861.

The Convention met at 10½ o'clock, pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. BROWN, of the Presbyterian Church.

THE QUESTION OF TAXATION.

The resolutions submitted on Saturday by Mr. WILLEY, comingup as the unfinished business, Mr. SLAUGHTER withdrew his motion to lay them upon the table.

Mr. BROWN, of Preston, said that he was directly interested in the institution of slavery, and not only believed that it was a highly conservative institution, but was ordained by God to redeem the African race from barbarism. It was unkind to charge upon his people hostility to slavery, and if the institution was never disturbed until the people of the Northwest disturbed it, then it would never be disturbed. But they think that property of this class should be taxed equally with all other kinds of property, and though they will persevere in their efforts to bring about that equality, he was not prepared to say that they would attempt to get it by secession or revolution. Mr. B. proceeded, at some length, to advocate the adoption of Mr. WILLEY's resolution.

Mr. FISHER replied to Mr. BROWN; and in the course of his remarks expressed his willingness to vote for the proposed system of taxation, if the majority here would give him an ordinance of secession, which would be ratified by the people of the State.

After further remarks by Messrs. TURNER, of J., EARLY, WILSON, BRANCH, CAPERTON, JOHNSON and WOODS, the PRESIDENT announced that the hour had arrived for the execution of the order of the day.

THE MARYLAND COMMISSIONERS.

The PRESIDENT presented a communication from the "Committee on behalf of a Conference Convention, representing a portion of the citizens of the city of Baltimore, and of nearly all the counties of Maryland," respectfully suggesting such an alteration in the invitation to the border States "as will express its object to be that delegates to the proposed Convention shall be *elected* either *directly by the people*, or through the agency of a Sovereign State Convention."

On motion of Mr. FISHER the communication was ordered to be printed and referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

The Convention resolved itself into Committee of the Whole, on the report of the Committee on Federal Relations, and

Mr. RANDOLPH resumed his argument in favor of the union of Virginia with the Confederate States of the South; and by statistics, contrasting tariffs, and otherwise, undertook to prove that the material interests of Virginia would be greatly promoted by that connection. Before concluding his speech, he was interrupted by Mr. CHAMBLISS, who, in view of Mr. R's physical debility, moved that the Committee rise.

Mr. RANDOLPH expressed an unwillingness to trespass upon the indulgence of the Convention, but after an appeal from Mr. JOHNSON to waive his objections, he assented to the motion, and it was agreed to.

THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION.

Mr. DORMAN submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Federal Relations:

Resolved, That the Committee on Federal Relations enquire into the expediency of amendments to the Constitution of the United States being submitted by this State to the other States of the Union, providing and declaring—1st. That Electors of President and Vice President shall be chosen on the district system; and 2d. That persons of African blood, in whole or in part, are not and should not be citizens of the United States, or citizens within the meaning of the 2d section of the 4th article of the Federal Constitution. And further, whether such amendments should form any part of any *ultimatum* laid down by Virginia or the Border States of the South, or should be submitted separately and distinct, from such *ultimatum*.

On motion of Mr. HAYMOND, the Convention adjourned.

MR. BURLEY'S RESOLUTIONS.

The following are the resolutions submitted on Saturday, by Mr. BURLEY, of Marshall county, which, on his motion, were laid on the table, and ordered to be printed:

1. *Resolved*, That th's Convention can see no reason for departing from the faith of our fathers, and from the principles on which the Government of the United States was founded, and therefore we declare, in the name of our constituents, the people of Virginia, that the Constitution of the United States was, in the language of Mr. Madison, adopted by the people of the several States, who were parties to the compact in their highest sovereign capacity, "in toto and forever."

2. *Resolved*, As the fixed and deliberate opinion of this Convention, that nullification and secession are fallacies and heresies, and in the language of Mr. Madison, "both spring from the same pestiferous root," that they are both in the minds of the framers of the Constitution, and are political anomalies in government which the sound practical sense of the people will never adopt or submit to, and which, if once recognized, will utterly and entirely overthrow all possibility of establishing a fixed and permanent Government on this continent.

3. *Resolved*, In the language of the illustrious statesman above referred to, whom the people of Virginia have been taught to venerate and revere as the wisest, safest and truest expounder of the Constitution which he was largely conducted to construct; that that instrument makes the Government to operate directly on the people, places at its command the needful physical means of executing its powers, and finally proclaims its supremacy, and that of the laws made in pursuance of it over the Constitution and laws of the States, subject to the revolutionary rights of the people in extreme cases; that a political system that does not provide for a peaceable and authoritative termination of existing controversies would not be more than the shadow of a Government, the object and end of a real Government being substitution of law and order for uncertainty, confusion and violence; that in the event of a failure of every constitutional resort, and an accumulation of usurpations and unoutserrendering passive obedience and non resistance a greater evil than resistance and revolution, there can remain but one resort, the last of all—an appeal from the canceled obligations of the Constitutional Compact to the original rights and the law of self preservation. This is the *ultima ratio* of all governments, whether consolidated, confederated, or a compound of both. It can not be doubted that a single member of the Union, in the extremity supposed—but it is may exist—would have a right, as an extra and ultra constitutional right, to make the appeal.

4. *Resolved*, That the forts, fortifications, armies, arsenals, arms, ammunition, ships of war, custom houses, mints, post offices and other property of the United States, can by the Constitution, be disposed of only by Congress, and that no portion of the people have any interest in or claim to any part thereof after they cease to be citizens of the United States, and when they no longer participate in the payment of its debts or in the defence of the institutions of the country.

5. *Resolved*, That while no doubt can exist on the minds of this body that the right and the obligation of the Government, to execute all its laws fairly, impartially and promptly upon all citizens, without distinction or discrimination, yet, under the extraordinary condition of things as they now exist, we earnestly and anxiously urge upon the Executive Department of the Government the policy of abstaining from the exercise of such power at any point where such attempt would be likely to occasion collision, so long as there are efforts to be made by the other States or hopes to be indulged of a final and peaceful settlement of the difficulties with which the country is embarrassed.

6. *Resolved*, That the right of revolution above recognized, can be exercised as well by a portion of the citizens of a State against their State government, as it can be exercised by the whole people of a State against their Federal Government; and, when the powers of a State Government are used for purposes of unjust discrimination against a portion of the citizens, or a particular section of the State, in imposing upon one portion or section an undue proportion of the burdens of the State Government, and in exempting from taxation a peculiar species of property lying in one great extent, to another portion of the citizens, and located mostly in another section of the State, thus increasing taxation upon all other interests in order to favor a "peculiar interest," the people thus oppressed, after having exhausted all constitutional efforts to obtain redress, would be justified in resisting the collection of all revenue from them until the injustice aforesaid was remedied. And that any change of the relations of Virginia to the Federal Government, against the wishes of even a respectable minority of her people, would be such an act of injustice perpetrated upon the rights of that minority as to justify them in changing their relation to the State Government by separating themselves from that section of the State that had thus wantonly disregarded their interests and defied their will—particularly when the cause assigned for the change of Virginia's relation to the said Federal Government is the alleged disparity in the said last mentioned Government of the peculiar species of property thus protected by the organic law of the State from contributing its due share to the support of the said State Government by prohibiting the taxing of a large portion of the said property, and limiting the portion subject to taxation to a specific tax far less than that imposed upon every other species of property.

A WORD TO THE CONVENTION.

To the Editor of the Whig:

We country people, paying increased taxes from unremunerative agriculture, must feel deeply interested in the action of a Convention which may almost be said to control our destinies. Now is the time for every man of influence to exert himself for the interest and honor of the State. How that interest may be advanced and that honor preserved, I cannot presume to decide. But let me very humbly suggest to yourself and your readers,

1. *The danger of our position.*

If we remain with the North, the Southern Confederacy may, by excluding our slaves, destroy the value of the bulk of our property. On the other hand, if we become the Northern border of a Southern Confederacy, the escape of our slaves will gradually bring the limit of free territory to our doors.

2. *The advantages of our position.*

Let us fully understand and avail ourselves of them.—Let us accept nothing less from the North than the perpetual assurance of honor, tranquility and well-being in the Union. In some sort, we hold the balance of power between the conflicting sections. Failing to procure satisfactory terms from the North, let us *treat* with the South as to the terms upon which we can unite our destinies with theirs.

Never, never let us assume the perilous position of a frontier State without some compensating privileges and immunities. If we are to have free trade, we must pledge the Southern Confederacy through the agency of Cotton to work the repeal of foreign duties on Tobacco; nothing less than this can perpetuate slavery in Virginia. This must be the grand fountain of our prosperity, but our mineral and manufacturing resources should be favored. The defence of the border should not rest upon us alone.

3. *The Convention should no longer be inactive.*—It awaits the course of events? Rather let it direct it. Commissioners should at once be appointed to treat with the Southern Congress on the terms of our adherence.—At the same time our ultimatum should be submitted to the Black Republicans at Washington.

By the way, as a last and desperate effort at reconstruction, might not our ultimatum be the acquisition of Sonora and Chihuahua as Slave territory. This hasty sketch of the result of much anxious deliberation. I venture to offer on the ground that any and every expedient is considered in times of great trouble. RUSTICUS.

FLUVANNA, March 15th.

THE "MILITARY PASSAGE IN THE HOUSE."

To the Editor of the Whig:

You will be kind enough to insert the following facts by way of correction of an error in a communication in your paper of yesterday, under the head of "A military passage in the House."

In that article it is said that Col. Gibson charged Col. Crump with voting against a bill for the *benefit of a soldier taken sick* at the Harper's Ferry raid. Now, sir, no such bill was ever before the Legislature; but there was a bill for the relief of Ed. McCabe, a *poor mechanic* of Harper's Ferry, who was *shot through the shoulder* in an *attack upon John Brown and his followers*, and who lay for *weeks upon his back* under the *care of a surgeon*, and who, in consequence of the wound, was unable to resume work for *seven or eight long months*. It was against *this* bill that Col. Crump voted.

The late Governor of Virginia, moved by generosity and considerations of public policy, sent a *special* message to the Legislature requesting that relief be given to Mr. McCabe. A long petition of the citizens of Harper's Ferry, in his behalf, is on the files of the House, but all to no purpose, because, as it was said, McCabe did not belong to any *military company*, and was simply in the *performance* of a *public duty* when he was shot. The McCabe bill was defeated on *principle*, *as was stated at the time*, and not because of the *amount*, for, a motion to reconsider, for the purpose of *reducing* the amount, was lost. Why a man in Nottoway, for the performance of a public duty, should receive compensation, and the man of Jefferson should not be *reimbursed* for *great bodily and pecuniary losses* sustained in *driving back* that *Abolition band* that threatened *the peculiar institution* of Virginia, is more than I can comprehend. SOUTH.

A FAMILY TALK ABOUT SECESSION.

ROCKBRIDG, March 1861.

Cusin Bob:

I was sittin tother nite with old Sally—that's my wife—at the fire place, when she tuk a nuspapur out of hur big side pokit. She wasn't sayin nothin at all, & I was reethar afeerd to say anythin myself, for I noes hur wel, when she sets so, & I alwais thinks it bes to let wel enuf sta so. Thar sais she, thars Bob Rigwa's papur—a nise chap of a Cusin of ours—I thot wen I seed him last harvist, with his slic fase & his greesed har, & his shoos a shinin lik em both, that Cusin Bob wernt the rite chap for thes here times—jist lok at his papur, with old Abe's augoral in it—cuss him—what dus yu think of cusin Bob now, to printe sich a thing, as that, & then sont it here tu me, arter sich a talkin as I gin him last harvist—Old Abe the black prisident to sit himself up to bore the South with his big augor & tel us south folks that thay haven't the rite to du jist as thay pleses—cuss him—jist reed it Roburt, & se wha yu thinks of seshiun now.

I tuk the papur jist as if I hadn't seed it afore, & sade Deer Sally, lone me yur specs & wipe 'em cleen, fur I alwais had to speek saftly to hur, or hav a fuss—so I begins a reedin & wus reedin along, when Sally jurked off my specs, & I seed she wus a comin rite at me—so I sot stil and didn't sai nothin, but I tel yu Sally farely busted out—yu arn't a goin to reede that thar whol thing here in our hous at mi fire plase—I tel you Robert you shan't and yu noe it tu—jist reede here—rite here & then thro the cussed thing in the fire—here don't you yu see—han't yu no ise—nor——jist luk I sa, don't he sa that we south states is wrectionary and ravolutionin—don't you see—can't you heer—ain't yu gut no ies nor eres—don't he sa he'l tak hold on the south and make 'em pa taxes as sure as deth—that's enuf for me Robert and yu tu—so you needen't rede no more—tain't fit to—so la it in the chist & wee'l stop a hole in the windo with it.

Now Cusin Bob, I jist kep shady fur a whil & sade nothin til I seed she wus a swagin down into a softness, when I leened down my hed & tuk Sally's hand in mine & sade—ah Sally, quier times now—we's lived in peece & plente all our dais, & rased our boys & gals & pigs & hens & craps bundantle—& every nite & mornin prade fur the yunin—and now we're a chawin cusses agin it—it giva me a misere here Sally:—But I seed she wus agein to bust agin & I jist stoppd awhil, thinkin fur sumthin saft to sa—but twasnt no use:—misere—sais she—cuss your misere—aint it misere enuf to hav old Abe fur a marster—cuss him & the yunin tu, if old Abes in it—cant we rase corn & pigs & hens & our granchildurn tu, without askin old Abe:—now Robert sais she, & she tuk mi tother fist in hern—and I jist seed she wus a gwiin to saftin agin—and I sais—Sally—Sally—but I was skeered & cudnt think of nothin saft, or sorter so, to pleese hur—so I sais Sally did you rede all that tarnal thing.—no Robert—dont kitch this wumun at sich work as that.—well Sally, ef yud rede it cleen thru, both forepart & hindpart, & all atwixt em, yud sa old Abe aint so allfired mad arter all—old Abe, sade Sally—and as she tossed hur hed like a pee hen amungst the goslins—I sade—deer Sally mity saftly—jist listen to old Robert wonst more—dont old Abe sa he wont hurt us if the merican peepel wont let him—dont he sa he wont hit us anwhar—dont he sa he wont ride us if our backs is sore—dont he sa if we git mad hel jist let us alone—and dont he sa he wont collect taxes if he cant—

Jist then Sally seemed to be a swellin agin & I thot she would bust—but I didnt give her time & sade as I rased rite strate up—& dont he sa if thar is any fus, that wel mak it & not him—and dont he say if we wants him to hit us he wont do it—dont he sa so Sally—by this time she was a leetil safened—but I seed thar was a heep of stuff in her yit & I thot it best to let it run rite out won time as wel as another—so I give hur rope.

Now, cusin Bob, if I cud unly rite as Sally cussed & blowed & jarked youds fallin in a pareliptick fit a laffin—but I was skeered & stud rite next the dore—for I tel yu, cusin Bob, I alwais was afeered of these wumen seshionists—I meets em often & they betes me a talking all hollor—consarn em purty things—tha d